

**Scripture:** Acts 26

**Singing:** 306:1-4 – 188:1-4 – 32:3-4 – 80:1, 4, 8, 9

Question: How can be best sum up main ‘act’ of the Acts of the apostles?

A. Consider the theme in Acts 1:22 – 4:2, 33 – 17:18, 32 – 23:6 – 24:15, 21

B. Acts 26 is Paul’s last defense of his ministry witness

1. The setting is intimidating: 25:23
2. What is the charge? Why is he summoned before this court?
  - a. His crime: *preaching the resurrection of Jesus Christ* (Acts 24:21)
  - b. Why is that a problem? (Romans 1:4)
3. Realize how tense this moment is for Paul: *his liberty and life as at stake!*
  - a. yet what is his main goal in his defense: vs. 22-23, 27
  - b. his direct challenge of king Agrippa was both bold and risky
4. This Gospel encounter with the ‘world’ ends sad: vs. 28
  - a. this reinforced Jesus’ teaching in John 3:8

### **THE HOPE OF GOD’S PROMISE**

I. What is this hope? II. How do we come to this hope?

#### **I. WHAT IS THE HOPE OF THE PROMISE MADE OF GOD TO OUR FATHERS?**

A. What is hope?

B. What is the hope of the promise made to our fathers? (Titus 1:2)

1. Jesus defined this promise in John 17:3 as *knowing God and His Son Jesus*
2. What is the content of the promise in some detail?

#### **II. HOW DO WE COME TO THIS HOPE?**

A. Eternal life has price tag: Leviticus 18:5; Romans 10:5

1. This price tag is the original one set out in Paradise: Gen. 2:16-17
2. Did the breach of the covenant of works disannul or cancel the covenant?
3. God’s bottom line: *Without holiness you cannot see Me!* (Heb. 12:14)

B. You cannot ever come to this hope of eternal life by your own doing

1. If anyone would be saved by works, it would be Paul (vs. 4-11)
  - a. He also served God instantly (vs. 7 like in Romans 10:4)
  - b. He did so day and night (9-11)

2. Who of you are still struggling along in this in Be Good & Do Good Street?

C. How then do we come to this hope of the promise made to our fathers?

1. First by being convinced you are in the wrong way: Acts 26:14ff
2. Second by learning to walk by faith *in the Jesus Street* (Phil. 3:8-10)
  - a. salvation is not *earned* but *received* (Acts 26:18)
  - b. to this salvation all hearers of Gospel are invited (vs. 22-23; 13:38)

- c. on what basis is this invitation to hell-worthy sinners?
  - upon Jesus merits in life and death verified in the resurrection

**You are urgently invited today!**

- A. The Gospel declares the hope for all are hopelessly lost in sin and guilt!
  - 1. But you need to *look away from anything of us sinners*
    - a. seeking God in way of your merits is walking in a No-Exit Street
  - 2. Look at the Gospel of way through Jesus: *His doing and dying is the hope!*
    - a. Are you casting aside every shred of your own?
    - b. Are you taking your refuge to Jesus as David did in Ps. 31:1?
    - c. If so, then hear God's promises in Romans 10:8-13!
  - 3. Hesitate not to come even if you see only imperfections in yourself!

**Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden:  
and I will give you rest. (Matt. 11:28)**