

“The Testimony Heard Around the World”

Acts 22:1-21, ESV

INTRODUCTION: Three times in Acts (9:1-19; 22:1-21; 26:12-18), Luke gives the reader a record of Paul’s testimony. Why did Luke tell the same story three times? We can only speculate. Nevertheless, Luke was a careful, exacting historian. One commentator suggested that Luke was concerned about giving a defense of the authenticity of Paul’s apostleship. Further, Luke gives appropriate attention to the importance of Paul in Christian history, and in the life of the church even today. God chose Paul to be the one to speak His Word as the Apostle to the Gentiles. Praise God! Today’s text is a rendering of the testimony heard around the world.

Before Jesus (v. 1-5):

Jew- v. 3
Born in Tarsus- v. 3
Studied under Gamaliel- v. 3
Zealous for God- v. 3
Persecuted followers of Christ- v. 4
Brought believers to Jerusalem to be imprisoned- v. 5

BUT...

After Jesus (v. 6-21):

JESUS got a hold of me- v. 6-9
New marching orders- v. 10
God put people around me to help me- v. 11-13
 -My companions
 -Ananias
My divine assignment articulated- v. 14-15
Urgency- v. 16
The Lord has protected me to use me- v. 17-18
My past may very well haunt me- v. 19-20
I will send you to the Gentiles- v. 21

A Few Key Observations:

- 1). It is not only how you **start**, but how you **finish** that matters.
- 2). No one is beyond the saving **grace** and **mercy** of God.
- 3). God has an **assignment** for each of us. You must discern and act on what is God’s will for your life.