

When Prejudice Clashes with Providence Acts 22:1-30

Defensive testimony by Paul, 1-21

- ◆ This = 2nd of three times Paul's testimony appears in Acts and is also the 1st of three lengthy defenses he offers, cf. 24:10-21, 26:2-23.
- ◆ Paul tries to identify with his audience, as should we during a testimony.
- ◆ *Be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name (calling is a past ptc. = having called).* Washing is common imagery for spiritual cleansing. See I Cor. 6:11, Titus 3:5 for same imagery but w/o baptism.

Violent response to Paul, 22-23

- ◆ The crowd goes berserk at the mentioning of a mission to the Gentiles. Why???

- ◆ God's providential uniting of the Gentiles and Jews (Eph. 2:11-22) causes much friction, as seen in Acts 10,11,15, Galatians.

Quick release of Paul, 24-30

- ◆ The commander's goal here is to beat the truth out of Paul. Clearly Rome had a problem with prejudice too!
- ◆ Paul protests here because of his Roman citizenship but not earlier at Philippi, 16:22-24. Why? Recall Roman officials' fear in 16:37-39.



Consider how Acts is presenting a door rapidly closing for the Jews and their future.

What does this say about the existence of any prejudice or racism within the church?

God's providential plan can be seen in a totally integrated world, Rev. 5:9, 7:9.