



# CHRISTIANS ON TRIAL

SEEKING TO TURN OPPONENTS INTO ALLIES  
ACTS 26:24-32

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • June 22 & 23, 2024 • Acts, week 125 • Msg. 24-20

## 1. Understand \_\_\_\_\_ (v.24)

**Acts 26:24** *And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind."*

**25** *But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words.*

**26** *For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner.*

**27** *King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets?*

*I know that you believe."* **28** *And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"* **29** *And Paul said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains."* **30** *Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them.*

**31** *And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, "This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment."* **32** *And Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."* (ESV)

## 2. Defend \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.25-27)

## 3. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.28-32)

# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Acts 26:21-24**. What kinds of arguments, detractions, and slander have you heard leveled against Christianity and the biblical gospel in the past few years?
2. Read **Acts 26:25**; **2 Corinthians 10:5**; and **1 Peter 3:15**. What concerns you most about the biblical command that you should be ready to respond to people's opposition to biblical truth and the gospel?
3. Read **Romans 1:18-21**; **Luke 19:14** and **John 3:19-20**. How do these insights help you in your defense of the gospel as you consider the motivations for people denying the truth? Where might this direct more of the conversations you have with those who seek to evade what God's word says?
4. Read **Romans 1:1-4**; **Isaiah 44:7-8** and **46:9-10**. Why are the written prophecies of the Old Testament and the bodily resurrection of Christ in the New Testament so important for your confident defense of biblical Christianity?
5. Read **Hebrews 10:30-31**; **Romans 2:3-5** and **2 Corinthians 5:11 & 20**. How should these passages motivate you to do a whole lot more than just casually asking people to consider Christianity as a possible option?

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

- Msg. 98-18 – **A Batting Average You Can't Beat**
- Msg. 19-54 – **Inspiration of the Documents**
- Msg. 19-04 – **The Argument for the Resurrection**
- Msg. 18-33 – **Stubborn Rejection**
- Msg. 04-25 – **When God Breaks the Rules He Made**
- Msg. 14-09 – **Awaiting the Defeat of Death**
- Msg. 13-16 – **The Use of Scripture**

## Daily Bible Reading Schedule

June 23 <sup>rd</sup> .....	Esth.7-10 & Ac.6
June 24 <sup>th</sup> .....	Job 1-3 & Ac.7:1-19
June 25 <sup>th</sup> .....	Job 4-6 & Ac.7:20-43
June 26 <sup>th</sup> .....	Job 7-9 & Ac.7:44-60
June 27 <sup>th</sup> .....	Job 10-12 & Ac.8:1-25
June 28 <sup>th</sup> .....	Job 13-15 & Ac.8:26-40
June 29 <sup>th</sup> .....	Job 16-18 & Ac.9:1-22
June 30 <sup>th</sup> .....	Job 19-20 & Ac.9:23-43

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

- Blomberg, Craig L. **The Historical Reliability of the Gospels**. InterVarsity, 1986.
- Chou, Abner. **The Hermeneutics of the Biblical Writers: Learning to Interpret Scripture**. Kregel, 2018.
- Craig, William Lane. **Assessing NT Evidence for the Historicity of the Resurrection of Jesus**. Mellen, 1989.
- Geisler, Norman. **Miracles and the Modern Mind**. Baker Books, 1992.
- Geivett, Doug & Gary Habermas. **In Defense of Miracles: A Comprehensive Case for God's Action in History**. IVP, 1997.
- Green, Michael. **Christ is Risen, So What? Is It True? Does It Matter?** Sovereign World, 1996.
- Habermas, Gary and Michael Licona. **The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus**. Kregel Publications, 2004.
- Habermas, Gary **The Risen Jesus and Future Hope**. Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.
- Lewis, C. S. **Miracles: How God Intervenes in Nature and Human Affairs**. MacMillan Publishing, 1947.
- Lutzer, Erwin. **The Vanishing Power of Death**. Moody, 2004.
- McDowell, Josh and Sean McDowell. **Evidence That Demands a Verdict. Updated & Revised**. Thomas Nelson, 2017.
- McDowell, Josh. **Did the Resurrection Happen... Really?** Moody Publishing, 2011.
- Tenney, Merrill. **The Reality of the Resurrection**. Harper & Row, 1963.