

THE CONTINUATION OF THE BOOK OF ACTS 27

ACTS 26:1

1 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself:

ACTS 26:2

2 I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews:

ACTS 26:3

3 Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently.

ACTS 26:4

4 My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews;

ACTS 26:4

4 My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews;

ACTS 26:5

5 Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

ACTS 26:6

6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:

ACTS 26:7

7 Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.

ACTS 26:8

8 Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?

ACTS 26:9

9 I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

ACTS 26:10

10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them.

ACTS 26:11

11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

ACTS 26:12

12 Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,

ACTS 26:13

13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

ACTS 26:14

14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

ACTS 9:7

7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

ACTS 26:14

14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

ACTS 26:15

15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

A. PRISONER_ JEFF. IN V-2 N-8 WEDNESDAY_ 63-0717

74. what a--a great shock it must have been, for this apostle, when He said, "I am Jesus," the very One that he was persecuting. "Why persecutest thou Me?"

75 Another little quotation we might drop in here. You see, as they make fun of the Church, they're not really making fun of the Church, they are making fun of Jesus.

"Why persecutest thou Me?" How could Paul then, with all his intellect, believe that This was. . . that this Group that he was persecuting was the very God that he claimed to be serving?

I think that's, without going into details, I think we're all well trained enough to know what I mean here. The same thing is happening today.

ACTS 26:16

16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

ACTS 26:17

17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

ACTS 26:18

18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

74-1 EPHESIAN CHURCH AGE - CHURCH AGE BOOK CPT. 3

Paul founded the church at Ephesus about the middle of the first century. This enables us to set the date of the beginning of the Ephesian Church Age; about 53 A. D.

74-2 EPHESIAN CHURCH AGE - CHURCH AGE BOOK CPT. 3

His manner of ministering set the pattern that all future messengers were to aspire to,

and actually sets the pattern for every true minister of God, though he would not attain to such heights in the prophetic realm as did Paul. Paul's ministry had a threefold quality and was as follows:

74-3 EPHESIAN. CHURCH. AGE - CHURCH. AGE. BOOK CPT. 3

First of all, Paul was absolutely true to the Word. He never deviated from it no matter what the cost.

Galatians 1:8-9,

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. "

Galatians 2:11,14,

"But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. "

"

But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the Gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles,

and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?"

74-4 EPHESIAN. CHURCH. AGE - CHURCH. AGE. BOOK CPT. 3
I Corinthians 14:36-37,

"What? came the Word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?"

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. "

75-1 EPHESIAN. CHURCH. AGE - CHURCH. AGE. BOOK CPT. 3

Notice that Paul was unorganized, but Spirit-led, as when God moved upon Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt.

Jerusalem's council never sent Paul out, nor did it have any power or jurisdiction over him. God, and God alone, did the sending and the leading. Paul was not of men, but of God.

Galatians 1:1,

"Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, Who raised Him from the dead:)"

Galatians 2:3-5,

"But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: And that because of false brethren unawares brought in,

who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the Gospel might continue with you. "

75-2 EPHESIAN. CHURCH. AGE - CHURCH. AGE. BOOK CPT. 3
Secondly, his ministry was in the power of the Spirit, thereby demonstrating the spoken and written Word.

I Corinthians 2:1-5,

"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. "

Acts 14:8-10,

"And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak:

who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked. "

Acts 20:9-12,

"And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.

And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day,

so he departed. And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted. "

Acts 28:7-9,

"In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously.

And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.

So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed. "

II Corinthians 12:12,

"Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds. "

76-1 EPHESIAN. CHURCH. AGE - CHURCH. AGE. BOOK CPT. 3
Thirdly, he had the evident fruit of his God-given ministry.

II Corinthians 12:11,

"I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing. "

I Corinthians 9:2,

"If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostle-ship are ye in the Lord. "

II Corinthians 11:2,

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. "

Paul had been the means of bringing in multitudes of the Gentile sheep; he fed them, and cared for them, until they brought forth righteous fruit and were prepared to meet the Lord as a part of the Gentile bride.

ACTS 26:18

18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

ACTS 26:19

19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: