

The Gospel is For All



Lesson 12

On Trial for Preaching the Gospel

Theme: Trust — Willingness to teach the gospel in all situations

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

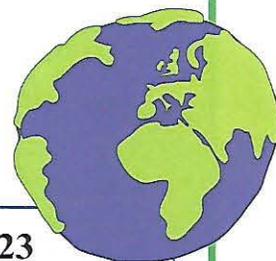
Daily Bible Readings

- 1 Acts 24:1, 5-6, 9-16, 22-23
- 2 Acts 24:24-25:3, 7-12
- 3 Acts 25:13-22
- 4 Acts 26:1-2, 6-9, 12-18
- 5 Acts 26:19-21, 24-25, 27-28 31-32

A winning sports team has both a good defense and a good offense. The team’s offense must put the ball in play and score points. The team’s defense must stop the opposing team from scoring points. If either the offense or defense fails to do its job, the team will likely lose the game. The apostle Paul worked both on defense and offense for the gospel.

Paul on Defense

Rome ruled the world in the time of Christ and when the gospel was first preached. The Romans appointed governors in each area. When Paul



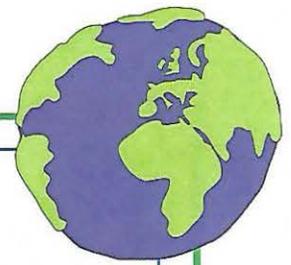
Acts 24:1, 5-6, 9-16, 22-23

Cross out the wrong answer.

The high priest accused Paul of:

- dishonoring the temple
- stirring up trouble
- preaching too loudly

True or False? Paul said he only violated one law of the Jews.



preached the gospel, first Felix was the Roman governor in the area of Judea. Later, Festus was appointed as governor.

Paul was in prison in Caesarea. The Jewish high priest and other Jewish leaders came to Caesarea to make charges against Paul. They said Paul was stirring up trouble. Defending himself, Paul said the Jews had no evidence to prove their charge. Paul said he was simply doing God's will.

Felix knew something about the Jews, and he could see that the Jewish leaders really didn't have a case against Paul. To keep the Jews happy, however, Felix said he would keep Paul in jail and decide his case later. Felix allowed Paul to have visitors. Every now and then, Felix would talk with Paul and try to get money from him. Paul was still in jail two years later when the Roman emperor replaced Felix with Festus.

The Jewish leaders asked Festus if Paul could be brought back to Jerusalem for trial. The leaders planned to set an ambush and kill Paul as he was brought to Jerusalem. Paul knew he would not get a fair trial from Festus, so he used his right as a Roman citizen and asked to be tried in Rome by Caesar. This meant his case would go to a higher court in Rome.

Herod Agrippa II came to visit in Caesarea. Festus talked to

Agrippa about Paul. Agrippa knew a lot about the Jews and wanted to hear what Paul had to say. Paul told Agrippa the story of his becoming a Christian.

Agrippa understood Paul's words. But Agrippa told Paul that he was not about to become a Christian. Agrippa thought Paul should be set free, except that he had asked to go to Caesar.

Acts 24:24-25:3, 7-12

Paul was taken to these two Roman rulers:

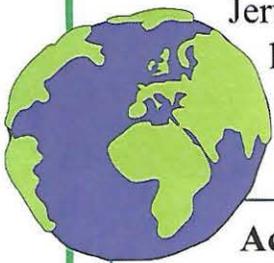
- Caiaphas and Felix
- Festus and Ananias
- Felix and Festus

Felix kept Paul in prison hoping to get:

saved money Paul killed

Paul asked to go to Caesar because he:

- was a Roman citizen
- hurt so badly
- hated Caesarea



Acts 25:13-22

Cross out the wrong answer.

Festus told Agrippa the Jews disagreed with Paul about:

- a dead man
- their own religion
- who should be governor

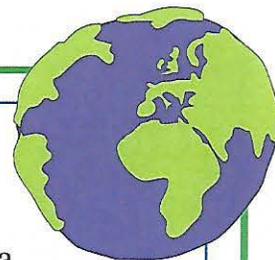
Paul on Offense

While he was defending himself and the gospel, Paul also preached the gospel. He showed that the gospel was not against any laws. He took every opportunity that came his way to tell people about Jesus.

Paul wanted everyone to know that Christ died on the cross and was raised from the dead. He showed people that Jesus can save us from sin. Paul worked hard to help people follow Jesus and be saved. It is now our job to tell the gospel. Don't forget, the gospel is for all.

Acts 26:1-2, 6-9, 12-18

True or False? Paul defended himself to Agrippa by telling him how he became a Christian.

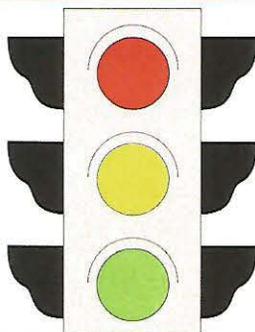


Acts 26:19-21, 24-25, 27-28, 31-32

Match the following:

Agrippa	told Paul he was crazy
Paul	said Paul was innocent
Festus	told how he became a Christian

I think "bad" people won't listen, so I don't tell them about Jesus.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

Red — most of the time

Yellow — sometimes

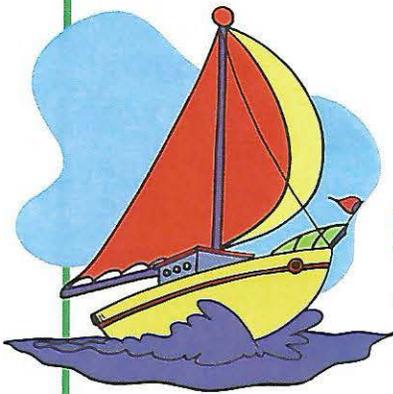
Green — almost never

Think About It ...

What is the difference between defense and offense?



How do we teach the gospel defensively and offensively?



Sailing Through the Bible Facts

Write from memory Galatians 5:22-23.

Which book of the New Testament is about suffering for Jesus?

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