

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Acts 26:24-29](#).
- B. The apostle Paul is speaking to the most excellent Festus in his defense of the change of life and teaching due to becoming a Xian.
- C. Festus says that all of Paul's learning has driven him mad.
- D. But such is not the case. The gospel is not madness. Let us examine Paul's counter-logic:
 1. The gospel is not madness.
 2. The gospel is supported by prophecy.
 3. The gospel requires one to make a response.
 4. The gospel causes those who are saved to preach to others.

I. THE GOSPEL IS NOT MADNESS.

- A. Scripture text: Acts 26:24-26.
- B. In 26:24 we see that Luke records for us the emotional side of Festus, as he replies in a loud voice.
- C. In some cases, those who do so show they are on the defensive, or are losing the argument, or don't want to admit the truth. The truth need not be presented in a loud voice, just precise in content.
- D. Paul answered Festus' charge in saying that he was not out of his mind (he called him "most excellent"), and that Festus knew these things to be true due to them happening out in the open.
- E. Truth has nothing to hide. All the facts about the gospel are to be searched for so everything can be revealed. Jehovah is a God, who says, "Come and see."
- F. When we have the truth we should speak with confidence.

II. THE GOSPEL IS SUPPORTED BY OT PROPHECY.

- A. Scripture text: Acts 26:27.
- B. One of the great proofs of the reliability of the testimony of X and the apostles is the fulfillment of OT prophecy. This is the great proof of the divinity of the message.
- C. Paul appeals to that which is common knowledge to Agrippa, that is, the words of the prophets.
- D. The gospel is reasonable and should be viewed as the OT fulfilled in JC and His church (Jn. 5:39).
 1. To seal up prophecy and vision (Dan. 9:24).
 2. Prophets not serving themselves, but us (1Pet. 1:10-12).
- E. Paul was simply asking Agrippa not to contradict what he already knew to be true. Because of his belief in the prophets, he should be able to carry that through to X (Gal. 3:24).

III. THE GOSPEL REQUIRES ONE TO MAKE A RESPONSE.

- A. Scripture text: Acts 26:28.
- B. One cannot be neutral about the gospel message. Either he will accept it as being true and then act on that belief or he will reject it and act accordingly by living unfaithfully (Mt. 12:30).
- C. Agrippa came to a conclusion, because the message forced him to do so.
- D. Jesus forced the crowds to make a decision and many left (Jn. 6:66-68).
- E. Sometimes the decision we reach is not one we like, but if we will be honest with self, read the Scriptures and pray about it, we will make the right choice.

IV. THE GOSPEL CAUSES US TO PREACH TO OTHERS.

- A. Scripture text: Acts 26:29.
- B. Paul's great wish and desire is that everyone become a Xian.
- C. Let not our joy in salvation become satisfaction. Others need to hear the message and be saved as well.

- D. We are not certain of the future; but whether it takes a short time or a long time, our desire is that all have opportunity through the message preached to come to a knowledge of the truth.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The gospel is not madness:
 - 1. It is good news.
 - 2. It is the fulfillment of prophecy.
 - 3. It is a message that demands a response.
 - 4. It is that which we preach to all men.
- B. Today, what is your opinion of the gospel?
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.