<p style="text-align:center">**April 7, 2024**
Acts 21:37-22:21
"My Defense-My Testimony-My Purpose"</p>

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Vv 37-38, a mistaken identity was in play. Keep in mind Proverbs 18:17, "The first to state his case seems right until another comes and cross-examines him." (CSB) A great principle can be learned by this proverb in most any situation. Get all of the facts before you jump on any band wagon.

Vv 14-15, Paul stating that he saw the Righteous One is significant, this gives him the authority to be an apostle. V 18 recounts the second time Paul sees the Risen Lord. The qualifications for an apostle are stated in Acts 1:21-22, "Therefore, from among the men who have accompanied us during the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us-'beginning from the baptism of John until the day he was taken up from us-from among these, it is necessary that one become a witness with us of his resurrection.'" (CSB) Any dude on TV today who professes to be an apostle on the order of the 12 in the Bible is either very old or a big liar, not hard to figure out when measured against Scripture.

By His foreknowledge, Jesus warns Paul that the Jews will not receive him or his message. Divine foreknowledge.

The Righteous One, from Isaiah 53:11. This title for Jesus is soteriological: Jesus executed the saving will of God perfectly: Psalm 40:8; John 4:34. Washing away your sins is purely picturesque, figurative, to speak more exactly. Baptism pictures the change that has already happened. Gleaned from *R. C. H. Lenski*

V 16, "It is possible, as in 2:38, to take these words as teaching baptismal remission or salvation by means of baptism, but to do so is in my opinion a complete subversion of Paul's vivid and picturesque language. As in Romans 6:4-6 where baptism is the picture of death, burial and resurrection, so here baptism pictures the change that had already taken place when Paul surrendered to Jesus on the way (verse 10). Baptism here pictures the washing away of sins by the blood of Christ." *A. T. Robertson*

According to the multitude of Paul's writing that points to faith for salvation, there is no way he is here advocating for baptismal regeneration. If you doubt this look at Romans 10. With this understood one must then ask, what is the solution? It is simple, the phrase, "wash away your sins" must be connected with "calling on His name." Paul's sins were washed away but not by baptism, instead by calling on the name of the Lord, see Romans 10:13. Gleaned from *John MacArthur*

V 16, "Paul was converted, now in obedience he was to be baptized into the community of believers. 'Be baptized and wash your sins away' could be taken as a proof text for baptismal regeneration. The overarching term, however, is 'calling upon the Lord,' the profession of faith in Christ that is the basis for the act of baptism."*John B. Polhill*

V 16, wash away your sins is problematic for some, but it shouldn't be. This does not stand the test with the whole of Scripture that a works oriented action can bring salvation, so, what is it? It must be taken as symbolic in nature. Go to **biblehub.com** and look this verse up for some clarity. This site gives a lot of different versions on the same verse (Acts 22:16), this helps for clarity. Especially check

out the New Living Translation, "What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord." The Lord is the Author of salvation, therefore, works of any kind could never be.

Application:
Paul would give a three part defense: (**1**)His conduct before his conversion. (**2**)Details about his conversion. (**3**)His commission to carry the gospel to the Gentiles. Practice giving your testimony in three parts: (**1**)My life before Christ. (**2**)My conversion/salvation experience. (**3**)How my life has been changed since accepting Jesus as my Savior. This part focuses on how your **purpose** in life has been defined and a bit about what your purpose is as you live for the Lord Jesus and not for yourself. Work on being able to give this information within 2-3 minutes.