

The Tragedy of the Almost

Acts 24:25 Acts 26:24-28

There are 3 men in Acts 26 that represent 3 attitudes that people had then and people have now toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Festus - represents those _____ from Jesus.

Festus wasn't the 1st who thought Jesus was crazy. Jesus' own family.....

2. The Apostle Paul - represents those who are _____ for Jesus. Paul was.....

Paul's philosophy of life is summarized in Philippians 1:21

"For him to live was Christ and to die was gain..."

3. Agrippa - represents those who are _____ to Jesus.

He was almost a Christian, he was near yet so far away.

Agrippa is the tragedy of the almost.

There are several "Almost Tragedies" in God's Word:

1. The tragedy of the _____ of Israel. Book of Numbers...

You remember God's purpose and plan for the Nation of Israel when they left Egypt.....

On a day they came to a little village town called Kadesh Barnea -- right on the border of the Promised Land, a few more yards and they would..... yet the Bible says ... 40 yrs.

They were almost in but they never made it.

2. The tragedy of the almost in Mark chapter 12.

Jesus talked to a man who had asked Him a series of questions on how to be saved.....

"Thou art not far from the Kingdom of God." The man was almost there.

I don't know of a greater tragedy in all of life than the and yet lost!

What a tragedy for someone to be here in this service today.....

Now let's look at King Agrippa, who was almost persuaded and yet forever lost.

Notice 3 things that almost persuaded King Agrippa to become a Christian.

I. Persuasion of the _____. v22 Paul used God's Word as.....

2nd Timothy 3:15 "...that the scriptures are able to make us wise unto salvation..."

John 20:31 *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

Hebrews 12:2 "God's Word is alive and powerful....."

Cut God's Word and it..... Listen to God's Word and it.....

Receive God's Word in your heart and it will.....

From Genesis to Malachi in the O.T. --- From Matthew to Revelation in the N.T.

You can't turn anywhere in this BOOK without seeing.....

That's why Paul says in **Romans 1:16** "I'm not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for it's the power of God unto salvation."

God's Word has power: to _____ our souls
to _____ our lives to _____ our hearts to _____ the devil !

II. Persuasion of the _____ - _____. v26

"I am persuaded" KJV "I am convinced" NKJV

When Paul got saved on the road to Damascus in Acts 9, Jesus said that Paul "had been chosen to bear His name before Gentiles and Kings."

So here in Acts 26 the Apostle Paul the world's greatest is witnessing and sharing his testimony before King Agrippa.

There is something tremendously persuasive in a personal testimony.

Key thought: A Christian with a _____ of what Jesus has done in their lives is **NEVER** at the mercy of a person with an _____ !

It's what advertisers call the power of..... Ex. Iris Blue

A changed life is one of the GREATEST testimonies for the cause of Christ.

Ex. One of the greatest hymns of all time Christianity was written by a drunkard slave trader who got gloriously saved. He lived from 1725 to 1807. His name John Newton. The song is a testimony of how Jesus changed his life. Thank God for "Amazing Grace."

III. Persuasion of the _____. v26-28

"This thing was not done in a corner." What Paul is referring to here is what Jesus did on the CROSS. There is the tremendous drawing power.....

Jesus said in John 12 "If I be lifted up (talking about the cross) from the earth, I'll draw all men unto Me." Friend you can't look at Mt. Calvary and the sacrifice.....

The place of the cross was a place of:

1. _____ Revelation 13:8

2. _____ **Luke 23:33 "And when they were came to the PLACE, which is called Calvary there they crucified Him."**

3. _____ If a person wants to be saved and have your name written.....

we don't run to a but we run to the Lord Jesus Christ, to the cross where the Love of God is..... Can't say Jesus didn't love us when He loved us from the CROSS !

A man dreamed one night he was walking down the corridors of hell and as he made his way down, he saw a man screaming out the words..... it was the tragedy of betrayal.

As he walked a little further he saw a man washing his..... the tragedy of neutrality.

He found out you can't be neutral about Jesus, either you're for Him or against Him.

He walked a little further an saw a man saying over and over "a more....." the tragedy of procrastination. He never found that more and he's forever in a devil's hell.

The last man we come to, all he keeps saying is..... the tragedy of almost persuaded !

Today if you hear His voice, "Please don't say NO to Jesus."

Eternity is Too Long to be Wrong !!