

# Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey





# Paul the Apologist

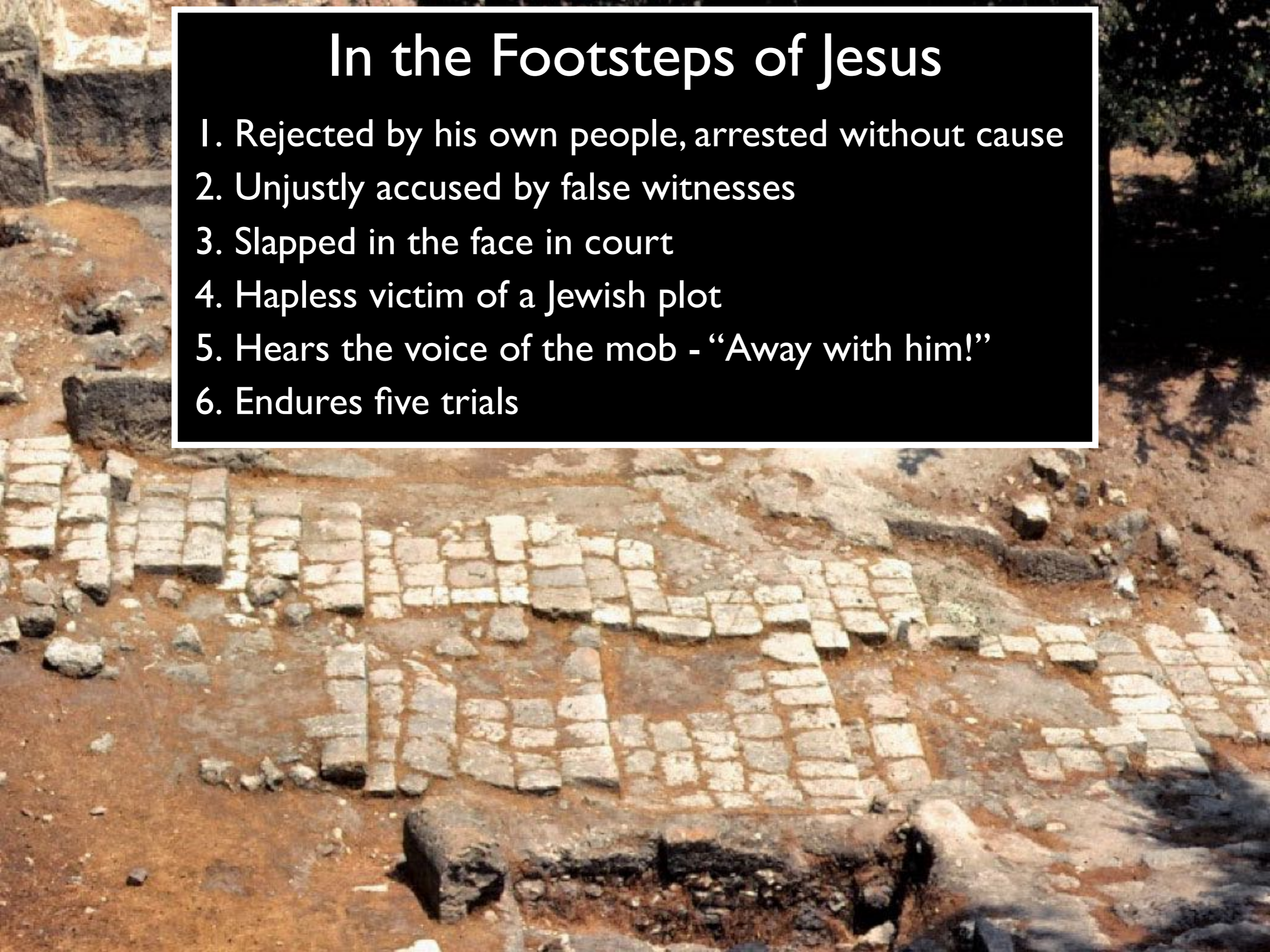
## Acts 22-28





# In the Footsteps of Jesus

1. Rejected by his own people, arrested without cause
2. Unjustly accused by false witnesses
3. Slapped in the face in court
4. Hapless victim of a Jewish plot
5. Hears the voice of the mob - "Away with him!"
6. Endures five trials



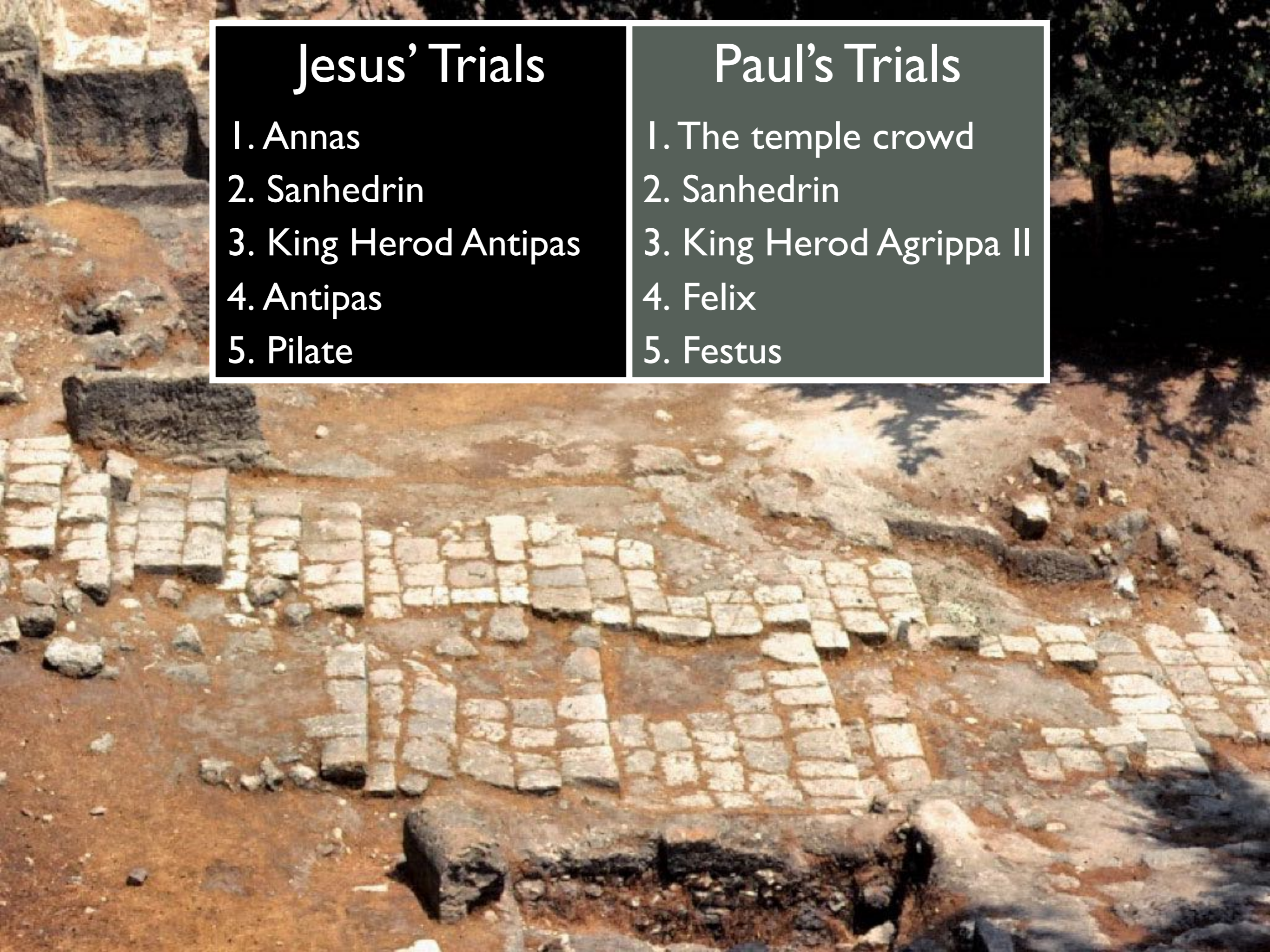


## Jesus' Trials

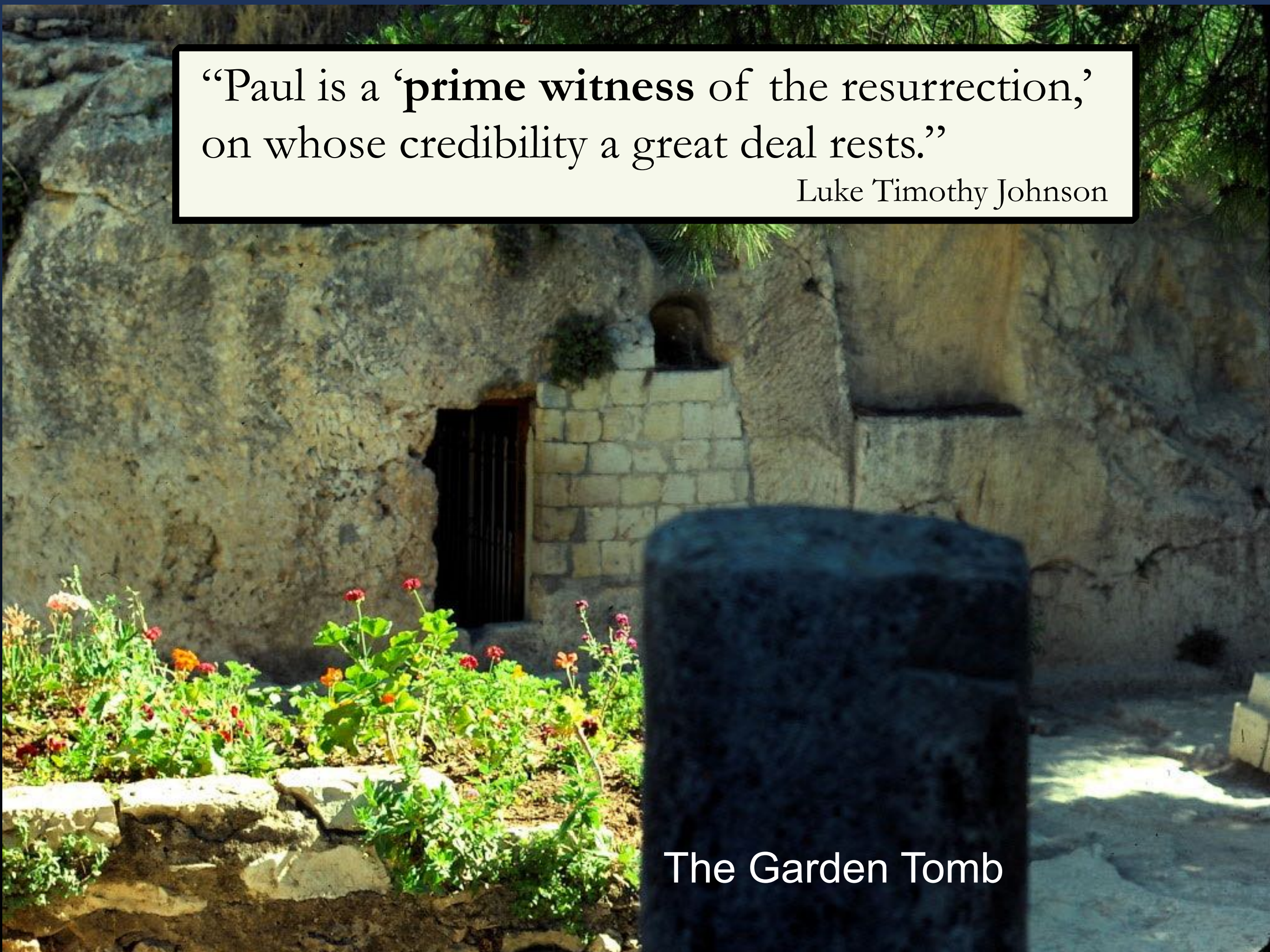
1. Annas
2. Sanhedrin
3. King Herod Antipas
4. Antipas
5. Pilate

## Paul's Trials

1. The temple crowd
2. Sanhedrin
3. King Herod Agrippa II
4. Felix
5. Festus





The image shows the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. In the foreground, a large, dark, rectangular stone sits on the ground. Behind it is a garden with various colorful flowers, including red and orange ones. In the background, a stone wall with a dark wooden door is visible. The scene is set outdoors with trees and foliage in the upper part of the frame.

“Paul is a ‘**prime witness** of the resurrection,’  
on whose credibility a great deal rests.”

Luke Timothy Johnson

The Garden Tomb



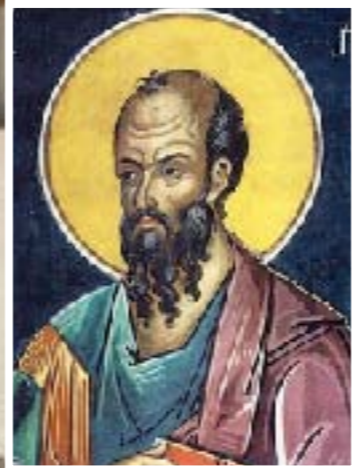
## Rumor and Riot

Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”...Then all the city was stirred up, and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once **the gates were shut.**

Acts 21:27-28, 30







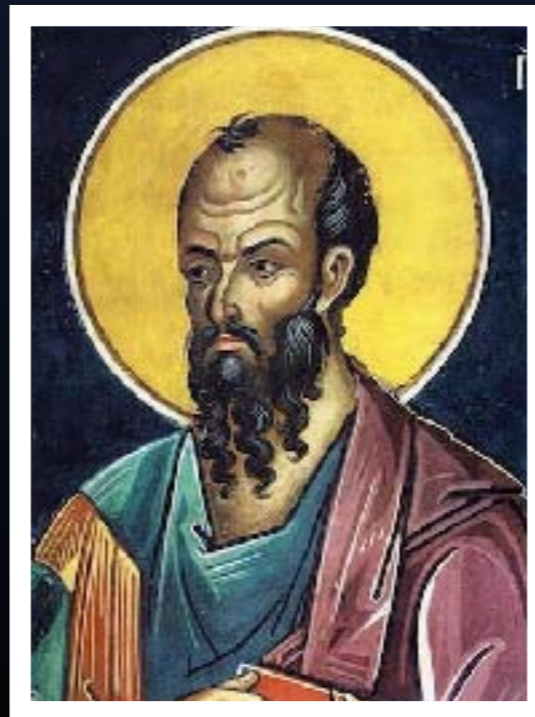
Paul's Defense



# Paul's Humility and Respect

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: I “**Brothers and fathers**, hear the defense that I now make before you.” And when they heard that he was addressing them in the **Hebrew** language [Aramaic], they became even more quiet.

Acts 21:40-22:2





The **character** of the messenger is as important, or more so, as the message.

Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with **gentleness and respect**.

1 Peter 3:14-15



Start with **history**, tell the story



Handwritten text in Hebrew or Aramaic script, including words like "משפחות" (families) and "שנים וע" (years and...).

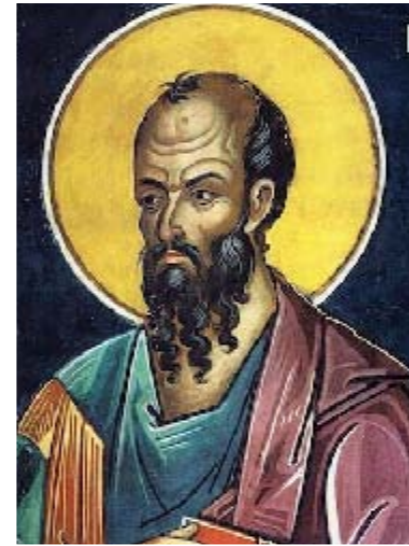
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## Paul's Orthodoxy and Zeal

**3** “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. **4** I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, **5** as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.”

Acts 22:3-5





Find common ground where you can  
identify with them and build upon it

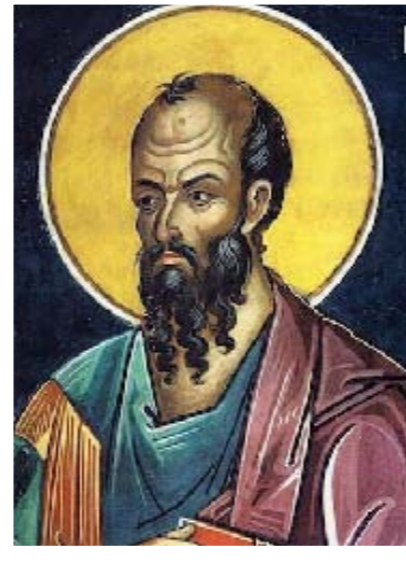
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# Paul's New Understanding

6 “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. 7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ 8 And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am **Jesus of Nazareth**, whom you are persecuting.’ 9 Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. 10 And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ 11 And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.”

Acts 22:6-11





# Paul's Commission Through Ananias

**12** “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, **13** came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. **14** And he said, ‘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. **16** And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’”

Acts 22:12-16



# God's Command to Go to the Gentiles

17 “When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance 18 and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because **they will not accept your testimony about me.**’ 19 And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. 20 And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’ 21 And he said to me, **‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’**”

Acts 22:17-22



# The Crowd's Violent Reaction

**22** Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.” **23** And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, **24** the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this.

Acts 22:22-24



# Saved by the Roman Centurion

**25** But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the **centurion** who was standing by, “Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a **Roman citizen** and uncondemned?”

**26** When the centurion heard this, he went to the **tribune** and said to him, “What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen.” **27** So the tribune came and said to him, “Tell me, are you a **Roman citizen?**” And he said, “Yes.” **28** The tribune answered, “I bought this citizenship for a large sum.” Paul said, “But I am a citizen by birth.” **29** So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound him.

Acts 22:25-29

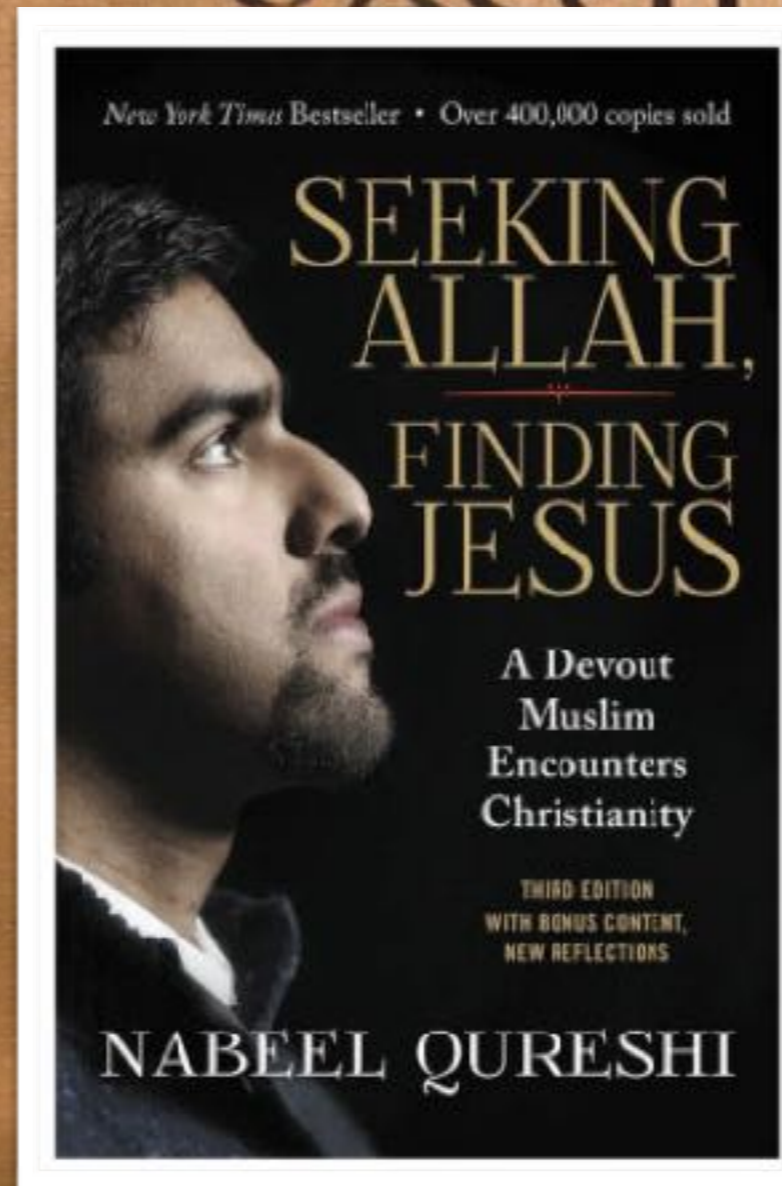


**Conversion can be a train wreck!**



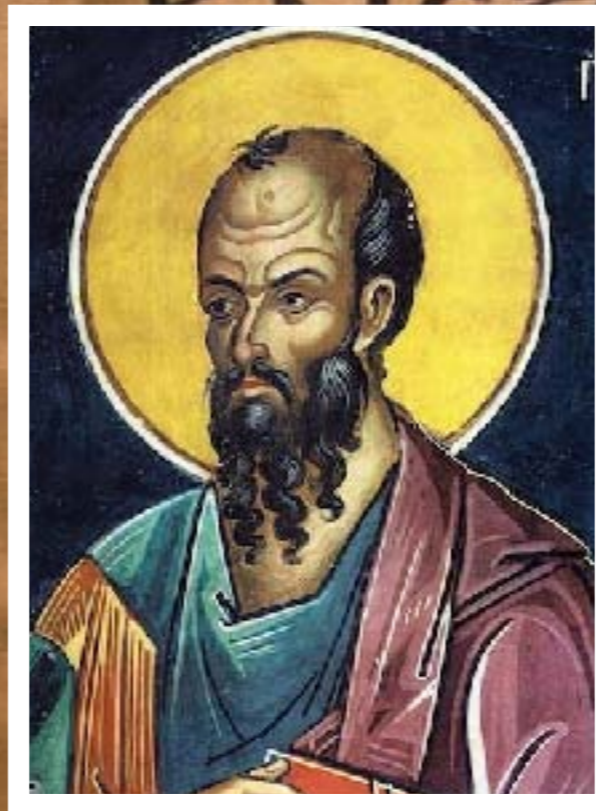


Removes our naiveté regarding evangelism



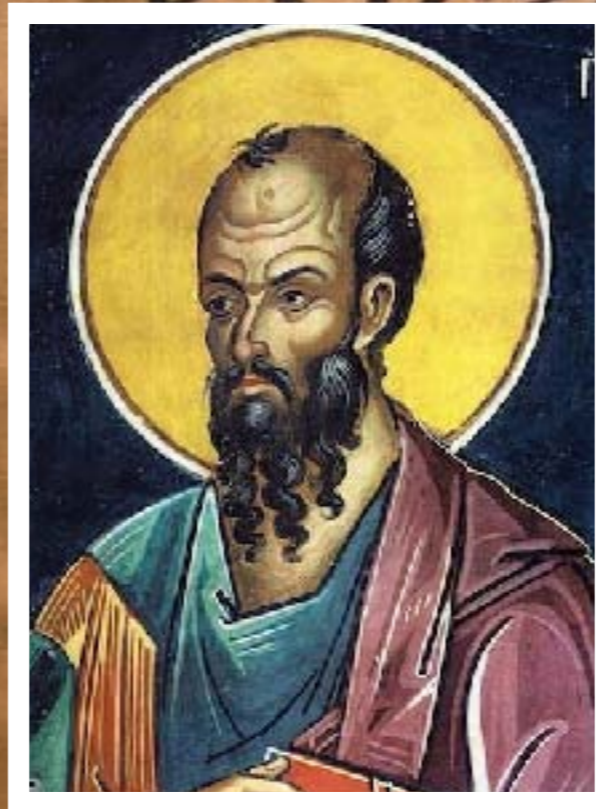


It authenticates Paul as prime witness  
and apostle of Jesus Christ





It reveals the love of God for us  
through the apostle

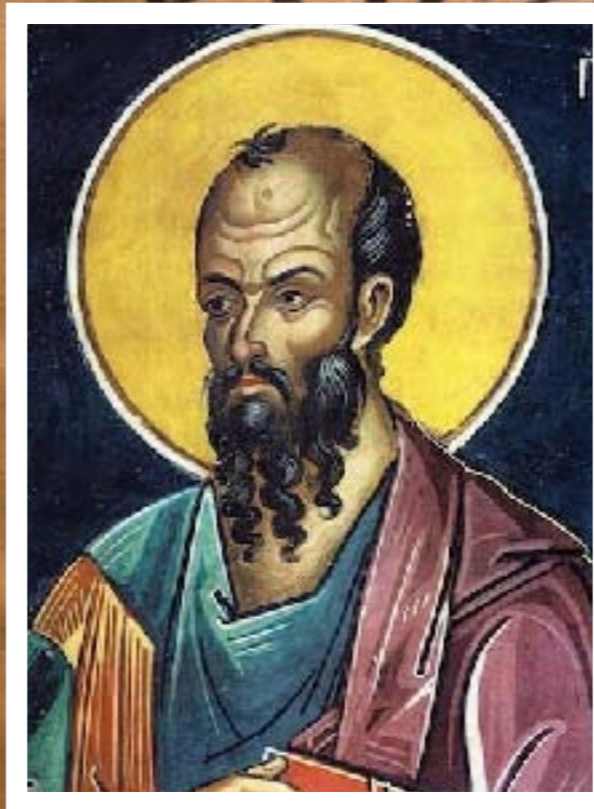


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העדה  
אושאגל  
משפחות  
שנים וע  
ממאיתים  
למש



It reveals that telling others  
about Jesus isn't safe

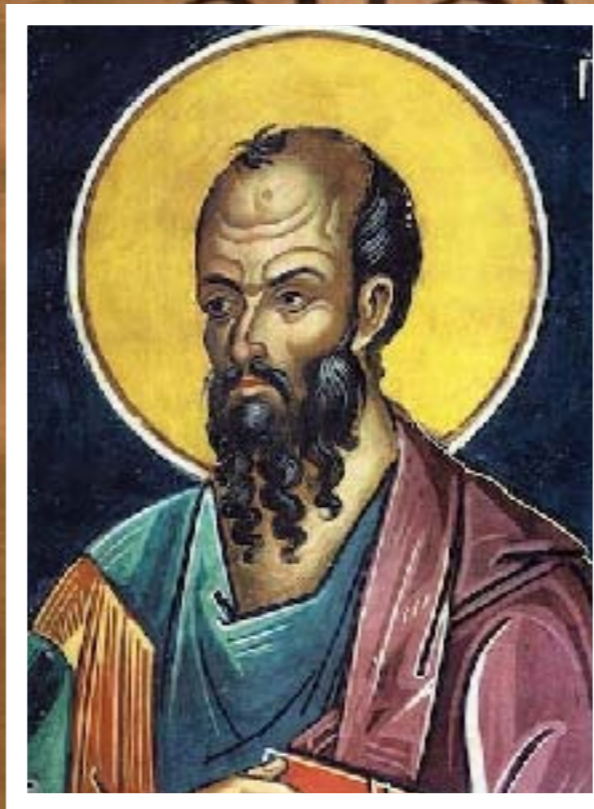




## **“Go to the Gentiles!”**

“Paul’s speech offers a final opportunity for the gospel to challenge Jerusalem to accept all of God’s plan and spare it the destruction that Jesus promised at the hands of the Gentiles (Luke 21:24). The seasons allotted to the Gentiles over Jerusalem were now at hand (21:24), and a prophet’s role was to summon them to repentance before judgment’s coming.”

Craig Keener





# Invitation to the Table





# Lacu Roșu, România





# Our Confession

Gracious Lord God, whose tender mercies are given to all your creation, we humbly and sorrowfully ask your forgiveness for the sins of this day;

For every impure thought which our minds have given refuge,

**○ LORD forgive us;**

For every word spoken in hastiness or anger,

**○ LORD forgive us;**

For every failure of self-control and every instance of selfishness,

**○ LORD forgive us;**



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# Our Confession

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For every stumbling block of word or deed we have set in another's way,

**O LORD forgive us;**

For every opportunity lost or squandered,

**O LORD forgive us;**

For loitering feet and a procrastinating will,

**O LORD forgive us;**

And grant, gracious Lord, may your Spirit rule in our hearts, more and more, that we may offer your love and grace to all we meet, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



# Come to the Table





# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who is in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil,  
for yours is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. Amen.



# Drink the Cup of Forgiveness

