

## **Paul's Testimony: Hopeful Obedience**

- 1. Paul Is On Trial for His Hope in God's Promise (1-8).**
- 2. Paul Testifies to the Risen Jesus Who Delivers from Sin (9-23).**
- 3. How Did Festus and Agrippa Respond? (24-32)**

CONCLUSION: Paul is giving his defense of his belief in the risen Lord Jesus. He makes the case that everything he is doing completely makes sense in light of the resurrection of Jesus. His words are convicting. So much so that Festus declares that he is crazy and Agrippa withdraws to avoid conversion. What about you? Is the resurrection of Jesus your only hope? And if He is our only hope are we living our whole lives in conformity with that truth?

Why surprised? The *Resurrection* is the central hope of Judaism.

### **Job 19:25-27**

For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and at the last he will stand upon the earth  
And after my skin has been thus destroyed, *yet in my flesh I shall see God,*  
whom I shall see for myself,  
and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

### **Psalms 73:23-26**

Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.  
<sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, and *afterward you will receive me to glory.*  
<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.  
<sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

### **Isaiah 26:19-21**

*Your dead shall live;* their bodies shall rise.  
You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!  
For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.  
<sup>20</sup> Come, my people, enter your chambers,  
and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while  
until the fury has passed by.  
<sup>21</sup> For behold, the Lord is coming out from his place  
to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity,  
and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it,  
and will no more cover its slain.

### **Daniel 12:1-2**

“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And *many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

How would you summarize Christianity? One way is living in light of the hope of Christ's resurrection. This week we see Paul giving expression to this hope as central to everything that it means to trust in Jesus. Let's look deeper into what he means and how we might do the same.

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

## Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 26:1-32; Job 19:25-27; Psalm 73:23-26; Isaiah 26:19-21; Daniel 12:1-2; First Corinthians 1:18-25.** DISCUSS Why is the resurrection so central to Judaism/Christianity? How are you depending on Jesus alone? MEDITATE on **Matthew 22:29-33.** PRAY "Lord Jesus, *You alone have conquered death.* We praise You!"

## Sunday Evening

Come join the *Young Adults' Fellowship* tonight at 6pm. Pray for them!

## Monday

READ **Acts 26:1-32; Job 19:25-27; Psalm 17:15; First John 3:1-3.** DISCUSS What does it mean "And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God"? When is the Psalmist expecting to see God? What has yet to be revealed? What does John's hope lead him to do? Why? MEDITATE on **Matthew 22:29-33.** PRAY "Lord Jesus, thank You for Your promise to return for us. We long to see You face-to-face and to be transformed into Your likeness when we will sin no more. Allow this hope to drive us always."

## Tuesday

READ **Acts 26:1-32; Psalm 16:9-11; 49:14-15; 73:23-26.** DISCUSS How is the Psalmist's hope in the resurrection central to his song? How does this same hope inform what you do? What other false hopes compete for your trust? MEDITATE on **Matthew 22:29-33.** PRAY "Lord, keep us from bowing to idols. Teach us to trust in You alone with all that we think, say, and do."

### Wednesday

READ **Acts 26:1-32; Isaiah 26:19-21; Daniel 3:1-2**. DISCUSS Everyone who has ever lived will be raised, either to eternal life or everlasting death. Why? How does this provide hope? Terror? How does Jesus make all the difference? MEDITATE on **Matthew 22:29-33**. PRAY “Lord, You are the Judge of all the earth. You have created all that there is and we will all answer You with our lives. Have mercy on us, we pray.”

### Thursday

READ **Acts 26:1-32; First Corinthians 1:18-25; Colossians 2:1-10**. DISCUSS How does the world tend to reckon wisdom? How does God see wisdom differently? How does God use the foolish things of this world to show His wisdom? How are you living in resurrection power today? MEDITATE on **Matthew 22:29-33**. PRAY “Jesus, help us to trust You in life and death.”

### Friday

READ **Acts 26:1-32; Job 19:25-27; Psalm 73:23-26; Isaiah 26:19-21; Daniel 12:1-2; First Corinthians 1:18-25**. DISCUSS What have you been learning from these passages this week? REPENT of ways that you don't obey Christ's Word! MEDITATE on **Matthew 22:29-33**. PRAY for FCCW.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. READ **Acts 27:1-28:31**. Invite others to join you for either *in-person or live-stream service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to empower us with His life.

## Matthew 22:29-33

But **Jesus answered them**, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For **in the resurrection** they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? **He is not God of the dead, but of the living.**” And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.