



Woodmont Beacon

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Paul's Defense before the Authorities

By: Steven Locklair

In Acts 20-28, Luke recorded the apostle Paul speaking to the elders at Ephesus about what was going to happen in the future; the Jews continued to stir up the crowds against Paul; Paul made his defense before the Sanhedrin, kings, and governors; and survives a harrowing journey on the sea as a prisoner to make it to Rome.

In Acts 20, Paul journeyed from Macedonia to Greece, where he spent 3 months until he had to escape from the Jews and return to Macedonia. Several brethren from Macedonia came with him to Troas, where they stayed seven days to worship with the brethren there on the 1st day of the week. They partook of the Lord's supper, Paul preached until midnight, and Eutychus fell asleep then out of the window but was raised from the dead. Paul gave strong warnings to the elders of Ephesus at Miletus about false teachers coming in, from outside the church and from inside the eldership, to divide the brethren. Paul warned them every day for 3 years about this, but commended them to God's word, which would give them the strength to overcome and have eternal life. He prayed with the elders, who wept aloud knowing that they would not see Paul again.

In Acts 21, Paul set sail and landed at Tyre where he met with the brethren there for a week and they warned him in the Spirit to not go to Jerusalem. He prayed with them and left for Ptolemais where he greeted them for a day, and came to Caesarea where he stayed with Philip the evangelist. While there, Agabus prophesied that Paul would be delivered to the Gentiles at Jerusalem. After Paul refused the pleadings of the brethren to not go to Jerusalem, several of the saints from Caesarea chose to go with him. The brethren at Jerusalem received Paul gladly, as he related what God had done among the Gentiles in his ministry. The elders of Jerusalem advised Paul to take a vow in the temple, to show that he isn't against the Jewish customs and is keeping the Law of Moses. The strategy doesn't work because the Jews saw him in the temple, and stirred up the multitude against him with the false charge that he brought Greeks into the temple. Paul was dragged out of the temple, was beaten, and had to be carried by the soldiers, because of the mob's violence against him. Paul asked for permission to speak to the people which is granted.

In Acts 22, Paul makes his defense before the people (which is the 2nd account of his conversion to Christ recorded in the book of Acts). In this chapter, it is recorded what he was told to do to be saved, "why do you delay, arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord". When he told the Jews that the Lord told him to go far away to the Gentiles, they immediately started shouting that he didn't deserve to live. When he was about to be tortured by the authorities, Paul asked them if it was lawful to scourge a man who was a Roman citizen and not condemned. He was released to the chief priests and the Sanhedrin.

In Acts 23, when Paul said that he lived with a good conscience until then, the high priest commanded that Paul be struck in the mouth, and Paul responded by saying that God was going to strike him. Paul was rebuked for reviling the high priest. When Paul perceived that there were Pharisees and Sadducees were there, he said that he was on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead, which led to a division between the two opposing groups. The commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces, and commanded to soldiers to take him by force from among them. When 40 Jews formed a plot to assassinate Paul, his nephew heard about it, and reported it to the commander Claudius Lysias. Lysias sent a letter to governor Felix in Caesarea to have Paul tried there; he arrived there safely.

Woodmont church of Christ

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes for all ages at 9:30
Worship Assembly at 10:30

Sunday Afternoon

Worship Assembly at 5:00

Wednesday Evening

Bible Classes for all ages at 7:30

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Welcome visitors!

You are our honored guest. Please take a moment to complete a visitor's card and let us know if there is anything we can do for you in a spiritual way. We would love to study the Bible further with you or talk about the church here at Woodmont if you are new to the area or would like to become a member.

In Acts 24, Paul made his defense before Felix. He was kept in custody but was allowed friends to come and minister to him. Several days later, Felix arrived with his Jewish wife, Drusilla. When Paul preached to them about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix trembled and told Paul to go away for now. He would converse with Paul for a period of two years, but he was only hoping for a bribe given to release Paul. Felix left him in prison as a favor to the Jews, and he was succeeded by the governor Porcius Festus.

In Acts 25, Paul made his defense before Festus. Festus tried to persuade Paul to have his trial in Jerusalem to please the Jews, but Paul appealed to Caesar which was granted to him. King Agrippa desired to hear his case.

In Acts 26, Paul made his defense before Agrippa. (This is the 3rd account of his conversion to Christ.) He told Agrippa that he wasn't disobedient to the heavenly vision. Paul said that the Jews tried to put him to death for preaching repentance, which is what he did everywhere he went. When Paul preached about Jesus' resurrection from the dead, Festus told Paul that his great learning had driven him crazy. Paul appealed not only to King Agrippa, who believed in the Prophets, but for all who heard him that day to become Christians. Agrippa found that he was innocent of the charges, but since he appealed to Caesar he was going to Rome instead of being free.

In Acts 27, Paul set sail for Italy with Luke and Aristarchus along with 273 other people. When the voyage had gotten rough near Fair Havens, Paul spoke up and said that the voyage would be perilous and their lives would be in danger. But the centurion was persuaded by the captain to continue on. A violent wind came up and their lives were in peril for about 2 weeks. Paul encouraged everyone not to be afraid, because an angel told him that he would stand before Caesar, and God would spare the lives of all those on board. Paul implored them to eat, and he prayed before all of them. All of them survived just as God had said.

In Acts 28, Paul came to the island of Malta, where the natives showed extraordinary kindness and hospitality toward them. Paul shook off a viper which the natives thought would kill him for being a murderer. However, when he shook it off and suffered no harm, they thought he was a god. Paul healed many people on the island. After 3 months, they set sail on an Alexandrian ship, which was wintered on the island. When they stopped at Puteoli, he was able to meet with brethren for 7 days, then went on to Rome. When Paul saw the brethren at Rome, he thanked God and took courage. Paul was allowed to stay by himself with the soldiers guarding him. He was allowed to preach, to persuade many people concerning Jesus from the Scriptures all day long. He stayed there for two years preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching about Jesus openly without any hindrance.

Noteworthy News

-**Melodie Smith (Marc's wife)** was able to go home and will have 16 rehab sessions in Hewitt. Thank God!

-**Gayle Webster** (Rehab back surgery)

-**Bill Moore** went back to the nursing home Sat. He tested negative at the hospital for Covid 19 but will be in isolation
June Moore went home from the hospital on Friday.

-**Dennis Scroggins** (cancer- oral chemotherapy)

-Recovering from surgeries: **Bruce Tilley, Joy Narmore, Gary & Gayle Webster, Julie Perkins**

-Several facilities are in lockdown. This affects the **Moores & Evelyn Anderson.**

Remember **Julie Perkins, Tom & Shirley Thompson, Andrew & Jennifer Locklair, David & Robert Jones, Brett's mom, Katy Jones, Barbara Johnson, Dottie Burns, June Moore, Stan Cox, Kevin & Cassie Williams, Dennis Scroggins, Gaylon Brown, Bruce Tilley, Bonnie Gary, Marie Bolton, Ron Daley, Jan King, Lonell Plyler, Melissa Simpson, Jan Gay, Dora Frisbee, Jenny Hardwick, Donna Lewis, Jackie Branch, Paul Simpson, Melodie Smith, Chip Foster, Terry Jordan** (sinus surgery), **Auree Noll, Elaine Locklair, Gail Contee** (positive COVID-19 from Brenham)

- **The elders** announced that we will be postponing our gospel meeting until later in the summer. We will continue a short service at the building at 10:30 to partake of the Lord's supper, sing a few hymns, with a short exhortation. At 5 PM we will study together on WebEx. On Wednesday at 7:30 PM we will study Daniel 9 on WebEx.



Prayer Requests

Sick/Shut-In:

- **Ada Scott**
- **Bill and June Moore**
- **Jan Gay**
- **Gary & Gayle Webster**
- **Dennis Scroggins**
- **Katy Jones**
- **Kevin Williams, Sr.**
- **Joy Narmore**

Our Elders

- **Bruce Tilley**
- **Brett Narmore**

Our Deacons

- **Jeff Gary**
- **Gary Webster**
- **Kyle Austin**

Calendar

Men We Support

- **Dennis Scroggins**