

Paul's Personal Testimony

⇒ **Text:** Acts 26:1-32

⇒ **Intro:**

- Many Christians give the excuse for not witnessing for Christ that they don't know what to say.
- There is one thing all that are truly saved possess and that is a personal testimony of their salvation experience.
- As we examine Paul's testimony before King Agrippa, we will note some basic elements that all personal testimonies should possess.
- Paul gives us a good example of how a believer should present his testimony to a nonbeliever or someone who is unsaved.
- By following the Apostle Paul's example we should all be able to present our own personal testimony thereby being able to witness for Christ.
- Remember, nobody can refute a personal testimony!

⇒ **I. Paul's Personal Greeting:**

- **V2** – Paul recognizes Agrippa's authority and addresses him as king showing respect for his position.
- **V2** – Paul expresses gratitude for the opportunity to speak on his behalf, **"I think myself happy"**
- **V3** – Paul compliments Agrippa on what he knows in relation to the Jew.
 - Paul in essence says Agrippa is an intelligent man.
 - **"...I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews:"**

- We want to notice what Paul has accomplished in his personal greeting to King Agrippa.
 - Paul has put Agrippa in a receptive mood to hear, the message Paul is about to present.
 - If Paul had addressed Agrippa in an angry manner or with a condescending attitude, Agrippa's ears, heart, and mind would have turned off to what Paul was about to speak.
- As Christians we should do the same when presenting our personal testimony to an unsaved person.
 - Start off in a cordial manner, try to compliment your hearer in some way if possible before presenting your testimony.
 - Don't be comical, be pleasant, positive.
 - If you clown around too much, then the person will not take seriously what you have to say.
 - Don't get familiar with your listener.
 - You just want to get them in a receptive mood, and get them to lower their guard a bit so you can get your message across.

⇒ **II. Paul's Person Before He Was Saved:**

- **V4:** His testimony was from his youth people knew his manner of life that he was a Jew.
- **V5:** Paul was not just any ordinary Jew, but a Pharisee.
- **V9:** Paul did many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

- o Paul was going in the opposite direction (contrary) away from God and the things of God.
- o Although he thought what he was doing was bringing him closer to God.
- My friend, that was our person before we got saved, we were doing things contrary to the name of Jesus.
 - o Some of us may even have thought like Paul, we were getting closer to God through our religious routine, our religious traditions.
- **Vs. 10-11:** Paul persecuted Christians.
 - o Paul had people killed.
 - o Paul punished Christians, he tortured them
 - Paul says, **“I punished them oft”**
 - o He made Christians curse God.
 - **“compelled them to blaspheme”**
 - o Paul’s behavior was 180 degrees from what it was after his conversion.
- As we saw, there were those who testified of the fact of how Paul was before he was saved.
 - o Paul wasn’t being dramatic, making up some story for the tabloids.
 - o In fact, remember after Paul got saved, there were brethren who didn’t want anything to do with because of his actions and reputation before he got saved.
 - **See Acts 9:10-16.**

- Before we were saved, we may not have persecuted Christians.
 - In fact, we probably thought like Paul that we were right with God.
 - We probably mocked and made fun of the born-again crowd.
 - We were at enmity with God.
- The main thing to notice is when giving your personal testimony, you need to be established with your listener, your person before salvation.
 - Or in other words, what your life was like without the Lord.

⇒ **III. Paul's Place of Conversion**

- **Vs. 12-13:** Road to Damascus.
 - In presenting our testimony of conversion, we should as Paul did provide the place of conversion.
 - Being saved, born-again is an event not a process.
 - You don't get saved over time.
 - We all should remember the time and place when we called upon the name of the Lord and were saved.
 - Some people may think that you can only be saved in a church.
 - Not true at all.
 - Jesus can save anywhere, anytime – Amen!!!

⇒ **IV. The Person of Paul's Salvation**

- **Vs. 14-15:** The Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Paul's conversion experience was unique.
 - But the main thing to remember in presenting your testimony, is to clearly present the person of your salvation.

- The Lord Jesus Christ and the fact that through Him alone can you be right with God and be assured of Heaven when you die.
- **John 14:6**, “**Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**”
- **Acts 4:12**, “**Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**”
- **2 Cor. 5:21**, “**For he (God, the Father) hath made him (God, the Son, Jesus Christ) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**”
- o Just as Jesus spoke to Paul about his condition in **v. 15**, “And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus **whom thou persecutest.**”
- o Tell your listener how the Holy Spirit convicted your of your condition and drew you to the Lord.
 - **See John 16:7-11.**
 - **See John 6:44.**

⇒ **V. The Purpose of Paul’s Salvation**

➤ **Vs. 16-18**

- o To make thee a minister
- o To make thee a witness

- o To send thee to the Gentiles for the purpose of **“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”**
- Again, in our testimony, we should present to our listener the purpose of our salvation.
 - o It is not to just continue in sin.
 - **See Romans 6:14-16.**
 - o Very, similar to Paul is our purpose.
 - To minister to others.
 - To be a witness for the Lord, with our lives and our lips.
 - To present the Gospel of the grace of God to others and tell them how they can be saved and be a new creature in Christ like you.

⇒ VI. Paul’s Person After Salvation

- **Vs. 19-22**
 - o Paul describes to Agrippa, his behavior since being saved.
 - How his life has changed to reflect his conversion to Christ.
 - o **V. 19:** Paul tells us he was now not disobedient, but obedient to the things of God, to his calling of God.
 - o **V. 20:** Paul says that he has been witnessing for Christ all over the place.
 - Paul is described in the Book of Acts, as a pestilent man.

- He was unstoppable, he was like crab grass, you couldn't get rid of him.
- He turned the world upside down with his preaching.
- o **V. 21:** Paul tells Agrippa as result of his activities described in vs. 19 & 20, the Jews wanted kill him.
 - This is the same crowd that Paul hung around with before he got saved.
 - Now they wanted nothing to do with him.
 - This will happen to you if get saved, most of friends, family, and coworkers will want nothing to do with you.
 - They don't want to hear about being saved and born-again.
- o **V. 22:** Paul tells us Agrippa that he only preached what the scripture said.
- o In **1 Cor. 15:3-4**, the Word of God tells us, "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day **according to the scriptures:**"
- Again, we should do the same when presenting our testimony.
 - o We need to tell of the changes in our life since being saved.
 - i.e., You need possess "A peace that passeth all understanding."
 - You have "a joy unspeakable and full of glory"
 - o Your listener should see that because you "in Christ" you are truly "**a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**" 2 Cor. 5:17.

⇒ **VII. Paul Presents the Plan of Salvation**

➤ **V. 23**

- The death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- We should do the same when presenting our testimony.

⇒ **VIII. Reactions to Expect.**

- **V. 24:** Skeptic, Festus who had been listening along with Agrippa, tells Paul he is mad.
- **Vs. 25-26:** Notice Paul's response, not of anger but of one of persuasion, reasoning.
 - He gives Festus a second chance to get saved.
 - Paul knows no second chance after you dies to be saved.
 - **Hebrews 9:27**, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"
- **V. 26:** Paul says that the death, burial, and the resurrection is not hidden, not something that he made up, but a well known fact by many.
 - **See 1 Cor 15:3-8.**
- **V. 27:** Paul draws the net on Agrippa.
 - Gives him an opportunity to be saved.
- **V. 28:** Agrippa's response – "**Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.**"
 - There is no almost when it comes to getting saved.
- **V. 29:** Paul's prayed that all that heard him would be saved.

- o We want to notice Paul's response to the skeptic and the Almost Persuaded.
 - He was not angry.
 - He did not try to force a decision.
 - Instead, he prayed for them and still had a burden and genuine concern for their souls.
- We should learn from Paul, in how to deal with similar responses and rejections.
 - o If rejected, give a person another chance to be saved, remember no second chance after the person dies to be saved.
 - However, don't try to force someone to make a decision if you see the Holy Spirit is not dealing with them.
 - Tell the person that you will pray for them to be saved.