



# Acts 26:19-32

Submitting to the Lordship of Jesus by trusting and obeying



# Introduction

- We believe and teach that salvation is by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone
  - Does this mean that we believe that people who are saved by grace can have lives characterized by selfishness and sin?
  - Do we think believers should obey Biblical truth, but if they don't, at least they have the assurance of eternal life?
- Justification is by faith alone, and faith that justifies is never alone but produces the fruit of righteousness by grace consistently throughout the life of all believers
  - James 2:14-19
  - 1 John 3:9-10



# Obey the authority of Jesus to proclaim the authority of Jesus to all nations (26:19-23)

*<sup>19</sup> “Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,*

## **Context**

- Jesus revealed Himself to Paul with the intention of being a gospel goad to redirect the intended direction of opposition and abuse of people of the church
- Paul is commissioned by Jesus Christ
- Paul is justified by faith alone, but justifying faith is not alone - Paul does what he's commanded to do



# Obey the authority of Jesus to proclaim the authority of Jesus to all nations (26:19-23)

*<sup>20</sup> but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.*

- Paul's obedience is immediate
  - While Paul was in Damascus, he shared the gospel with all those he met
  - Paul, the Jewish henchman, returns to Jerusalem to share the gospel with his fellow Jews
  - Paul continued his gospel mission to other Jews in the region of Judea, probably among those he knew and then others who crossed his path
  - Paul's transformation is so radical that he shared the gospel of Jesus with Gentiles, nations of people he previously despised
- Paul is explaining to Agrippa and all the others in attendance the transforming power of faith



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- What was the message he was to share? - “...*that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.*”
  - “repent” - μετανοέω (metanoeō) - repent, to change one’s life, based on a complete change of attitude and thought concerning sin and righteousness
    - Repentance is not something done to earn salvation, but something given as the fruit of salvation
    - Acts 11:18
  - “turn to God” - ἐπιστρέφω (epistrephō) — to redirect one’s interest, attention, or trust toward God
    - As Jesus said to Paul while on the road to Damascus, “...*it is hard for you to kick against the goads*”
    - Jesus is the goad that redirects the intentions of those He saves, moving them from self-centeredness to God-centeredness



# Obey the authority of Jesus to proclaim the authority of Jesus to all nations (26:19-23)

- “*perform deeds in keeping with their repentance*”
  - Gospel life does not just change one’s thoughts; it changes one’s actions
  - The resurrection power of Jesus Christ transforms the thoughts, attitudes, motivations, and actions of all those Jesus saves
  - The gospel of the kingdom started with the expectation of the fruit of repentance and so it continues
    - Matthew 3:7-8
  - John the Baptist expects it, and Paul expects it because the fruit of good deeds is what the grace of repentance produces
- <sup>21</sup> *For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.*
- The Jewish leaders could not accept the loss of their authority by accepting the authority of Jesus Christ
- The murderous attitude that Jesus changed in Paul still resides in many Jewish people



# Obey the authority of Jesus to proclaim the authority of Jesus to all nations (26:19-23)

*<sup>22</sup> To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: <sup>23</sup> that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”*

- The promise of God's presence and help that Paul received is responsible for Paul standing before them sharing the good news of Jesus that transformed Paul's life
- The message he proclaims is a message consistent with the pictures and prophecies of Scripture
- Jesus lives and reigns in resurrection power
  - Jesus has all authority given to Him
  - Jesus is life and light to all those whom He saves
    - Matthew 4:12-17
  - What Jesus began, the disciples and Paul continue
  - What Jesus began, we continue
  - Jesus is with us every step of the way
    - Matthew 28:18-20



# Proclaim the wisdom of the gospel even when people think it's foolishness (26:24-29)

*<sup>24</sup> And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind." <sup>25</sup> But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words.*

- The reaction of Festus to Paul's statements makes complete sense from the perspective of the spiritually dead and darkened
- He declares that Paul is crazy
- But Paul states that he is competent and speaks true and rational words, Biblical truth and rationale that the spiritually dead cannot grasp
  - 1 Corinthians 2:14
- God promises to give life to the dead and light to the darkened



# Proclaim the wisdom of the gospel even when people think it's foolishness (26:24-29)

*<sup>26</sup> For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. <sup>27</sup> King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.”*

- Paul knows that Agrippa is a knowledgeable ruler, familiar with the teachings of Scripture
- Agrippa is aware of the stir caused by Jesus and that the Jewish leaders hated Him

*<sup>28</sup> And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?”*

- Agrippa knows that many Jewish leaders and Jewish people are not persuaded to follow Jesus as the Messiah, Savior, and Lord
- He is surprised that Paul thinks he will be quickly convinced

*<sup>29</sup> And Paul said, “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.”*

- Whether people are convinced quickly or whether it takes some time, Paul wants people to come to Jesus as Savior and affirm Him as Lord
  - Romans 10:9-10
- No matter how foolish people think us to be, we need to share the gospel with them



# Don't second-guess the Lord's leading (26:30-32)

*<sup>30</sup> Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them. <sup>31</sup> And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, "This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment." <sup>32</sup> And Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."*

- Agrippa does not desire to hear anything more
- This communication has caused more than a few people to conclude it was a mistake for Paul to appeal to Caesar
- Would of, could of, should of, can be a self-centered waste of time
- It is hard to make good progress when you are consistently looking in the rearview mirror
  - Proverbs 3:5-7
- We need confess, repent, and obey



# Questions to Consider

- How has Jesus Christ redirected your life?
- Are you confidently sharing gospel light against the backdrop of your transformed life?
- Why do you struggle to present the gospel of Jesus to unbelievers?
- What are some things you need to pray the Lord helps you to change?
- Why is it hard to make progress if you are consistently looking in the rearview mirror?





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