

**Theme:** Every believer has a “dramatic” personal testimony of God’s mercy and love. The power of that testimony is not in the wickedness and sin that we were in, but the glory and power of the risen Christ who conquered sin and death.

**Introduction and Background:**

Last appearance at trial in book of Acts – won’t see his appearance before Caesar.  
Paul shares his testimony one more time.

**I. Converted**

A. The confrontation - a familiar story (v.12ff)

NOTE: We must all experience the fear of God and humility that confronted the Apostle.

B. Revelation and Realization (vv.14,15) “Why are you persecuting Me?”

1. Jesus is truly alive. God has *raised Him from the dead!*
2. These people of the way must be regarded as His own people.
3. **He** has been attacking the Lord’s anointed and the elect of God.

**II. Commissioned**

A. The command - Rise and stand. (v.16)

B. The call (vv.16-18)

1. I have appeared to you - as a witness!
2. I will deliver/rescue you. NOTE: Doesn’t say he won’t suffer.
3. “**I** am sending you”. (e.g. Isaiah 6:8,9; Jeremiah 1:4,7; 7:25; Ezekiel 2:3; 3:4ff; Amos 7:14,15; Matthew 10:1-5; Mark 3:14; 6:7; Luke 6:12,13; 9:1,2)
  - a. Open their eyes – (2 Corinthians 4:4)
  - b. Forgiveness of Sins!
  - c. An inheritance in His Kingdom.

B. The response (vv.19-23)

1. Not disobedient!
2. Proclaimed the message
3. Could tell you only what Moses and the prophets declared would come to pass. Jesus himself explained it. Luke 24:44-48

### III. Constrained – By the Gospel (vv.24-29)

A. In chains because of the Gospel.

- “You are out of your mind” (Mark 3:21; 1 Cor.1:18)

B. He must speak

1. Of the goodness and glory of God.

2. Confronting the Judge!

a. Paul is concerned not with favor - but with salvation.

b. Paul’s plea? They should be like him – except for the chains.

c. Agrippa’s “pass”

### IV. Conclusions:

A. The power of a faithful testimony to God’s grace.

B. Application:

For believers –

1. Can you give a credible testimony to the power of God at work in you?

2. Are you living a life that invites that testimony to be heard?

3. Can we live as Paul did: I don’t care what you think of me. What do you think of Him?!

Young people –

1. Be careful you aren’t deceived by worldly thinking.

2. Let your testimony give glory to God for the sin and grief *spared* – as you walk in His power and grace.