

# Patterns of Paul

## Chapter Nine

### Audio lesson: New Testament 39



Objective: To continue to explore and understand the mission and character of Paul.



*“I admit that I worship the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.”*

—Acts 24:14-16

Paul used every opportunity to share his faith story. He even shared his faith with an angry mob in Jerusalem that wanted to beat him. Roman soldiers eventually seized him for his own protection, but Paul saw an opportunity to preach to the crowd. He escaped the soldier’s flogging by claiming his rights of Roman citizenship, and after inciting an argument about the resurrection among a Jewish council, he had to be rescued by Roman soldiers from their angry reaction.

After discovering a Jewish plot to kill Paul, the Romans moved him by night to Caesarea to appear before Felix the governor. Paul again took the opportunity to share his testimony with Felix and his Jewish accusers. Even though he made a persuasive argument that affected Felix, Paul remained in prison for two more years.

When Felix died and was replaced by Festus, Paul appealed to Caesar so he would avoid a trial in Jerusalem and be sent to Rome. While waiting to leave for Rome, Paul once again used another opportunity to share the gospel with Festus and King Agrippa. Agrippa realized Paul was innocent and was nearly persuaded to believe the gospel himself.

Paul was eventually sent to Rome by ship, and he influenced the crew and passengers by sharing his faith and accurately prophesying a shipwreck. During the storm that wrecked the ship, Paul assured everyone on board that though the ship would be lost, no one would be harmed. Once safely ashore on Malta, Paul again shared his faith with everyone, and Jesus Christ used him to heal many of their sick. Finally, after three more months, he continued his journey to Rome, where he shared the gospel with his guards and anyone else who would listen.

1. **True** or false? Paul was always looking for a chance to share his faith.
2. **True** or false? God warned Paul through his nephew that 40 Jews were plotting to kill him.



3. True or **false**? Even though the crowd at the temple was hostile toward Paul, the religious leaders treated him very well.
4. True or **false**? Festus refused Paul’s “appeal to Caesar” and he remained in prison for two years.

*Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.*

5. What did Paul say that caused the Roman soldier to quit beating him?
- He threatened the soldier with God’s wrath.
  - He informed the soldier that he was a Roman citizen.**
  - He begged the soldier to stop.
  - He bribed the soldier.
6. What did the Jewish leaders begin arguing about when Paul was defending himself?
- The temple taxes
  - A belief in the resurrection of the dead**
  - The Roman occupation
  - Whether the death penalty was lawful
7. After listening to Paul’s testimony, what did Felix think of Paul?
- He thought Paul was just a religious troublemaker.
  - He was afraid and felt conviction about his sin.**
  - He agreed with Drusilla, who thought Paul was clever but harmless.
  - None of the above.
8. What did Paul say to cause Festus to send him to Rome?
- He appealed his case to Caesar.**
  - He vowed to make trouble for Festus if he stayed in Caesarea.
  - He promised to tell Caesar what a great leader Festus was.
  - He convinced Festus that sending him far away would make everyone forget about him.

9. Why did Paul appeal to Caesar?

- a. He believed he would never get a fair trial from Festus.
- b. He believed the Jews would still try to kill him in Caesarea.
- c. He believed he would preach the good news in Rome.
- d. All of the above**

10. After listening to Paul's conversion story, what did King Agrippa think of Paul?

- a. He thought Paul was innocent.
- b. He may have been nearly persuaded to believe.
- c. He accused Paul of being out of his mind.
- d. All of the above**

11. How did Paul influence the men on the ship with the gospel?

- a. He spoke of his God unashamedly and as often as he could.
- b. He told them that God had predicted a shipwreck, but that no one would die.
- c. He encouraged them and assured them that God was with them.
- d. All of the above**



Paul told his testimony often. What is your testimony of Jesus? In what ways have you encountered Him? If someone asked you to explain how you met Him and what difference has He made in your life, what would you say?

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Thank God for the way He calls each of us and prepares us to know, love, and serve Him. Ask Him to give you opportunities to tell your testimony of Jesus. Thank Him that even if your testimony is not as dramatic as Paul's, He will use it to change people's lives.



## Going Deeper

1. Imagine and apply what Paul was thinking during the entire two years he was imprisoned in Caesarea in Palestine, during which one governor died and the other took his place. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Precisely how many Roman military men escorted Paul in the middle of the night to the prison in Caesarea? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. When you diligently study the great sermon of Paul before King Agrippa, how can you apply that sermon to the life and witness of this great apostle, and to your own life and ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What do you learn and how can you apply the leadership profile of the Apostle Paul during the worst part of the storm that destroyed the ship that was transporting him to Rome for his day in court with Caesar? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How can you relate and apply the response of Paul to being struck in the mouth (Acts 23: 1-3) to the nonviolence taught by Jesus and practiced by the early Church? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. How can you apply the passion of the Apostle Paul to preach the Gospel every time he had the opportunity to do so? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. How can you explain and apply the reality that the book of Acts does not come to a conclusive end? \_\_\_\_\_

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