

Study Guide for the Week of May 13, 2007

This study guide is designed to help you to become more familiar with the Bible. For 2007 the study guide will help you read through the New Testament in a year. Study these passages on your own, with a friend, or with a group. If you or someone you know needs a Bible, please take one from under a chair in the Worship Center. They are there for you to take home and use! Sermon manuscripts are available at www.spwired.com.

Monday, May 14. Read Acts chapter 21:37 to chapter 22:29. We again see Paul's fearlessness as he stands face to face with an angry mob. In his speech to the angry mob Paul gives his pedigree. He is telling the mob that he is Jew of very high standing, the finest training, deepest commitment and that he is not attempting to destroy their ancestral faith, but to show its fulfillment. Paul also shares his personal experience of Christ. Paul was a Roman citizen and by law could not be beaten until he was put on trial. Paul was not afraid to call to his Jewish heritage or his Roman citizenship to convey the Gospel. What do you learn of Paul in today's reading?

Tuesday, May 15. Read Acts chapter 22:30 to chapter 23:22. Here we see the lengths to which the Jews went in order to kill Paul. They viewed him as such a threat as to need to be assassinated. We also see the extent to which Rome would go to administer impartial justice. What contrasts do you see in this passage? **Read and reflect on a section of Proverbs in the Old Testament.**

Wednesday, May 16. Read Acts chapter 23:23 to chapter 24:9. Paul is brought before the Roman governor and faces his Jewish accusers. Their charges against Paul are half-truths and twisted facts meant to raise suspicion against Paul. What do you see happening in this event? **Read and reflect on a section of Proverbs in the Old Testament.**

Thursday, May 17. Read Acts 24:10-27. Paul gives his defense in the presence of the Roman governor. How does his defense correspond to the charges brought against him? Notice that Paul's thoughts jump somewhat as he speaks. This shows how charged his response was and how anxious he was to state his case. What does this passage tell you about Paul? About the Christian faith? **Read and reflect on a section of Proverbs in the Old Testament.**

Friday, May 18. Read Acts chapter 25. After spending two years in captivity, Paul stands trial again before a new Roman governor, Festus. The Jewish leaders bring charges again, and once again they set up a scheme to assassinate Paul. Paul, as a Roman citizen had the right to make an appeal to the Roman Emperor himself. He makes the appeal and Festus begins the process of sending Paul to Rome. Remember that God had told Paul that he would take the good news of Jesus Christ to Rome. This begins that journey. **Read and reflect on a section of Proverbs in the Old Testament.**

Saturday, May 19. Read Acts 26:1-18. Paul stands before the king of Palestine who entered with a large group of his royal court. The Roman governor Felix was also present and would have been dressed out in his royal regalia with his group of advisors. A platoon of Roman Centurions would have been standing nearby, fully armored. The queen of Palestine was there with her group of attendants. It would have been a truly royal and powerful sight to see. Into that scene of power and royalty walks Paul, the little Jewish tentmaker, with his hands in chains. And yet it was his presence that brought real power into that room—the presence of Christ in him. Paul once again tells the story of his conversion and his mission. What, in this scene, strikes you? **Read and reflect on a section of Proverbs in the Old Testament.**

Sunday, May 20. Read Acts 26:19-32. Again, imagine the scene. Paul is the one in shackles and on trial. Yet he is clearly the one in control. He is the dominating personality in the room. Paul takes this opportunity to talk about Jesus to all those who are in listening distance. He has a power about him that is truly compelling. It is the power and presence of Jesus Christ. What in this scene speaks to you? What does this tell you about Paul? About Christ? About you?