



Paul's Defense before the Jews

Acts 22:23 - 23:11

Sunday, October 29, 2017

2. Paul lived out of the hope of RESURRECTION (23:6)

- Paul knew that this life is SHORT.
- Paul knew that this life is NOT ALL THERE IS.
- Paul knew that eternity is LONG.
- Paul knew that Jesus had opened a DOOR to eternity.
- Paul didn't just KNOW these truths, he LIVED OUT of them.

3. Paul lived out of GOD'S WORD (23:11)

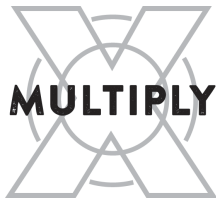
- God's Word assured Paul of his DESTINATION, but not his SAFETY.
- God's Word gave him COMFORT and CONFIDENCE.
- God's Word can give us COMFORT and CONFIDENCE, too.

Where did the Apostle Paul's unshakeable confidence come from? What sustained him as he suffered through 5 trials? What kept him from crumbling into fear and despair? What enabled him to keep making and taking opportunities to share his faith story?

Acts 23 reveals 3 "posts" of Paul's unshakeable confidence . . .

1. Paul lived before God with a clear CONSCIENCE (23:1)

- This does not mean that Paul was PERFECT or SINLESS.
- It means that Paul was FORGIVEN and accepted by God by GRACE ALONE, through FAITH ALONE, on the basis of the finished work of JESUS CHRIST ALONE.
- It means that Paul lived his life to please GOD, not OTHERS.
- It's confidence before GOD that gives us confidence before OTHERS.



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Growth Group Week 5 of 9

Connecting Together (30 min)

Take time in this 5th week of Fall Growth Groups to connect with one another. As you share about your week, share your favorite restaurant on the Central Coast.

Grappling Together (30 min)

1. When God's Word is preached, God speaks to His people! How did you sense God speaking to you in the text/message this week?
2. Read Acts 22:23-23:11. Where is Paul? Who is he talking to and why? What has led him to this moment? Where is he headed?
3. What evidence do you see in this text and the chapters leading up to this text that Paul had an unshakeable confidence?
4. Paul says in Acts 23:1 "I have lived my whole life before God in all good conscience up to this day." How do we get and keep a good or clean conscience before God? (See Hebrews 10:19-23)

5. Why does a good or clean conscience before God give us confidence in life and in sharing Jesus?
6. We noticed how Paul lived out of a hope of resurrection and how that gave him confidence. How do you think WE practically live out of a hope of resurrection? What's that look like?
7. God's Word was another "post" of Paul's confidence. Describe a time when you've experienced God's Word giving you comfort and confidence. Why do we so often neglect God's Word when we need it most?

Praying Together (30 min)

Take time to pray together . . .

- We all have places in our lives where we need more confidence. Share one area where that's true for you right now.
- Then let's pray that we, too, might find that confidence in living to please God, not others, living out of the hope of resurrection and living out of God's Word.