

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER {12}**

- 1) 01 Sep 2024 ..... Acts 13a ..... Sent
- 2) 08 Sep ..... Acts 13b ..... The Task
- 3) 15 Sep ..... Acts 14 ..... The Truth
- 4) 22 Sep ..... Acts 15a ..... The Gospel
- 5) 29 Sep ..... Acts 15b ..... Kingdom Work
- 6) 06 Oct ..... Acts 16 ..... Every Opportunity
- 7) 13 Oct ..... Acts 17 ..... Believe
- 8) 20 Oct ..... Acts 18 ..... Together
- 9) 27 Oct ..... Acts 19 ..... Motives
- 10) 03 Nov ..... Acts 20-21 ..... Commit
- 11) 10 Nov ..... Acts 22-25 ..... Witness
- 12) 17 Nov ..... Acts 26-27 ..... Respond
- 13) 24 Nov ..... Acts 28 ..... Trust

**INTRODUCTION**

- Paul is sent to Rome for trial and suffers shipwreck on Malta. Again, Luke spends a considerable amount of ink (2 chapters) on a trial and a treacherous sea voyage. These events must be important.
- Who was the most prolific NT writer? Was it Paul, John, or Luke? Paul wrote more books (13) and chapters (75), but Luke excelled in writing 13% more content in just 2 books (Luke and Acts).
- Luke, more than any other NT writer, established the historical reliability of the New Testament. If his facts about tangible places, dates, and people were accurate, then, most likely, so were his accounts on the miraculous.

Some Bible Stats	Luke	John	Paul
No. of Books	2	4	13
No. of Chapters	52	50	75
No. of Pages	54	36	50
No. of Words	49,869	33,719	43,293

Passage	Comments
Acts 26:1-11	<p><b>Paul Makes His Defense</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-3. Paul is allowed to speak. Notice he began with "I consider myself fortunate to be standing before you today." What would our position be? Would we feel like a victim? Miserable? Mistreated?</li> <li>• vv4-8. Paul summarizes the core issue of his defense – the Resurrection of the Dead! If we were brought to trial, what would we be accused of?</li> <li>• vv9-11. Paul, before his conversion, acknowledged he was a terrorist to believers. He did not directly kill anyone, but he voted for their execution. And he relentlessly tortured some to reject their faith (v11)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Why would God want to save such a despicable?</li> <li>♦ Paul was doing evil, and God's word says, "...the face of the Lord is against those who do evil" (1Pet 3:12), and "Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land" (Ps 101:8), to name a few.</li> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> God frequently shows mercy to those wreaking havoc out of ignorance. Paul said it best, "...even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor, yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief". <b>1Tim 1:13</b></li> <li>♦ And..."Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent" ..... <b>Acts 17:30</b></li> <li>♦ Yet, Paul would pay a steep price for his ignorance, "...for I (God) will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." ..... <b>Acts 9:16</b></li> <li>♦ Is ignorance still costly today? Any examples?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
26:12-23	<p><b>Paul Recounts His Salvation Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv12-17. Sometimes the best form of evangelizing is simply explaining how and why you came to Christ.</li> <li>• Paul thought he was doing God a favor by vigorously wiping out a false religious cult. Do we think we are doing God a favor by zealously running over people with what we know?</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v18. The Goal of the Gospel. Pull people from the clutches of Satan, to open their spiritual eyes, and to receive total forgiveness and an eternal inheritance.</li> <li>• v20. How do you know someone is saved? By their baptismal card? By their church membership? By their conversion experience? No, but by "repenting and performing deeds appropriate to repentance"                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ What does this look like? <input type="checkbox"/> They stop stealing and start giving. <input type="checkbox"/> They stop cussing and start praising. <input type="checkbox"/> They stop sinning and start obeying</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
26:24-32	<p><b>"Paul – You Are Mad"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v25. Paul said he "uttered words of sober truth" – Why did Festus "say in a loud voice – you are MAD!" Both statements can't be true. How do you tell who's right?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> Paul said all this was not done in secret. IOW, check the facts out; Investigate; Prove all things!</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
27:1-44	<p><b>Not Every Voyage is Smooth Sailing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v9. Paul spoke up and tried to postpone his trip; v25. Keep up your courage, men, for I believe God; and v31. Unless these men remain, more harm will come                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Principle of Speaking Up.</b> Know when it is appropriate to bring wisdom into a situation – even if they don't listen</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v43. The centurion kept the other soldiers from killing Paul and the other prisoners                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Principle of God's Providence – or – Know who your friends are. God can even use unsaved souls to be friendly and a source of salvation toward His children</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- There are many types of people in the world from emperors and governors, kings and queens, to soldiers and sailors, teachers and students, slaves and paupers – and all are in need of the Gospel
- How will you share your faith this year to change the world you live in? Will you be bold or shy; aggressive or passive?

**NEXT WEEK: Acts 28.** We see that Paul healed everyone on the island of Malta of any & every ailment. Wow! Is this a one-of-a-kind event or a repeatable event? Should this be normative for today?  
 Yes |  No |  Don't Know |  Don't Care |  Maybe

That awkward moment at church  
when you go for a handshake...



... and they go for a hug.