

May 12, 2024
Acts 26:1-18
“From The Power Of Satan To The Power Of God”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Our title today is taken from **Acts 26:18**, meditate on the entirety of this verse.

V 1, the purpose of this speech was for Agrippa’s information. Paul motions his hand, the room falls silent, he begins his discourse, **(1)**Complimentary remarks. **(2)**In Paul’s early life in Judaism he was zealous for the Law. **(3)**His zeal in opposition to the Gospel. **(4)**His conversion and commission. **(5)**His personal ministry now driven by proper zeal for the Lord. **(6)**His witness to Festus & Agrippa showed his zeal to preach the gospel.

Zeal: **Romans 10:1-2**, “Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God concerning them is for their salvation. I can testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.” (Zeal established in error).

Isaiah 37:32, “For a remnant will go out from Jerusalem, and survivors from Mount Zion. The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this.” (God has a passionate, loving zeal for people).

I Kings 19:10, “He replied, I have been very zealous for the Lord God of Armies, but the Israelites have abandoned your covenant, torn down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are looking for me to take my life.” (The prophet Elijah had great zeal for the Lord).

John 2:17, “And his disciples remembered that it is written: **Zeal for your house will consume me.**” (Jesus cleared out the temple with a whip made of cords, because of His zeal for the house of the Lord).

Romans 12:11, “Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord.” (The Lord desires for His people to serve Him wholeheartedly, with godly zeal).

Application: Paul had to go to Rome, his appeal to go before Caesar could not be canceled. Though he could have refused to go before this crowd, he took this opportunity to stand before: dignitaries, a procurator (proxy), and a king, as a prisoner. Paul turned this judicial hall into a church! Paul’s desire was to turn them from the power of Satan to the power of God. In his zeal for all men, Jew and Gentile, he pleaded with them to step out of the darkness of sin and death by following Satan and to step into the marvelous light of the Lord which is life. He used to hunt people down to kill them for their faith in Jesus, now he took every opportunity to present the gospel to them that they might be saved. In Christ we are new creatures, **II Corinthians 5:17**. Tell your friends how they can have forgiveness of sins, they need to be free from Satans power. Friends don’t let friends die without telling them about the love of Jesus!