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# INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

(Copyright, 1916, Western Newspaper Union.)

## LESSON FOR OCTOBER 22

### PAUL'S DEFENSE BEFORE AGRIPPA.

LESSON TEXT—Acts 26 (vv. 1, 24-32).
GOLDEN TEXT—I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision.—Acts 26:19.

It is possible to use the Bible either as a music box or a telephone. We should let it speak the words of the Lord Jesus to us and our pupils. This lesson occurred probably A. D. 60, perhaps in August, the day after last Sunday's lesson. This was the same hall where Agrippa had heard the people calling him a god (Acts 12). Paul, the center of all interest, is chained to his Roman guardians. The prisoner has been vehemently accused as one worthy of death and had appealed to Caesar, but Festus, not being well acquainted with Jewish laws and customs, could not make any definite charge against him before the Roman court. Hence he turns him over to Agrippa, who was well acquainted with matters of Jewish law.

**I. Paul, the Preacher** (vv. 1-23). This was one of the great occasions in the life of this great man. Paul was preaching to a king and a woman of great influence (a sermon which little changed their lives evidently), and also to the coming ages. This king and queen were wedded to their infamy. God had in mind on that day an audience in comparison with which that which Paul saw faded into oblivion. Notice his argument. (1) He begins with his own experience. In these verses there are over forty personal pronouns.

Men do not need so much light as they do need heat, and Paul was speaking out of the hot throbs of his personal experience. Paul stood before them a living miracle, an incarnate argument. We might tremble at the doctrine of the resurrection. He knew it was a marvelous thing that God should raise the dead, but that change had been wrought in him which was equivalent to the miracle of raising one from the grave.

Paul's plea was for the Roman as well as the Jew. Considering his personal testimony, he declares that he is a true Jew of the strictest sect (vv. 4-8), and as such he lived in the "hope of the promise" as predicted by Isaiah and Daniel. That promise has been fulfilled in Jesus, the crucified, who rose again from the dead, and Paul adds, "I have seen him, for which hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews." (2) (vv. 9-15) Paul tells the audience that he, himself, was once a zealous persecutor of the Christians, more so than those who are now persecuting him, "being exceedingly mad against them." He then relates his Damascus journey and the conversation held on the road with the risen Lord.

The gospel Paul preached was to lead men into the kingdom of God that they might receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who were fitted for that inheritance, who were the sanctified. For this cause the Jews went about to kill him.

**II. Agrippa, the Doubter** (vv. 24-32). Five ways are suggested as to the reception of Paul's message. The high priest's way was to hate him and oppose. Felix's way was "go thy way this time. When I have a more convenient season I will call." Festus' way (vv. 24-29) was to charge Paul with madness. Much learning (literally, many writings) was turning him mad, making him a lunatic, a dreamer, one who lived in the atmosphere of wild imaginings. Paul's reply was not harsh. "Most noble Festus" (Am. R.) "I am not mad, but speak words of soberness," words of eternal life and spiritual life (of sound sense) that were true and earnest. Paul thereupon appeals to King Agrippa to confirm his statements (v. 2-6). The crazy man is he who lives for this world rather than for eternity. The devil has cheated many a man out of eternal life by the method which Festus followed. He has also cheated many a Christian out of the larger life in the same way. Paul's appeal to Agrippa (vv. 27-29) is very suggestive.

Some people believe that the contents of the prophecies are of no present day value, and some are trying to break their force. Some declare they cannot be true, yet these prophecies are the ones that declare that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." The literal translation of Agrippa's answer is, "In a little thou persuadest me to be a Christian." It is said that Agrippa said this in sarcasm, but, like many another attempted jest, it revealed the real state of the heart.

Agrippa saw the cost of further consideration of the claims of Christ and was unwilling to pay the price (vv. 30-32). Thus Agrippa's soul was lost, and yet he was within one step of eternal life. Paul with great dignity took advantage of Agrippa's ambiguous expression, and said: "I would to God that whether with little or with much, not only thou but also all that hear me this day might become such as I am except (raising his fettered hands) these bonds." (Am. R.).

Paul was willing and glad to suffer anything for the sake of Jesus Christ, his Lord (II Cor. 12-10).

### Couldn't Be Natural.

Fluff—I don't like that fellow. He looks as if he'd resort to almost anything to do you.

Ruff—You have him. Why, he's the kind of a chap that can't even swim except underhand.—Town Topics.

### The Untamed.

Maude—Men are beasts!

Lilly—And some young ones are very wild.—Town Topics.


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### Last of Fine Exposition.

An event which was not without its regrettable aspects was the recent wreckage of the beautiful buildings and monuments of the exposition at San Francisco, which were erected only about two years ago. Despite any desire to preserve them that admirers may have had, the temporary character of the buildings made their demolition advisable. Many of the fine monumental structures, such as the "Arch of the Rising Sun," surmounted by a group entitled "The Nations of the East," were thrown to the ground by exploding charges of dynamite under them.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.


### SUFFERED FOR FOUR YEARS.

Mr. J. M. Sinclair of Olivehill, Tenn., writes: "I strained my back, which weakened my kidneys and caused an awful bad backache and inflammation of the bladder. Later I became so much worse that I consulted a doctor, who said that I had Diabetes and that my heart was affected. I suffered for four years and was in a nervous state and very much depressed. The doctor's medicine didn't help me, so I decided to try Dodds Kidney Pills, and I cannot say enough to express my relief and thankfulness, as they cured me. Diamond Dinner Pills cured me of Constipation."

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Dodds Kidney Pills, 50c. per box at your dealer or Dodds Medicine Co., Buffalo, N. Y. Dodds Dyspepsia Tablets for Indigestion have been proved. 50c. per box.—Adv.


### Bright Outlook.

"How is the attendance at your college this year?"

"Splendid," replied the athletic sophomore. "We are getting scores of new fellows this year who don't weigh an ounce under 180 pounds."

## ARE FAULT OF COMMUNITY

### Many Diseases Which Afflict Humanity Might Easily Be Wiped From Earth's Evils.

Some eminent physicians and surgeons have been telling the public a number of unpleasant truths lately about diseases which ought to be as extinct as the dodo, yet which kill thousands and tens of thousands of people every year. As a paper which has done and is doing its utmost to bring home the same truths to its readers, the Journal hopes the eminent doctors will continue their campaign of publicity.

Diptheria ought to be as rare as smallpox in every civilized community. Antitoxin is not only an almost perfect cure when given in time, but is likewise a sure preventive, yet diphtheria ranks fourth among causes of deaths of children under ten years of age. Puerperal sepsis, or child-bed fever, is almost unknown in any well-managed maternity hospital, and ought to be a stranger everywhere, yet it kills almost as many women of child-bearing age as does cancer. Typhoid is a fifth disease, to be banished by effective sanitation; tuberculosis is a disease of bad housing and poor nutrition, but up to date our knowledge of these facts has availed only to check these ailments, not to abolish them.

Medical research is invaluable, but general use of medical facts already known would work a revolution in the health conditions of the world.—Chicago Journal.

### Disturbing!

"I fear she has been engaged before."

"Why so?"

"She apparently loves me, but she keeps calling me Alfred when my name is Frank."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### Heard in an Office.

"Blank complains of feeling sick."

"Yes; he smoked a cigar from the wrong pocket."—Boston Transcript.

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