

**Paul in Chains**  
**August 14, 2022**  
**Acts**

*“Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,<sup>20</sup> but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.<sup>21</sup> For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.<sup>22</sup> Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come—<sup>23</sup> that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”*

<sup>24</sup> Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!”

<sup>25</sup> But he said, “I am not <sup>[a]</sup>mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason.<sup>26</sup> For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner.<sup>27</sup> King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.”

<sup>28</sup> Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”

<sup>29</sup> And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.” **Acts 26:19-29**

<sup>23</sup> So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.<sup>24</sup> And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.<sup>25</sup> So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to <sup>[a]</sup>our fathers,<sup>26</sup> saying,

‘Go to this people and say:  
“Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand;  
And seeing you will see, and not perceive;  
<sup>27</sup> For the hearts of this people have grown dull.  
Their ears are hard of hearing,  
And their eyes they have closed,  
Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,  
Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,  
So that I should heal them.” ’

<sup>28</sup> “Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!”<sup>29</sup> <sup>[p]</sup> And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.

<sup>30</sup> Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him,<sup>31</sup> preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him. **Acts 28:23-31**

*But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,<sup>13</sup> so that it has become evident to the whole <sup>[a]</sup>palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;<sup>14</sup> and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.<sup>15</sup> Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill:<sup>16</sup> <sup>[b]</sup>The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains.* **Philippians 1:12-16**

*Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I.<sup>23</sup> Are they ministers of Christ? —I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.<sup>24</sup> From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.<sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;<sup>26</sup> in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;<sup>27</sup> in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—<sup>28</sup> besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.<sup>29</sup> Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?* **2 Corinthians 11:22-29**

Tell the account of the history of Paul in our passages we read this week!

**Paul was:**

**Called**

**Committed**

**Convinced**

**Confident**

**Calm**

**Prayer Focus:**

- **Have I been Called?**
- **Am I committed to the Lord and His purposes?**
- **Am I convinced for God and His Truth?**
- **Am I confident?**
- **Am I calm?**