

## Almost Persuaded

Acts 26.28-29

### [A. Paul On Trial]

#### [1. Paul's Circumstances (vs 1-8)]

[Paul had come to Jerusalem and gone up to the temple for cleansing.]

[While in the Temple Paul was taken by Jews that knew he ministered to the Gentiles. A false accusation was circulated that Paul had brought Gentiles into the restricted areas of the temple, defiling the temple.]

[He was taken captive by a Roman Guard, and sent to Caesarea for his own safety.]

[Felix Turned Paul over to Festus who has now brought him before King Agrippa.]

#### [2. Paul's Testimony (vs 12-20) – Who Paul was.]

[He was a strict Pharisee (vs 5).]

[He met Jesus on the road to Damascus (vs 13-18).]

[He now lives for Jesus Christ, utterly transformed (vs 19-23).]

*["Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian (vs 28)."]*

### B. Wrestling with the Gospel - King Agrippa Wrestled With,

1. His Heritage (Acts 26.3) - *"Especially because I know thee to **be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews:** wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently."*

a. **The Customs of his day** [- Those things that are taught **by tradition.**]

Col 2.8

[There are those things that we are taught from our earliest years that we assume to be right.]

[We rarely question our traditions or customs.  
We simply take them for granted.]

*[Colossians 2:8 - Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.]*

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**B. Wrestling With The Gospel –**

1. His Heritage
  - a. Tradition – Customs
  - b. Philosophy – Ideas

**b. The Questions of his day [- Philosophy. To debate?]**

[There are those things that we challenge.]

[In those challenges we are searching for evidence of the truth. A substantial foundation that reveals what is right.]

[The primary question Paul presents is can God raise the dead? (Acts 26.8)]

**Acts 26:8** *Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?*

**[Secular responses in Paul's day,]**

- [The Sadducees say, "No."]
- [The Pharisees say, "Yes."]

[Paul declared, "Yes, God raised Jesus from the grave, and He is the Christ."  
(vs 14-18)]

**Acts 26:14-16** *And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.** 16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for **I have appeared unto thee** for this*

purpose, **to make thee a minister and a witness** both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

[Paul's declaration was the result of the manifestation of Christ before him.]

**[c. The primary questions of our day include,]**

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Rom 1.19

- **[Is there a God? (Psalm 14.1; Romans 1.19-20)]**

*[Psalm 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. . .]*

[God's architecture reveals the reality of the master builder. The intricacies of life could not just happen.]

*[Romans 1:19-20 Because that which may be known of God **is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.** <sup>20</sup>For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:]*

- **[Is there really a Word from God?]**

Psm 12.6

[The Scriptures are from God (2 Tim 3.16-17)]

*[2 Tim. 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup>That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.]*

[God substantiates His Word through a multitude of fulfilled prophecies.]

[The Scriptures are Perfectly Preserved by the Power of God (Psalm 12.6-7)]

*Psalm 12:6–7 - The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. <sup>7</sup>**Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.***

Jer 29.13

- **[Can I know God? (Jer 29.13)]**

*[Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.]*

**["Almost thou Persuadest me to be a Christian (vs 28)."]**

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## 2. The Hecklers (vs 21, 24)

- There were the **Demands** of the Jews (vs 21) [- Kill him.]

*Acts 26:21 For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.*

- There was the **Derision** of Festus (vs 24) [- Much learning hath made thee mad.]

*Acts 26:24 And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; **much learning doth make thee mad.***

- There was the **Declaration** of the truth (vs 26) [- none of these things are hidden.]

*Acts 26:26 For **the king knoweth of these things**, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that **none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.***

*[The message of the truth was loud and clear,  
the jeers of the hecklers were equally loud.]*

**["Almost thou Persuadest me to be a Christian (vs 28)."]**

### 3. His Heart (vs 28) [- Persuadest me.]

**Jer 17.9** *[Persuasion is a matter of the heart. It is a matter of your choices.]*

- There is the **Corruption** of the Heart (Prov 28.26; Jer 17.9; Prov 14.12)

**[Proverbs 28:26** *He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.*]

**[Jeremiah 17:9** *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*]

**[Proverbs 14:12** *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*]

**[“Almost thou Persuadest me to be a Christian (vs 27).”]**

- There are the **Concerns** of the Heart (Luke 8.14) [- Among thorns.]

**[Luke 8:14** *And that which fell among thorns are they, which, **when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life,** and bring no fruit to perfection.*]

**[“Almost thou Persuadest me to be a Christian (vs 28).”]**

- There are the **Choices** of the Heart (Rom 10.13)

**[Romans 10:13** *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*]

**[“Almost thou Persuadest me to be a Christian (vs 28).”]**

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b. Derision of Festus

c. Declaration of the Truth

#### 4. His Eternal Home (vs 29)

*[Acts 26:29 - And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.]*

***["Almost persuaded to be a Christian is like the man who was almost pardoned, but he was hanged, like the man who was almost rescued, but he was burned in the house. A man that is almost saved is damned."]*** [-- Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Christian History*, no. 29.]

**There are only two choices for eternity,**

- **Heaven** by accepting Jesus Christ. A Perfect Place, with a Perfect Provision, and a Perfect Presence.
- **Hell** by rejecting Jesus Christ. Hell is declared by God to be a place of everlasting torment in Fire and Brimstone covered in utter darkness, bound by eternal chains.

***Revelation 20:14 - And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.***

**Hear King Agrippa's Words!**

***["Almost thou Persuadest me to be a Christian (vs 28)."]***

Grace Baptist Church, Sunday

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3. Agrippa's Heart

a. A Corrupt Heart

4. His Eternal Home