

# Acts 22

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## Acts 22:1-16 - Paul's response

- Paul was allowed to speak so that a report could be made against him
- The captain would have been amazed that Paul could speak Greek
- Paul uses his personal experience to reason with the **crowd**
- This is Paul's testimony to give an account of what he believes
- He started with how he grew up in Tarsus – Acts 22:3
- Gamaliel was a pharisee and the grandson of Hillel
- Paul was obviously committed to the **law**
- He had a strong upbringing and was against anyone who was a follower of Jesus
- This all changed when God audibly spoke to him
- God then sent him to Damascus and used a man named Ananias
- Paul is able to see and then gets baptized and calls on the name of Jesus
- Paul “washed away his sins” does not mean that Paul was saved by baptism
- Instead that Paul was making a physical declaration of the transformation that **already** happened in his heart already
- Paul also was commissioned to tell – Acts 22:15

## Acts 22:17-21 – God's protection

- Paul fell into a trance when he was in the temple – Acts 22:17
- God warns Paul of what is to come and tells him to leave Jerusalem
- God **still** has work for Paul to do so he is told to leave
- Paul doesn't seem to want to leave
- Paul was not speaking to ignorant uninformed people
- These people knew of Paul's previous ways and recognized who he is
- God responds and tells him to go away to the Gentiles
- If Paul shared that he was going to the Gentiles they would have been enraged

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### Acts 22:22 – 29 – Paul's and the Roman tributary

- Paul's is still not liked by the Jews
- Because crowds were forming and people were again in uproar, they again bound Paul and brought him inside – Acts 22:24
- Paul was going to be **beaten** so they could figure out why people were enraged
- Paul played the Roman Citizen card which means he can't be flogged unless he is convicted of a crime
- When this got reported to the captain and he was confused, how could a Roman citizen spark so much hatred with the Jews
- During the reign of emperor Claudius A.D. 41-54, it was possible to purchase citizenship
- Paul was born a Roman citizen because his parents were Roman citizens – Acts 22:28
- The Captain was fearful that Rome would find out that he broke Roman law by putting Paul in chains
- Paul will later be in chains again – Acts 26:29
- Could anyone avoid flogging by claiming to be a citizen, **Yes**. But the penalty if anyone found out would have been death
- Paul was immediately removed from chains
- Rome's only chance of convicting Paul was to take him to court
- Only if Paul was convicted, he could legally be arrested

**Christian zeal**, A famous nineteenth-century Anglican bishop J. C. Ryle in his book Practical Religion.

“A zealous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing. It is not enough to say that he is earnest, hearty, uncompromising, thorough-going, whole-hearted, fervent in spirit. He only sees one thing, he cares for one thing, he lives for one thing, he is swallowed up in one thing; and that one thing is to please God. Whether he lives, or whether he dies, whether he has health, or whether he has sickness, whether he is rich, or whether he is poor, whether he pleases man, or whether he gives offence, whether he is thought wise, or whether he is thought foolish, whether he gets blame, or whether he gets praise, whether he gets honour, or whether he gets shame, for all this the zealous man cares nothing at all. He burns for one thing; and that one thing is to please God, and to advance God's glory. If he is consumed in the very burning, he cares not for it; he is content. He feels that, like a lamp, he is made to burn; and if consumed in burning, he has but done the work for which God appointed him... This is what I mean when I speak of "zeal" in religion.” – **J.C Ryle**