

Acts of the Apostles
Paul's Defense Before the Council (Acts 22:30-23:11)

I. The High Priest's Unlawful Directive (vs. 1-5)

-Why did Ananias order Paul to be struck?

-Paul's Response: "white-washed wall" (Ezekiel 13:10f; Matt, 23:27); contrast between Paul and Jesus (John 18:19-23; see also 1 Cor. 4:12)

-How could Paul not have known Ananias was high priest?

-Paul's words were true; prophetic; just (Lev. 19:15; Deut. 25:2).

II. Paul's Masterful Strategy (vs. 6-10)

-Paul identifies with the Pharisees and declares himself to be on trial for the hope of the resurrection of the dead. {Hendiadys: hope and resurrection = hope of resurrection}

-What Paul said is unquestionably true (Acts 24:15; 26:5, 8). It puts the focus where it belongs: on the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 15)

III. God's Timely Encouragement (v. 11)

-First Vision (18:5-11)

-Indicates divine approval of Paul's visit to Jerusalem and his conduct before the Council

Practical Lessons

1) Paul's appeal to a good conscience reveals the central concern of his life.

2) Paul's masterful strategy reaffirms the need for wisdom and courage as we face opponents.

3) Paul's appeal to the resurrection reminds us to stay focused on the central message of the gospel.

4) Paul's vision reassures us of God's presence, guidance, and approval as we testify of Him.