



## Acts: Paul's Defence

Oct18

**INTRODUCTION:** We've entered one of two of the last major sections of Acts: Paul's Witness in Jerusalem and Paul's Witness in Rome. In this section Paul gives witness under trial.

**KEY POINT:** apologetics, testimony, witness, response

**A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Paul Accepted, Acts 21:17–26)

- What purpose does this section of Acts have?
- How is Paul's witness in Jerusalem met with acceptance?
- What do we learn of God's work abroad and in Jerusalem?
- How did Paul demonstrate a conciliatory principle?
- Other?

**P.M. SERMON RECAP** (Acts 21:27–39, Paul Accused)

- What is the danger of rumours, supposing and bias?
- How did the unbelieving Jews act differently to the believing Jews and how did they break their own law?
- What do evidence in the passage do we see the unbelieving Jews were rejecting the witness of their Messiah?
- Other?

**READ:** Acts 21:40–22:22

### QUESTIONS:

1. *In v. 1 Paul says "hear my defence." Defence in Greek is "apologia," where we get apologetics from. This doesn't mean apologizing for our faith but defending the faith. Apologetics is a key way to witness as the end of Acts makes clear.*
2. **1 Pet 3:15- What does this verse teach us about apologetics, whether sharing our faith or a point of our faith?**
3. **V. 1- Why do you think there was a "hush" when Paul stepped up to speak to them from the barracks?**
4. **Vv. 1–2- In what language and in what tone did he speak to them? How is this helpful to remember for today?**

5. *This is the second time Paul has shared his testimony in Acts. He testifies (bears witness) to his experience of grace through faith.*
6. **What benefits does sharing our testimony have? Can someone share their testimony briefly?**
7. *Paul's testimony here differs slightly (in emphasis) from that of Acts 9. How does he here stress how his faith in Christ is faithful to his Jewish roots? (He was the [true Jew](#), like Jesus, like Stephen). Why?*
8. **How might we alter the points of emphasis in our testimony depending upon who we are speaking to?**
9. *He makes a series of points to relay this. In the corresponding verses, how does he convey each point?:*
  - i. His Jewish upbringing (3a)
  - ii. His zeal for God (3b–5)
  - iii. Converted through Divine intervention (6–11)
  - iv. The ministry of Ananias (12–13)
  - v. Revelation from the "righteous One" (14–16)
  - vi. Revelation in the Temple (that he supposedly defiled) (17–21)
10. **What effect did Paul hope his testimony would have?**
11. **V.22- What effect did it have and why?**
12. How is Paul's defence similar to Jesus'?
13. *In Acts people either accept or reject the message of Jesus. What did the unbelieving Jews say? Were they accepting or rejecting their Messiah?*

**NEXT:** Oct 18- Acts 23:23–35, Paul Sent to Felix