

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)**