



Bible Study Notes

Book of Acts Part 88
October 20, 2021

Acts 22:1-30

¹ *"Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense."*

² *When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.*

Then Paul said: ³ *"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. ⁴ I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, ⁵ as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.*

⁶ *"About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?'"*

⁸ *"Who are you, Lord?" I asked.*

"I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁹ My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

¹⁰ *"What shall I do, Lord?" I asked.*

"Get up," the Lord said, "and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do." ¹¹ My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

¹² *"A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. ¹³ He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him.*

¹⁴ *"Then he said: 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. ¹⁵ You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'*

¹⁷ *"When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸ and saw the Lord speaking to me. 'Quick!' he said. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.'*

¹⁹ *"Lord," I replied, "these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. ²⁰ And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him."*

²¹ *"Then the Lord said to me, 'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.' "*

Paul the Roman Citizen

²² *The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, "Rid the earth of him! He's not fit to live!"*

²³ *As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, ²⁴ the commander ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and interrogated in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this. ²⁵ As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?"*



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²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. "What are you going to do?" he asked. "This man is a Roman citizen."

²⁷ The commander went to Paul and asked, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?"
"Yes, I am," he answered.

²⁸ Then the commander said, "I had to pay a lot of money for my citizenship."
"But I was born a citizen," Paul replied.

²⁹ Those who were about to interrogate him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains.

Paul Before the Sanhedrin

³⁰ The commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews. So the next day he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the members of the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them.

A testimony has three parts: Where we were, what God did for us, and where we are now.

We each have a testimony.

Romans 3:23-24

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All believers have received the gift of grace equally.

A Testimony shows we can relate to those who are struggling.

A testimony is like medicine for shame.

A testimony is our own story, and not open for debate.

"A man with an experience of God is never at the mercy of a man with an argument."

Leonard Ravenhill

John 9:25

²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

A testimony helps us overcome as we give it.



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Revelation 12:11

¹¹ *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony*

Paul's sins were forgotten the moment he confessed them.

Paul's past did not disqualify him for his future.

Psalm 103:8-12

⁸ *The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.*

⁹ *He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;*

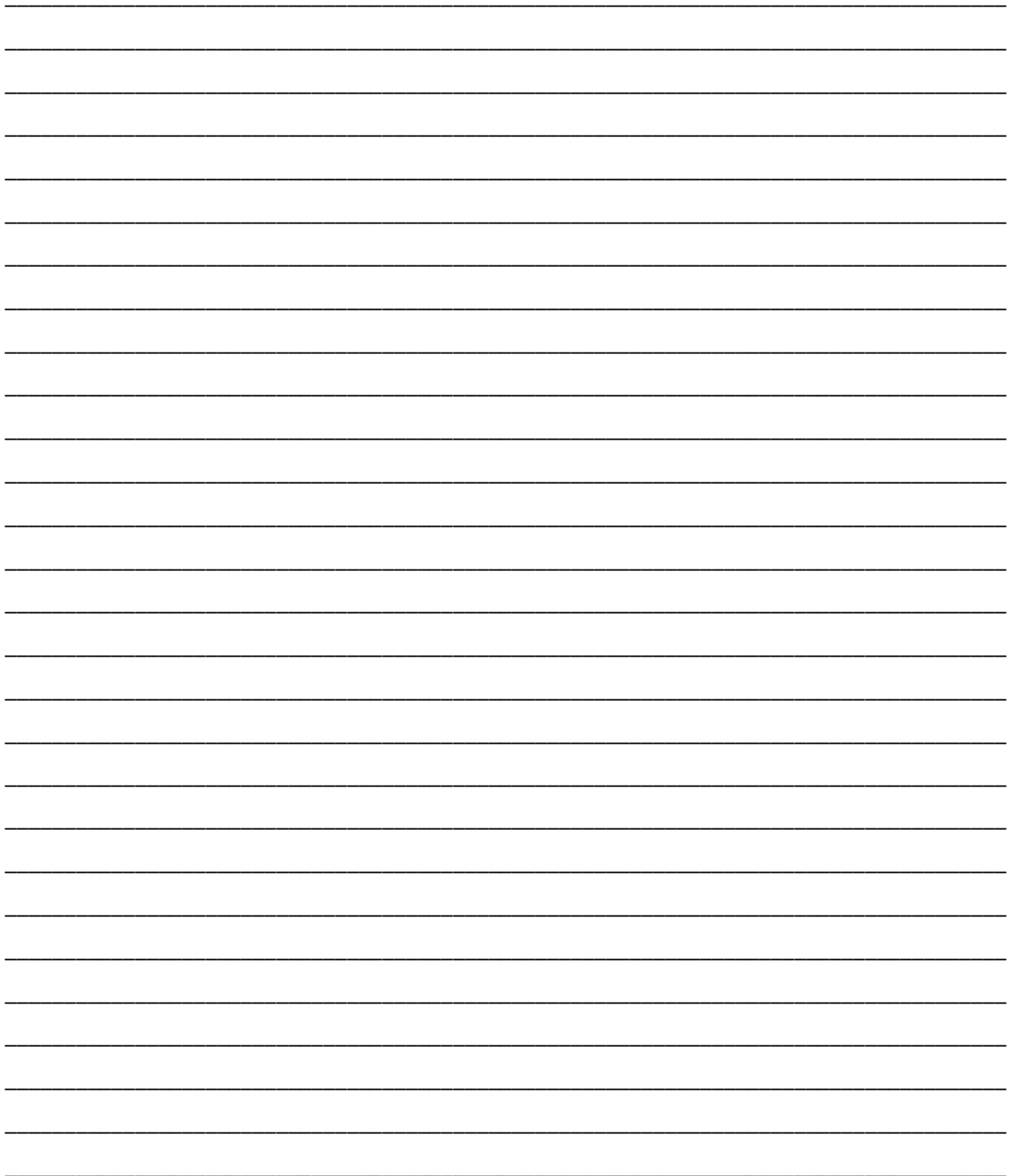
¹⁰ *he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.*

¹¹ *For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;*

¹² *as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

God doesn't hold our past against us – we shouldn't either!

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