

## Part III

### “Paul’s Appeal To The Three Rulers & Their Decision!”

Acts 26:24-32

Now as He (Paul) Made His Defense, Festus (Governor) Said with a Loud Voice, “Paul, You Are Beside Yourself! Much Learning Is Driving You Mad!” But He (Paul) Replied, “I am Not Mad, Most Noble Festus, But (Rather,) (I Paul) Speak the Words of Truth and Reason! For the King, before Whom I (Paul) also Speak Freely, Knows These Things; for I am Convinced that None of These Things Escapes His Attention, since This Thing Was Not Done in a Corner. King Agrippa, Do You Believe in the Prophets? I (Paul) Know That You Do Believe!” Then (King) Agrippa (II) Declared to Paul, “You Almost Persuade Me to Become a Christian (Myself).” And Paul Replied, “I Would to God that Not Only You, But Also All Who Hear (Festus, Bernice & Prominent Men of Caesarea Maritima) Me Today, Might Become Both Almost and Altogether Such As I am, Except for These Chains.” When He (Paul) Had Said These Things, the King Agrippa (II) Stood Up, as well as the Governor (Festus) and Bernice (the Queen) and Those (Prominent Men of Caesarea Maritima) Who Sat With Them (King, Queen, & Governor); and when They (King, Queen, & Governor) had gone aside, They (Prominent Men of Caesarea Maritima) Talked Among Themselves, Saying, “This Man Is Doing Nothing Deserving of (the) Death (Penalty) or Chains (Imprisonment).” Then (King) Agrippa (II) Said to Festus (the Governor), “This Man (Paul) Might Have Been Set Free (by Us Both), If He (as a Roman Citizen) Had Not (Officially) Appealed (Directly) to Caesar (Himself)!”

Acts 26:24-32 (NKJV)

#### Central Question

“What Is Paul Actually Presenting Here To This Formal & Official Audience?”

#### Central Answer

Paul’s ‘*Apologia Pro Vita Sua*’

“A Complete & Formal Defense of One’s Beliefs, Philosophy, & Worldview!”

#### NOTE

We Continue Our Study Of Paul’s Presentation – His ‘*Apologia Pro Vita Sua*’  
In This 2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 Parts As We Continue To Look At The Whole of Acts Chapter 26!

#### Formal & Official Setting Of Today’s Audience

So, the Next Day, When King (Herod) Agrippa (II) and (Queen) Bernice Had Come with ‘Great Pomp’, and had entered the Auditorium with the Commanders and the Prominent Men of the City (Caesarea Maritima), at (Governor) Festus’ Command Paul was Brought In (Before Them All).

Acts 25:23

#### I. Paul’s ‘*Apologia Pro Vita Sua*’

##### J. Words of Insanity Vs. Words of Truth & Reason

Now as He (Paul) Made His Defense, Festus (Governor) Said with a Loud Voice, “Paul, You Are Beside Yourself! Much Learning Is Driving You Mad!” But He (Paul) Replied, “I am Not Mad, Most Noble Festus, But (Rather,) (I Paul) Speak the Words of Truth and Reason!” Acts 26:24-25

1<sup>st</sup> Most Current Events Are Not Well Known To All!

2<sup>nd</sup> Those Few Current Events That Are Known:

“Are They Understood With Proper Reason & Discernment By God’s Spirit?”

K. Paul’s Direct Appeal & Offer to King Agrippa Concerning the Gospel of Faith in Christ Jesus

Paul Now Directly Inquires About King Herod’s Actual Beliefs & Worldview!

“For the King, before Whom I (Paul) also Speak Freely, Knows These Things; for I am Convinced that None of These Things Escapes His Attention, since This Thing Was Not Done in a Corner. King Agrippa, Do You Believe in the Prophets? I (Paul) Know That You Do Believe!” Acts 26:26-27

L. King Herod & Paul's Interchange Concerning The Offer of the Gospel of Faith in Christ Jesus  
Then (King) Agrippa (II) Declared to Paul, "You Almost Persuade Me to Become a **Christian**  
(Myself)." And Paul Replied, "I Would to God that Not Only You, But Also All Who Hear  
(Festus, Bernice & Prominent Men of Caesarea Maritima) Me Today, Might Become Both Almost  
and Altogether Such As I am, Except for **These Chains**." Acts 26:28-29

Through It All Paul's 'Profound Hope' Remains:

That Is **Own People (Jews)** Would All 'Be Saved'

Paul to the CrossWay Romans, "I Tell the Truth in Christ, I am Not Lying, My Conscience Also Bearing Me Witness in the Holy Spirit, that I Have Great Sorrow and Continual Grief in My Heart. For I Could Wish that I (Paul) Myself Were Accursed From Christ For My Brethren, My Countrymen According to the Flesh, Who Are Israelites, To Whom Pertain the Adoption, the Glory, the Covenants, the Giving of the Law, the Service of God, and the Promises; of Whom Are the Fathers and From Whom, According to the Flesh, Christ Came, Who Is Over All, the Eternally Blessed God. Amen!" Romans 9:1-5

### CQ1

"Do I Have That Type of Desire & Turmoil In My heart, Mind, & Soul Over The Lost?"

Paul to the CrossWay Corinthians, "For Though I Am Free From All Men, I Have Made Myself a Servant to All, that I Might Win the More; and to the Jews I Became as a Jew, that I Might win Jews; to Those Who Are Under the Law, as Under the Law, that I Might win Those who Are Under the Law; to Those Who Are Without Law, as Without Law, Not Being Without Law Toward God, But Under Law Toward Christ, that I Might Win Those Who Are Without Law; to the weak I Became as Weak, that I Might win the Weak. I Have Become All Things to All Men, that I Might By All Means Save Some. Now This I Do For the Gospel's Sake, that I May Be Partaker of It With You." 1st Corinthians 9:19-23

### CQ2

"Have I Become All Things To All People, Without Judgement, Without Prejudice,  
& Not Holding Anything Back For The Sake of the Call of the Gospel of Christ My Lord?"

Paul, Again to the CrossWay Corinthians, "Do You Not Know that Those Who Run In a Race All Run, But One Receives the Prize? Run In Such A Way That You May Obtain It (the Prize). And Everyone Who Competes for the Prize Is Temperate In All Things. Now They Do It To Obtain A Perishable Crown, But We for An Imperishable Crown! "Therefore, I Run Thus: Not With Uncertainty. Thus, I fight, Not As One Who Beats the Air. But I Discipline My Body and Bring It (the Flesh) Into Subjection, Lest, When I Have Preached (the Truth) to Others, I Myself Should Become Disqualified." 1st Corinthians 9:24-27

### CQ3

"Am I Living Out What I Say & What I Teach Others To Believe,  
A Life of Holiness & Righteousness That God Is Pleased With?"

#### I. Paul's 'Apologia Pro Vita Sua'

##### M. Departure & Consensus of Innocence

When He (Paul) Had Said **These Things**, the King Agrippa (II) Stood Up, as well as the Governor (Festus) and Bernice (the Queen) and Those (Prominent Men of Caesarea Maritima) Who Sat With Them (King, Queen, & Governor); and when They (King, Queen, & Governor) had gone aside They (Prominent Men of Caesarea Maritima) Talked Among Themselves, Saying, "This Man Is Doing Nothing Deserving of (the) Death (Penalty) or Chains (Imprisonment)." Acts 26:30-31

They (Aristocracy, Learned, & Wealthy) All Clearly See the Innocence of Paul,  
But Ironically, They Do Not See the Truth of Their Own Standing Before God,

Nor the Truth of the Gospel Being Offered To Them!

Isaiah 6:9-10, Jeremiah 5:20-21, Ezeiel 12:1-2, Matthew 13:14-15, Romans 11:7-10, & Acts 28:25-27

**N. Proclamation of Official Roman Citizen's Appeal Granted**

Then (King) Agrippa (II) Said to Festus (the Governor), "This Man (Paul) Might Have Been Set Free (by Us Both), If He (as a Roman Citizen) Had Not (Officially) Appealed (Directly) to Caesar (Himself)!" Acts 26:32

**How Most People React To Hard Life Decisions & Situations**

Governor Festus & King Agrippa II Found A Way  
To Get Out Of Making Any Decision - **Regarding The Jewish Religious Question,**  
By Simply Differing Final Judgement To A Higher Human Authority – Caesar!

**How Most People React To Spiritual & Eternal Life Decisions**

Governor Festus & King Agrippa II  
Found A Way To Get Out Of Making Any Decision  
**Regarding The Eternal Question** - As It Pertains To Them Personally,  
By Simply Waiting For Paul To Be Sent Away, & Then Conveniently Making No Decision At All!

**How Must Respond In Obedience To Our Lord Jesus Christ**

"Let Us In These 'Last Days'  
Have The **Same Heart & Mind** That Was In Paul,  
'I Would to God that Not Only You, But Also All Who Hear Me Today,  
Might Become Altogether Such As I am,'  
A **Child of God My Father,** Through Jesus Christ His Son!"