



## **Being a Faithful Witness to the Truth: *Part Two* (Acts 25:1 – 26:32)**

*Study Notes Handout: Nov 26<sup>th</sup>*

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience...*  
- 1 Peter 3:15-16

*Witnessing is cooperating with God and with others to lovingly bring people, one step at a time, closer to Christ.*  
- Lon Allison

### The Context of Acts 26: Some Key Observations from Paul's Witness:

- Truth-telling combats the ignorance floating around (21:28, 38; 24:5,12; 25:10,19; 26:25)
- Christ's death and resurrection is central to our message (23:6; 24:15, 21; 25:19; 26:8, 23)
- Our own faith story is key - giving a defense (apologia - 22:1; 24:10; 25:8,16; 26:1,2,24)

1. Life Before Christ (26:1 - 12)

2. Encounter with Christ (26:13 - 18)

3. Life in Christ Today (26:19 - 23)

4. Joining God in His Witness (26:24 - 32)

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

i. It has been said that God almost always awakens longing in a soul before a person comes to faith in Christ. How does God awaken people to Himself? Can you think of someone in your life right now that is being 'awakened' (Eph.5:14)? How can we pray for you to be a witness to them?

ii. Witnessing is not just about us telling our story. It is caring enough to listen to someone else's story. Jesus was a good 'listener' and a good 'questioner'. The Gospels record that He was asked 183 questions, but He asked 307 questions. Why is this an important feature of being a good witness? How does it change your view of sharing your faith?



## Study and Discussion Questions

### *Acts 25:1 – 26:32*

#### **Explore It**

1. Why did Paul want nothing to do with standing trial in Jerusalem? ([25:10-11](#))
2. How was this meeting a fulfillment of the prophecy in [Luke 21:12](#)? ([25:23](#))
3. How did Paul describe his conversion and new life? ([26:12-18](#))

#### **Get It**

4. Why do we tend to hold on to past grievances?
5. What does Paul's example of self-defense have to teach us?
6. How do you express yourself when you are on the defensive?
7. In what way did Paul's arrest help him spread the news about Christ?
8. Why might God allow us to suffer for no apparent reason?
9. How can we use stories of our own experience to share the message of Christ?

#### **Apply It**

10. What person or situation can you place in God's hands this week as a discipline against turning events to your own ends?
11. In what difficult situation do you want to remember that God is sovereignly in control?
12. What story of God's working in your life can you rehearse for sharing with others?