

REMAINING STEADFAST

ACTS 25:13-26:18

Text:

Introduction:

It has been said that you don't know what you are living for until you know what you would die for.

Paul had staked out his ground on the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was willing to die rather than stop his ministry.

Now after being handed off from one Roman authority to another, he has another opportunity to present the Gospel again.

This time the audience will be the Roman governor Festus and King Agrippa.

1. PAUL'S RESPECT TO AGRIPPA (26:1-3)

Acts 26:1-3

¹Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself: ²I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews: ³Especially *because I know*

thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently.

- A. Paul respected Agrippa's position
- B. Paul respected Agrippa's perception
- C. Paul requested Agrippa's patience

2. PAUL'S REVIEW OF HIS EARLY LIFE (26:4-12)

Acts 26:4-12

⁴My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; ⁵Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. ⁶And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers: ⁷Unto which *promise* our twelve tribes, instantly serving *God* day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews. ⁸Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead? ⁹I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against *them*. ¹¹And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted *them* even unto strange cities. ¹²Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,

A. His training as a child

Philippians 3:4-7

⁴Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: ⁵Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; ⁶Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. ⁷But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

B. His traditions as a Pharisee

C. His tyranny against the Church

Acts 8:3

³As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison.

3. PAU'S RECOLLECTION OF HIS CONVERSION (26:13-18)

A. Paul was struck down by the Light

Acts 9:7

⁷And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

B. Paul spoke directly to the Lord

C. Paul is sent to deliver the Gospel to the lost

1. Paul had a purpose

2 Timothy 1:9

⁹Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2. Paul had a plan

- To open eyes

Luke 4:18-19

¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, ¹⁹To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

- To deliver from Satan

Ephesians 2:2

²Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

- To lead people to Christ for a new life

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We never know what we may be called upon to do or the trials that we may have to endure, but remember this there are always opportunities to share the Gospel with those that cross our paths.

My Life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me;
I cannot choose the colors
He worketh steadily.

Oft times He weaveth sorrow
And I, in foolish pride,
Forget He sees the upper,
And I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver's skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.