
BIBLE TALK

Our study this week concerns a statement made by an apostle of the Lord. Listen carefully as I read:

Acts 26:24-29

24 Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!"

25 But he said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason.

26 "For the king, before whom I 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.

27 "King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe."

28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

29 And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."

PERSUADING TO BE: **A CHRISTIAN**

What was Paul trying to persuade Agrippa to be? – **Christian!**

- Not Baptist
- Not Orthodox, etc.

HOW PERSUADED?

How did Paul try to persuade?

- Praying H.S. would come work miracle? **NO!**
- By **words!**

James 1:21

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

This is how Cornelius was persuaded:

Acts 11:13-14

13 "And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, 'Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter,
14 'who will tell you **words by which you and all your household will be saved.**'

This is how Paul himself was converted:

Acts 9:6

6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The words of the gospel are powerful:

Romans 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Romans 10:17

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

WHAT IF HIS WISH CAME TRUE?

What was Paul's wish? – For everyone to be like himself.

Q: If everyone like Paul, would there be different denominations?

Galatians 1:8-9

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Q: If everyone like Paul, would there be different ways of salvation?

Romans 6:3-4

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Galatians 3:26-28

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- **Everyone** – child of God by faith
- **Everyone** – “as many as” must be baptized
- **No exceptions** – Jews, Greeks, male, female – all must do same thing

Q: If everyone like Paul, would there be different ways of worshipping God?

1 Corinthians 14:37

37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

Keeping this in mind:

1 Corinthians 4:17

17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

WHAT THIS MEANS

In other words, if everyone like Paul, there would be only:

- One church
- One way of salvation
- One way to worship
- One book to go by (Eph 4:5)

This is what Paul wanted! He wanted Agrippa and everyone to be just like himself – except for chains.

1 Corinthians 11:1

1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.