

September 18, 2022

**“Paul’s Testimony”**  
**Acts 22:1-22**

**Prel Rmks**

Today we are going to see ...

LOGW ~ Title

**Background:**

This is the man who teaches all *men* everywhere against

- the people,
- the law,
- and this place
- he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place."

seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; seeking to kill him,

news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them.

## TEXT

(1) "Brethren and fathers, hear my defense before you now."  
(2) And when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they kept all the more silent. Then he said:  
(3) "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today. (4) I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, (5) as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished. (6) "Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. (7) And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' (8) So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' (9) "And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me. (10) So I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.' (11) And since I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus. (12) "Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there, (13) came to me; and he stood and said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that same hour I looked up at him. (14) Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. (15) For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. (16) And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins,

calling on the name of the Lord.' (17) "Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance (18) and saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.' (19) So I said, 'Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. (20) And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' (21) Then He said to me, 'Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.' " (22) And they listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!"

## INTRODUCTION

Paul sharing his **testimony** = witness = martyr

Jesus:

**Luke 21:12-13** . . . they will lay their hands on you and persecute *you*, delivering *you* up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. (13) But it will turn out for you as **an occasion for testimony**.

persecution = an opportunity for testimony – to witness for the Lord:

about who He is  
about what He came to do  
about who we are in Him

### Paul's Testimony

#### He spoke about:

**His Credentials**

**His Conversion**

**His Commission or Calling**

## I. Paul's Credentials 1-5

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### Paul's Credentials

- Jew
- Tarsus in Cilicia – education center
- Gamaliel – doctor of law: highest level of rabbinical school (chptr. 5)
- Zeal – persecuted “this way”
- FBI for the Sanhedrin – executing warrants for arrest

### Baptist Credentials

- S.S. & church from the earliest ages
- VBS & Youth Camp
- Private Christian School
- Baptist College
- Baptist Seminary
- Mission Trips
- Pastored Conservative Churches

### **How Paul thought about his Jewish credentials after his conversion:**

**Philippians 3:4-9** though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: **(5)** circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; **(6)** concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. **(7)** But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. **(8)** Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ **(9)** and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

rubbish = skubalon = KJV: dung

**Matthew 7:21-22** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **(22)** Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

**Do we glory in our credentials – those things that make us look good in the eyes of others and bring us worldly success?**

**We need to count those things as loss for Christ and the excellence of knowing Him!**

## II. Paul's Conversion 6-13

(6) "Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. (7) And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' (8) So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'

You talk about shock and awe!

In an instant his entire world-view was shattered.

Everything he had been living for ...

Everything his life had been about:  
was turned 180 degrees backwards

He found out he had been 100% wrong about everything he considered most important in life

His physical eyes were blinded, but his spiritual eyes were opened

That's what takes place at the moment of conversion

We see who Jesus is – the brightness of God's glory

We see who we are – someone who needs to be changed!

**(9)** "And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me. **(10)** So I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.' **(11)** And since I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus. **(12)** "Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there, **(13)** came to me; and he stood and said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that same hour I looked up at him.

Two good questions:

Who are you, Lord?

What shall I do, Lord?

At this point that angry mob was still listening.

Some may have been coming under conviction ...

**His Credentials**

**His Conversion**



### III. Paul's Calling/Commission 14-22

**He heard his commission from 2 sources:**

#### **Through Ananias in Damascus**

**(14)** Then he said, "The God of our fathers has chosen you

- that you should know His will,
- and see the Just One,
- and hear the voice of His mouth.

**(15)** For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.

**(16)** And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

**1 Corinthians 1:14-16** I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, **(15)** lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. **(16)** Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

**Acts 16:30-31** And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" **(31)** So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

**Romans 10:9-10, 13** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **(10)** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **(13)** For "WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED."

#### **Through Ananias**

**Directly from the Lord Himself**

(17) "Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance (18) and saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.' (19) So I said, 'Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. (20) And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' (21) Then He said to me, 'Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.'" (22) And they listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!"

## **Conclusion**

1. Do you have a testimony?
2. Do we see the circumstances of our lives – even persecution, trials, difficulties, and tribulations as an opportunity to be a witness for Christ?