

“PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA”

1. When have you had to publicly appear before an important or powerful person and put your fate in his/her hands: (a) Defending yourself in a tax audit? (b) Asking for a pay raise or an allowance hike? (c) Asking for his daughter's hand in marriage? (d) Defending your thesis? (e) Asking for liability damages? (f) Submitting to the dentist or surgeon? How did you feel as you thought about what to say beforehand?

2. What is the problem Festus faces? Why doesn't he simply let Paul go? How could Agrippa be in a position to help (26:3)?

3. According to Paul, what issue is the real source of his conflict with the Jewish leaders (see 23:6); 24:21; 26:6-8)? Why do you think his adversaries never directly bring this out (see 18:15)? How does his conviction about the resurrection differ from that of the Pharisees, who in theory believed in a general resurrection as well?

4. Compare 26:20 with 20:21. How could you tell someone what it means to be a Christian from these two verses?

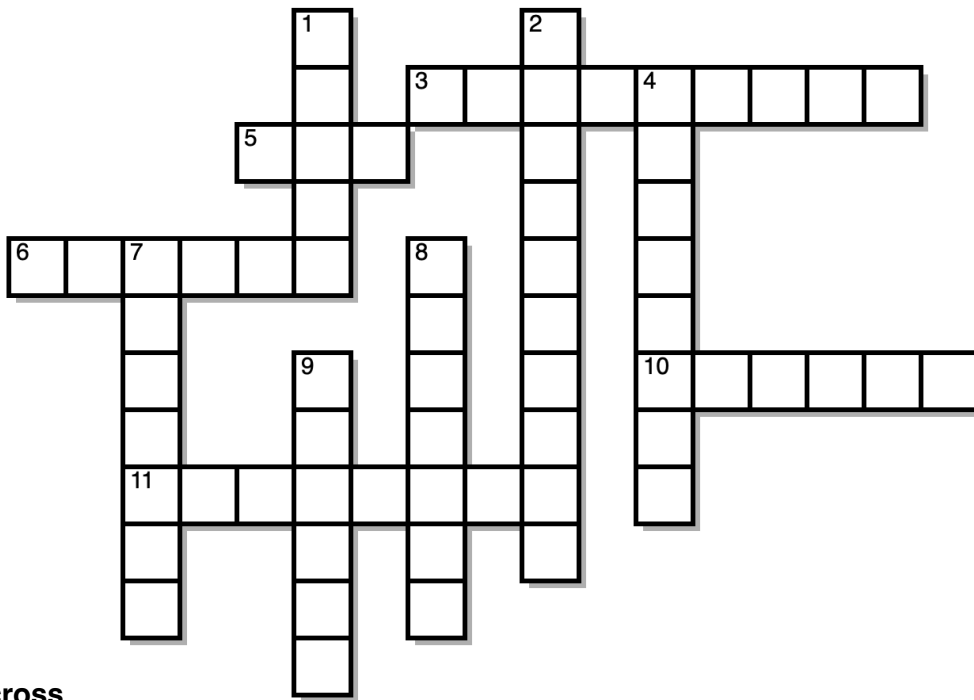
5. Would you describe Paul's speech as a *legal defense* or a *personal testimony*? How are the two related? Do you think Paul's primary goal in this speech is to convince Agrippa of his innocence, or of the truth of Christianity's claims? Why?

6. From 25:19 and 26:24, how convinced is Festus regarding the resurrection of Jesus? How might Paul's response in verses 25-27 surprise Festus?

7. If you were in this hall, what impressions would you have of Paul as he concluded his speech?

8. Up to this point, the Romans considered Christian and Jews as basically one and the same. Within five years, the emperor Nero was aware of enough differences to violently persecute Christian in Rome. From this speech, what can the Romans begin to see as some of the differences?

9. How does verse 18 fit as a description of your spiritual journey? Which other images describe what coming to faith was like for you?

**Across**

- 3 What had Paul at first tried to compel Christians to do? (26:11)
 5 Agrippa told Paul that much learning was driving him _____. (26:24)
 6 Paul said that he wished all people could be Christians like him, except for his _____. (26:29)
 10 Paul says that the king is "_____ in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews." (26:3)
 11 Paul says that "from my youth...I lived a _____." (26:5)

Down

- 1 The voice from heaven had told Paul that it is hard to kick against these. (26:14)
 2 "I will deliver you..., that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are _____ by faith in Me." (26:17-18)
 4 Paul asks Agrippa if he believes the _____. (26:27)
 7 In this passage, Paul stands before King _____.
 8 Paul says he had been commissioned against Christianity by the chief _____. (26:10,12)
 9 Paul says that the works of Jesus in fulfilling their messianic hopes were not done in a _____. (26:26)

WORD SEARCH:

Festus	Light
Bernice	Hebrew
Pomp	Kick
Auditorium	Deliver
Commanders	Eyes
Men	Darkness
Jews	Inheritance
Jerusalem	Vision
Augustus	Repentance
Examination	Prophets
Defense	Moses
Promise	Christ
Fathers	Suffer
Tribes	Gentiles
Resurrection	Learning
Jesus	Christian
Persecuted	Caesar
Damascus	

R	F	E	S	T	U	S	M	S	E	L	I	T	N	E	G	X
E	L	P	E	R	S	E	C	U	T	E	D	M	C	V	R	Q
S	K	R	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	A	N	N	N	R	N	N
U	F	A	T	H	E	R	S	D	S	R	A	L	Y	O	R	N
R	P	M	O	P	A	J	E	X	L	T	O	J	I	Y	P	T
R	S	J	G	S	N	S	E	P	I	E	E	T	E	G	M	T
E	R	R	E	V	I	R	A	R	E	D	A	H	I	S	H	W
C	V	A	E	M	Z	U	E	T	U	N	E	R	P	D	U	T
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