



## ACTS 22:2-14

Then Paul said: 3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. 4 I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, 5 as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

6 “About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’

8 “‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked.

“ ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied. 9 My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

10 “‘What shall I do, Lord?’ I asked.

“ ‘Get up,’ the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.’ 11 My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

12 “A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. 13 He stood beside me and said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very moment I was able to see him.

14 “Then he said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth.

C. Paul appeals to his Roman citizenship so he could complete his task. (v 22:25-29)

1. We ought not worry what to say because Jesus has made us a promise. (Luke 12:11-12)

2. Paul still had unfinished business. (Luke 21:12-15; John 14:26; 15:26-27; Acts 20:24)

## SERMON REFLECTIONS

- How does our human desire for comfort and safety express itself in life? How can that desire become an obstacle to the gospel?

- Why is it important to know that being a Christian does not mean we will be free of suffering?

- Read Acts 20:24 and Philippians 1:21-23. Why do you think Paul considered it gain to die? What is his objective while he lives?

- How did the Jew/Gentile conflict contribute to Paul’s arrest? How can nationalism contradict the gospel and its effect?

- What has Jesus promised us in the midst of suffering?

