

Introduction:

Today we're going to continue looking at *Paul's Journey to Rome*.

Things we will look at in this lesson:

Paul's Imprisonment in Caesarea

Paul's Imprisonment in Caesarea:

01. What did New Testament believers see true salvation as?

02. What does Paul's faith and confidence in God's written Word stand in contrast to?

03. Who, according to the Bible, will experience a resurrection?

04. What is essential for a successful spiritual life and effective service for God?

05. What happens when a good conscience becomes insensitive or corrupted?

06. What does our spiritual salvation depend on?

07. What did Paul live by?

08. What does a right relationship with God require?

Article 1)

Paul's God-Given Commission (Acts 26:15-18):

"I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' "And the Lord replied, 'I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet. For I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a share among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'"

Article 1) continued...

These verses are a classic statement of the effects Jesus desires from the preaching of his message to spiritually lost people (i.e., those who have not yet received his forgiveness and a renewed personal relationship with him).

(1) "Open their eyes." Those who do not know Christ are blinded by Satan to the reality of their spiritual lostness and future destruction. They do not comprehend the truth of the gospel (2Co 4:4). Preaching about Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit is the only thing that will expose their true condition and "open their eyes" of understanding (2Co 4:5; Eph 1:18).

(2) "Turn them from the power of Satan to God." Satan is the ruler of this world full of people who choose to go their own way. All who have not surrendered their lives to Christ's authority are under Satan's control and enslaved to his power. Satan's work and influence are evident in all who follow the ways of the world and "in those who are disobedient" (Eph 2:2). Preaching about Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit will rescue men and women from Satan's power and bring them into Christ's kingdom (Col 1:13; 1Pe 2:9).

(3) "That they may receive forgiveness of sins." Forgiveness is only possible because of Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross, which paid the full penalty for our sins. When people hear this message, they can respond in faith by accepting Christ's sacrifice for themselves and by yielding control of their lives to him.

(4) "A place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." Those who are forgiven of sin, freed from the power of Satan and spiritually renewed by the Holy Spirit are then set apart from the world and reserved for God's purposes. Through the further experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit, they are empowered for those purposes as they grow deeper in their relationship with Christ.

09. What did Paul dedicate his life to?

10. What is the sincerity of one's faith proven by?

Article 2)

Key Events Surrounding Paul's Arrest and Imprisonment:

- (1) Paul agreed to participate in a purification ritual in order to reassure Jewish Christians of his support of Jewish customs.
- (2) Paul goes into the temple to complete the requirements for purification.
- (3) Paul was seized by Asian Jews in the Jerusalem temple.
- (4) Paul was accused of teaching against Judaism and of desecrating the temple.
- (5) Lysias is made aware of a riot in the temple area and moves quickly to intervene.
- (6) Paul speaks to the mob in Aramaic, presenting the testimony of his conversion and his appointment to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.
- (7) Thinking Paul is a common troublemaker, Lysias arranges to torture a confession from him.

11. How long did the Romans keep Paul imprisoned?

12. What did Paul's trials become?
