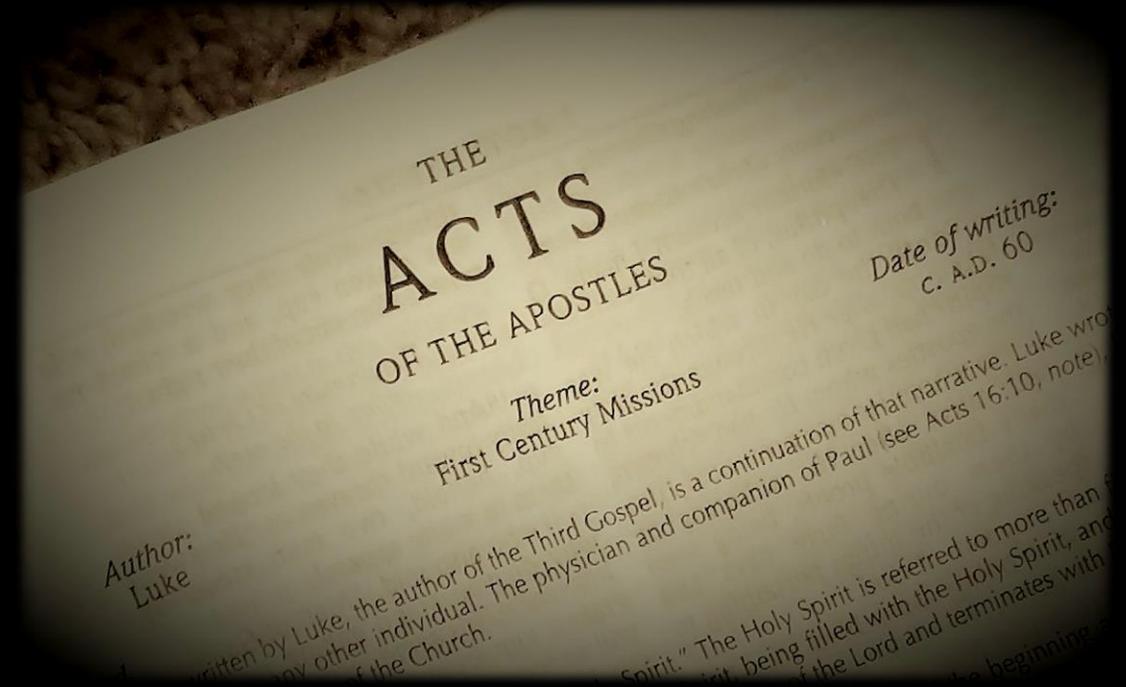


Verse by Verse

Acts 22



Previously in Acts

Previously in Acts

- So far, we have followed Paul through three separate missionary journeys.
- In the last chapter he returned to Jerusalem, where he met with James and the elders of the church.
- Then he made his way to the temple.
- After some false accusations, a mob scene broke out and Paul found himself in Roman custody.

Previously in Acts

- Paul asked to speak to the hot-blooded crowd.
- The Roman tribune considered his request.

Acts 22 Introduction

Acts 22 Introduction

- Paul has now been a Christian for many years.
- It all started with that encounter with Jesus he had on the Damascus Road (Acts 9).
- As we will see today, the story of our conversion never gets old – it never becomes irrelevant.
- We will explore three aspects of our Christian life.

Acts 22 Introduction

- We will explore three aspects of our Christian life.
 1. Conversion
 2. Commission
 3. Commitment

Acts 22 Introduction

- This is the last verse of **Acts 21**.
- **Acts 21:40** (ESV)

And when he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the steps, motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great hush, he addressed them in the Hebrew language, saying:

Acts 22 Outline

Acts 22 Outline

1. Paul Speaks to the Crowd 22:1-21
2. Paul and the Tribune 22:22-29
3. Paul Before the Council 22:30

1. Paul Speaks to the Crowd **Acts 22:1-21**

1. Paul Speaks to the Crowd **Acts 22:1-21**

- **22:1** Brothers and fathers Paul is being respectful.
- **22:2** Hebrew language This was probably what we now call Aramaic – not quite the same as Hebrew.
- **22:3** Tarsus in Cilicia In south central Turkey. It still goes by the same name today.
- **at the feet of Gamaliel** He appeared in **Acts 5** where he recommended the Sanhedrin not kill the apostles.

1. Paul Speaks to the Crowd **Acts 22:1-21**

- **22:4** I persecuted this Way “The Way” might be the earliest name that Christians gave to their faith.
- **22:4-5** binding and delivering to prison ... bring them in bonds to Jerusalem
- There is some irony here. Paul says this while in chains before a Jerusalem crowd.

1. Paul Speaks to the Crowd **Acts 22:1-21**

- Earlier we said we would explore three aspects of our Christian life.
 1. Conversion
 2. Commission
 3. Commitment
- We will begin from the conversion story of Paul.

1. Paul Speaks to the Crowd Acts 22:1-21

- A **conversion** story should consist of **three parts**:

- A. Life before Christ 22:3-5

- B. How we came to Christ 22:6-16

- C. What following Christ looks like for us 22:17-21

1. Paul Speaks to the Crowd Acts 22:1-21

C. What following Christ looks like for us 22:17-21

- In Paul's case he might have said a lot more here.
- Once he gets to the part about Jesus sending him "far away to the Gentiles" the speech is over.

1. Paul Speaks to the Crowd Acts 22:1-21

- Paul has come to the end of 1. Conversion – or his conversion story.
- He has also crossed into the second aspect of our Christian life, which is 2. Commission.
- More on this later.
- First, let's read about Paul and the Roman tribune – and this week's compulsory mob scene.

2. Paul and the Tribune Acts 22:22-29

2. Paul and the Tribune Acts 22:22-29

- **22:24** examined by flogging This was a totally acceptable Roman method of obtaining information.
- The standards, however, were different for citizens and commoners or slaves.
- to find out why they were shouting The Roman tribune evidently could not understand Aramaic.

2. Paul and the Tribune Acts 22:22-29

- 22:25 a Roman citizen Paul and Silas played the Roman citizenship card back in Acts 16.
- At that time they got the magistrates in Philippi to apologize for throwing them into prison without trial.

2. Paul and the Tribune Acts 22:22-29

- 22:25 a Roman citizen
- Now Paul plays that card again.
- Suffering for Christ is a good thing – but **only when you have to suffer.**

2. Paul and the Tribune Acts 22:22-29

- **22:28** The tribune answered, “I bought this citizenship for a large sum.” Paul said, “But I am a citizen by birth.”
- Paul’s citizenship was obtained more honestly.
- Buying citizenship was a corrupt practice that became common during this time.

3. Paul Before the Council Acts 22:30

3. Paul Before the Council Acts 22:30

- And in 23:1, we read, “And looking intently at the council, Paul said ...”
- Once again, this is to be continued next week.

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

- This chapter has prompted us to explore **three aspects of our Christian life.**
 1. Conversion
 2. Commission
 3. Commitment

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

- The firmer our grasp of the first two, the easier it is to keep up the third.
 1. Conversion
 2. Commission
 3. Commitment

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

- In the conversion story of Paul, we saw that a conversion story consists of **three parts**:
 - A. Life before Christ **22:3-5**
 - B. How we came to Christ **22:6-16**
 - C. What following Christ looks like for us **22:17-21**

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

- In the case of Paul's commission, we should consider the words of the devout Ananias of Damascus,

- **Acts 22:14** (ESV)

... 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

- Paul also heard these words from Jesus,
- **Acts 22:21** (ESV)

And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

- In **Acts 9**, Luke recorded additional words from Jesus that we do not have repeated here.
- **Acts 9:15-16** (ESV)

But the Lord said to [Ananias], “Go, for he [Paul] is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

- In Paul's case, his commission required a high level of commitment.
- How many of us are eager to be shown "how much we must suffer for the sake of Christ's name"?

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

Paul fulfilled his commission in a whole variety of ways.

- Preaching to open-air crowds
- Preaching in synagogues
- Working at his trade of tentmaking
- Teaching in home fellowship-style meetings
- Speaking to officials while often under arrest
- Writing letters to churches, often while in prison

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

These are all ways he expressed his commitment.

- Preaching to open-air crowds
- Preaching in synagogues
- Working at his trade of tentmaking
- Teaching in home fellowship-style meetings
- Speaking to officials while often under arrest
- Writing letters to churches, often while in prison

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

- Our **conversion, commission** and **commitment** are distinct parts of our Christian life.
- It is helpful if we can express **the first two** in a fairly brief statement – an elevator-style speech.
- This is helpful if we have **a chance to share them**.
- It also helps our **commitment** if we can remind ourselves of the calling God has placed on our lives.

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

- Let me give it a shot:

1. Conversion

- A. Life before Christ

- B. How I came to Christ

- C. What following Christ has looked like for me

2. Commission

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

1. Conversion

- A. Life before Christ: semi-religious but not truly Christian background.
- B. How I came to Christ: Bible plus influence of a friend who came to Christ first.
- C. What following Christ has looked like for me: Minimal Christian fellowship before San Diego.

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

2. Commission

- A. Leading a home fellowship
- B. Missions, first for a summer, then full time.
 - 1) Marriage and move to Poland
 - 2) Ordination while in Poland
- C. Move to Indianapolis,
 - 1) Horizon Central
 - 2) Horizon University.

Conversion, Commission and Commitment

3. Commitment

- A. Looking back at conversion and commission has kept me on track through numerous changes.
- B. Also, I'm still frequently encouraged by my friend Jim, who is single and not in fulltime ministry.
- C. He led me to Christ, got me to move to San Diego to be part of Horizon and introduced me to missions in Eastern Europe.

Acts 22 What We Just Read

Acts 22 What We Just Read

1. Paul Speaks to the Crowd 22:1-21
2. Paul and the Tribune 22:22-29
3. Paul Before the Council 22:30

Acts 22 Key Points

Acts 22 Key Points

1. Conversion
 - A. Life before Christ
 - B. How I came to Christ
 - C. What following Christ has looked like for me
2. Commission
3. Commitment

Acts 22 A Prayer

Acts 22 A Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- We thank you for calling us into a relationship with you and we thank you for all that led to our conversion.
- We really are grateful for the calling you have placed upon our lives, for commission you have given to each one of us personally.

Acts 22 A Prayer

- Please remind us of just how important your plans for our lives are to you.
- Help us to understand and appreciate your desires for us, right here and right now.
- And help us to give back to you the commitment required to carry out those plans for your glory.
- In Christ,
- Amen

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