

THE UNOPENED GIFT

Acts 26:15-32

What have you done with God's gift of salvation?

I. THE GIFT PRESENTED (15-23)

A. PAUL'S COMMISSION (15-18)

1. Appointed a minister and witness of Christ (15-16)
2. Sent to offer transformation by faith in Christ (17-18)

B. PAUL'S PROCLAMATION (19-23)

1. He kept declaring repentance (19-21)
 - a. Obedient to his mission (19)
 - b. Faithful in his message (20)
 - c. Arrested for his preaching (21)
2. He continued declaring Christ (22-23)
 - Telling of Christ's suffering, resurrection and enlightenment

II. THE GIFT REJECTED (24-29)

A. FESTUS' REACTION: You're Crazy! (24)

1. The Issues
 - a. Seeing visions?! (12-14)
 - b. Committing to one God?! (19-20)
 - c. Paul's undaunting passion amid persecution?! (20-21)
 - d. A resurrected Christ?! (23)
2. The Accusation
 - a. You're an educated eccentric!
 - b. An overly enthusiastic believer but lacking sound judgement
 - c. You're a maniacal madman [the Greek word is "mania" from which we get manic]
3. The Reality
 - a. Festus is unfamiliar with Scripture and ignorant about faith
 - b. See I Cor. 1:18

B. AGRIPPA'S RESPONSE: You're Convincing! (28)

1. He is impressed
 - a. About Paul's call (15-16)
 - b. About Paul's devotion (19)
 - c. About God's protection (21-22)
 - d. About a suffering Savior (23)
2. He is informed
 - a. An expert in Judaism (2-3)
 - b. Aware of Christian truths (26)
 - c. Having faith in the Prophets (27)
3. He is conflicted (27)
 - a. About saying he believes
 - b. About saying he does not believe
 - c. See James 1:8

III. THE GIFT CONSIDERED

- Application

A. QUESTIONS FOR THE UNBELIEVER

1. What is your reaction to the gospel?
 - a. You're crazy (24)
 - 1) Are you sure you want to continue questioning a Savior who died and rose again? (23)
 - 2) Do you really believe all Christians are insane? (24)
 - b. You're convincing (29)
 - 1) You respect believers who proclaim the good news of salvation (16), but aren't yet ready to personally put your faith in Christ alone
 - 2) You believe the Bible and understand God's plan for the ages (26), but won't commit to Christ
2. Will you leave God's gift unopened?

- See Romans 5:17b and 10:13

B. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BELIEVER

1. Faithfully contend for the truth (25-26)
2. Don't fear asking pointed questions (27)
3. Passionately pray that the unbelieving will come to Christ (29)

CONCLUSION:**What have you done with God's gift of salvation?**

1. Have you received His gift?
2. Are you presenting His gift?

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