

## The Verdict Acts 26:30-32

### Introduction

The pronouncement of a verdict is a tense time.

It is a verdict on various levels: accused, advocate, jury.

Paul was not on trial, yet there were many verdicts

### I. The Gospel comes to you from those the world declares innocent.

A. Paul and Christ have given you the Gospel in purity. [1Pe. 2:21]

1. Paul was recognized as innocent of all charges. [31-32]

2. Christ was recognized as innocent of charges. [Luke 23:14-15]

B. They have no ulterior motive in giving you the Gospel.

1. They are pure in heart.

2. They suffered to give you the Gospel.

C. Receive the Gospel as a gift of God's goodness to you.

1. What God offers you is not shady, but pure and holy.

2. The free gift is truly free – unlike 'no free lunch.'

### II. Don't be distracted by the chains the world puts on God's people.

A. Both Christ & Paul were led from their hearings in bonds.

1. The world will bind you to please the people as with Christ.

2. The world may test your underhandedness as with Paul.

B. It is often by the world's bonds that you accomplish God's purpose.

1. By the bonds of Christ your salvation was won.

2. By the bonds of Paul the Gospel was spread.

C. Chains may be a badge of honor for God's people.

1. Sabina Wurmbrand: Wipe the shame from Christ's face.

2. By suffering for Christ you are living out your union with Him.

### III. Don't walk away from the Gospel unchanged.

A. God has given you the good news of His grace.

1. You are not saved by your works, otherwise grace is not grace.

2. In repentance and faith you will have eternal life.

B. Your position in life is never so high as to not need God's grace.

1. Don't walk away now; this call may never come to you again.

2. Paul & Christ's Gospel demands a verdict from you!

3. Not to decide is to decide.

C. Christ invites you to come to Him for His grace. [Matt. 11:28-30]

1. Cast your burden on Him who wills to care for you!

2. He buries your burden at the cross.

### Conclusion

Your verdict on the Gospel will declare God's verdict on you.

God, the holy & righteous one, is the eternal Judge.

Wickedness surrounds you! Jesus gives you righteousness.

**Psalms 94A, 35C, 37A**