

The Gospel is For All



Lesson 11

Persecuted for Preaching the Gospel

Theme: Faith — Teaching the gospel while under persecution

Memory Verses

“And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, ‘This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.’”
Acts 17:2-3

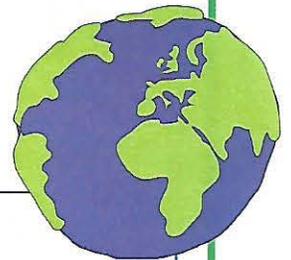
Daily Bible Readings

- 1 Acts 21:15-22
- 2 Acts 21:27-33, 21:39-22:1
- 3 Acts 22:3-10, 14-21
- 4 Acts 22:22-24, 27-30; 23:6-7, 10-11
- 5 Acts 23:12-13, 16-24, 33-35

The apostle Paul put his whole heart into preaching the gospel. He worked long and hard to take the gospel to as many people as possible. Paul traveled many miles and went through hard things to tell the good news about Jesus. Even though the Holy Spirit warned him about more trouble in Jerusalem, Paul chose to go anyway.

Paul Arrested

When Paul arrived in Jerusalem, he told the Christians about everything God had done through his preaching

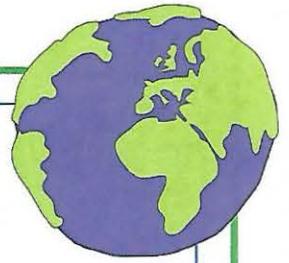


Acts 21:15-22

Cross out the wrong answer.

Jews in Jerusalem were concerned because news had spread that Paul was telling Jews in other places to:

- forsake Moses and the Law
- not circumcise their children
- not keep the Jewish customs
- not be Christians



among the Gentiles. The Christians honored God because of this news. But they were also worried because some people were spreading lies about Paul.

Jews came from Asia and charged Paul with speaking against Jews, the Law of Moses, and the temple. They also charged him with bringing a Greek into the temple. People became so upset that they dragged Paul out of the temple and wanted to kill him. When they heard about all the confusion, Roman soldiers came to settle things down. Paul asked a Roman officer for permission to speak to the people.

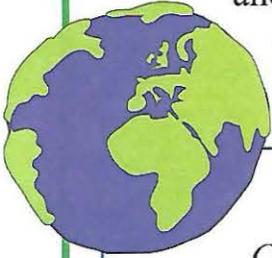
Paul stood before a large crowd of Jews and told them why he was a Christian and why he preached the gospel. He told them how he had seen Christ on the road to Damascus. Paul explained that he had been baptized into Christ to wash away his sins and how Christ sent him to preach

Acts 21:27-33, 21:39-22:1

True or False? The Jews accused Paul of bringing Greeks (Gentiles) into the temple.

When Paul spoke to the mob, he told them he was a:

preacher Jew soldier



Acts 22:3-10, 14-21

Cross out the wrong answers.

While Stephen was being stoned, Paul had:

- handed them stones
- cried bitterly
- watched their coats

Paul explained that Jesus sent him to preach the gospel especially to:

Jews Gentiles Romans

the gospel to the Gentiles. People listened until Paul mentioned the Gentiles. Many Jews hated Gentiles so much they did not think they could ever be God's people.

Paul Examined

When Paul mentioned Gentiles, many Jews lost control of themselves. They started screaming and throwing dust in the air.

The Roman officer ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks and beaten. Just before the beating began, Paul said that he was a Roman citizen. When the officer learned this, he took off Paul's chains and did not beat him. It was against the law to beat Roman citizens without a trial.

The Roman officials wanted to know why people were so upset with Paul. The next day, the Romans brought Paul before the Jewish Council. Paul knew he would not be treated fairly by the Jews, so he brought up a subject that he



Acts 22:22-24, 27-30; 23:6-7, 10-11

When Paul said he had been sent to teach Gentiles, the crowd reacted:

calmly violently sadly

Paul told the Roman officer that he was a _____, so he was not beaten.

_____ appeared to Paul that night and encouraged him.

knew would make the Jews argue with each other.

Once the arguing started, the Roman officer stopped the hearing and took Paul away. You can imagine how discouraged Paul felt. He came to Jerusalem to help people know the gospel, but they didn't want to listen.

Jesus appeared to Paul in the night and spoke words to encourage him.

Paul Moved to Caesarea

Since the Jews were not successful in bringing charges against Paul, some decided to kill him. More than forty men formed a plan to ambush Paul and murder him. Paul's nephew discovered the plot and told the Romans. To protect Paul from the Jews, the Roman officer arranged for Paul to be moved to Caesarea. He was moved during the night and



guarded by many soldiers.

Teaching and preaching the gospel is important work, but it is not always easy.

Acts 23:12-13, 16-24, 33-35

Match the following:

Paul's nephew

The commander

200 soldiers

40 Jews

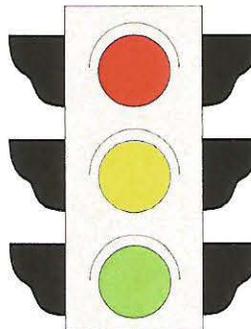
ordered Paul to be moved

told the commander about the plot

plotted to kill Paul

protected Paul while traveling

When people make fun of me for being a Christian, I read my Bible for encouragement.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

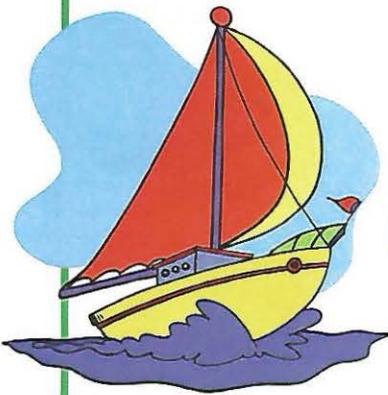
Red — almost never

Yellow — sometimes

Green — often

Think About It ...

When you leave school today, you are going straight to a Bible class — no time to go home first. Because of this, you took your Bible to school with you. Your science teacher told you that was not allowed. She said, “No religious material is allowed at school!” You could get detention for taking your Bible to school. What will you do?



Sailing Through the Bible Facts

Name the Beatitudes. If you need help, see Matthew 5:1-12.
Be ready to say them in class.

Which book of the New Testament is about practical living for Jesus?

On a map inside the back cover, locate the city of Caesarea Philippi.