

“DEATH BY ORTHODOXY”

Acts 25:23-26:18, ESV

INTRODUCTION: Paul claims before King Agrippa that people were trying to kill him in the name of orthodoxy! What is orthodoxy (generally accepted, approved beliefs, doctrines, or practices)? Paul was under attack because he believed in and preached the resurrection. Paul is incredulous that he should be condemned for believing in the Resurrection—the great hope of the Jewish people. In today’s sermon text, Paul has the unique occasion to address another key, civil government official.

Two Crucial Questions:

1. Who are Agrippa and Bernice (v. 23)?

Herod was somewhat familiar with the customs and controversies of the **Jews (26:3)**. Herod Agrippa II is the son of Herod who killed James and imprisoned Peter. His great-uncle, Herod Antipas, was the **Herod of the Gospels**. Bernice is Agrippa’s sister, not his wife...a creepy, sinful incestuous relationship. She had multiple marriages, but always boomeranged back to her brother.

A statement of context in **verses 24-27**, answering the “why” question of why Paul is appearing before Agrippa.

Application: Agrippa and Bernice and all associated with them needed to hear the gospel; they needed Jesus.

2. What does Paul say to Agrippa? (26:2-18)?

Application for Life:

1. Our lives are in the hands of God. No one is outside the scope of God’s reach.
2. From Kings to gatekeepers, we all must repent of our sins and turn to Christ.
3. Will you choose the light? Will you choose to continue to live in darkness?