

INTRODUCTION

- * Paul had been pressing back to Jerusalem. As he had told the elders of Ephesus along the way, "And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me." (Acts 20:22-23)
- * Last week, we saw the beginning stages of this prophetic declaration.
- * Paul was fulfilling a vow to YHWH and submitting to the leadership of the elders of the church at Jerusalem, when he was falsely accused of bringing a Gentile into the temple. He was beaten and would have been killed if the Roman soldiers hadn't come to rescue him.
- * On the way to the barracks, the commander of the soldiers was told many different stories regarding who Paul was. He was shocked when Paul spoke to him in Greek to request the privilege to speak to the people. When Paul spoke to the people, he spoke to them in Hebrew. The people listened until he explained how Jesus the Messiah had sent him to the Gentiles. At the mention of this, the crowd again went crazy.
- * Today, we continue examining the account of the tumult and disturbance caused by the man of God simply declaring the word of God. As we study the passage, we need to remember that Paul was an ordinary man being used by God in an extra-ordinary way. However, Paul was an ordinary man who was sold-out for the service of the King.

INSTRUCTION**I. HIS CON_____ WITH THE C_____ (22: 24-30)****A. His D_____**

- * cf. Acts 21:28,36 ... Acts 23:6 ... Acts 19:28,32,34
- * cf. Proverbs 18:6-7; 29:11, 20; ... Prov 12:16; 13:10; 17:14
- * cf. Philippians 4:4-7; Galatians 5:22-23

B. His Q_____ (cf. Romans 13:1-7; Acts 16:36-39)**C. His D_____**

- * cf. Pliny (Roman author), Appian (Roman Historian) and Dio Chrysostom (Greek writer and historian)

II. HIS CON_____ WITH THE C_____ (23:1-10)**A. The D_____ of a Clear Conscience (v. 1; cf. 1 Timothy 1:12-16)****B. The D_____ of Ananias (v. 2-5)**

- * cf. Matthew 3:4-10; 23:13-36; Josephus, "Wars of the Jews," Book II, Chapter 17

C. The D_____ of the Group (v. 6-10; cf. Matt 22:23ff; Acts 5:17)**III. HIS CON_____ FROM THE C_____ (23:11)****A. The Word of E_____ (cf. Matthew 9:2; 9:22; 14:27; John 16:33)****B. The Word of A_____ (cf. Acts 19:21)****INTROSPECTION**

- * How do you handle stress?
- * How often are you in God's Word and in His presence?
- * Is there a correlation between the first two answers?
- * Are you more committed to the expansion of your kingdom, or God's?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * As an American, how do we submit to the governing authorities and yet boldly proclaim the Word of God? How do we find the proper balance? How do we know if our allegiance is proper?