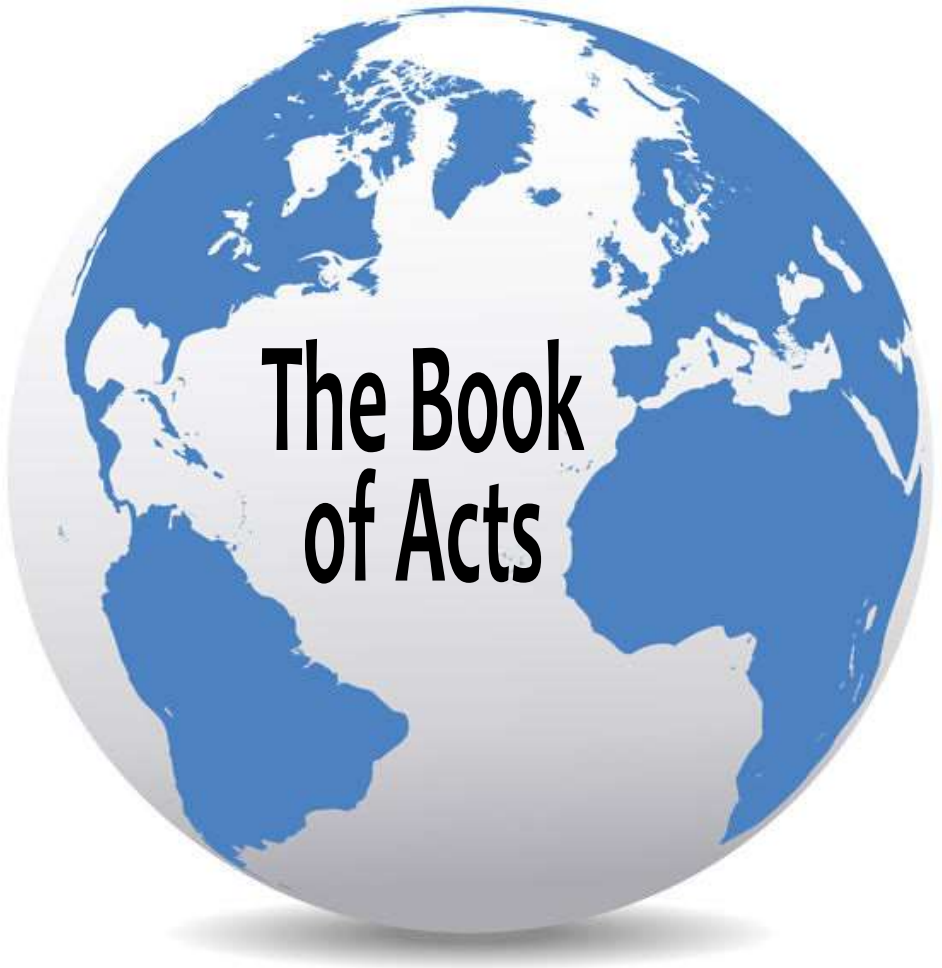


# Let's Worship God

9th-14th April 2018  
Acts





# The Book of ACTS

## Monday - Acts 25:1-12 - God's Providence and Our Frustration

Paul had done no wrong as Felix well knew (v. 10), but was left a prisoner by Felix for two years (ch.24:27). It has been thought that Felix's departure was because he had been summoned to Rome to answer complaints from the Jews and this explains his desire to 'sweeten' them before he went. Festus stood his ground against the Jews, refusing their request that Paul be brought to Jerusalem for trial and hoping that they could kill him on the way there. Paul is able to defend himself against all charges, whether relating to Jewish law, profaning the temple, or Roman law (v.8). But now Festus wants to keep the Jews happy (admittedly, always a problem for the Roman governors set over them), and he now suggests a Jerusalem trial (v.9) that would inevitably be to Paul's severe disadvantage. Paul appeals to Caesar that, as a Roman citizen, he was allowed to do in regard to most offences. Festus, after checking the position agrees (v.12).

The amazing thing is, that despite all this nonsense and injustice, we find Paul, not bursting with frustration, but availing himself of every opportunity to make known the Gospel. He was by no means indifferent to wrongdoing, but believed the truth of God's providence; that God governs all things, including the actions of sinful men, for His own glory and the good of His people and towards His own glorious foreordained end. If we are Christians, too often we still respond to God's providence like unbelievers, full of resentment as if we know better than the all-wise God. "Remember God sees it is that which is fit for you, or it would not come. Your clothes cannot be so fit for you as your crosses. God's providence may sometimes be secret, but it is always wise" (Thomas Watson).

### Questions

1. What does God's providence mean for Christians? (Romans 8:28).

### Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's providence.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"To open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." Acts 26:18

**Praise: Psalm 135:1-3 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# The Book of ACTS

## Tuesday - Acts 25:13-22 - The Problem of the Blank Sheet

Agrippa and his sister Bernice arrive, probably to greet Festus as the new procurator of a neighbouring province (v.14). Festus puts a good complexion on his handling of the situation by suggesting that he had suggested a Jerusalem trial, because the whole Sanhedrin might provide the necessary expertise in Jewish law to resolve the matter (v.20). Having appealed to Caesar, however, he must send him but is embarrassed by the fact that he doesn't actually know what to put on the 'charge sheet'.

So Agrippa and Bernice came down. But who was this Agrippa? His great-grandfather killed the children at the time of Christ's birth (Matthew 2:16). His great uncle, Herod Antipas had John the Baptist beheaded (Mark 6:14-29) and mocked our Lord Jesus (Luke 23:11). His father, Herod Agrippa I, was consumed with worms (Acts 12:23). This Herod Agrippa was king of a neighbouring Roman satellite state while Judea was classed as part of the Roman province of Syria under a Procreator.

Bernice was his sister, and his incest was well known. Drusilla (Felix's wife) was another sister. Agrippa came to greet Festus as a Procreator of a neighbouring province.

### Questions

1. Why was Paul right to appeal to Caesar?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray for Christians being persecuted in other countries.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

“To open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” Acts 26:18

**Praise: Psalm 109:1-3 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# The Book of ACTS

## **Wednesday - Acts 25:23-27 - Paul Before Agrippa**

Festus explained that he had inherited this problem from Felix (v. 14) and that the problem was not one of Roman law, but of Jewish internal conflict (about which he knew little and couldn't really care less).

Agrippa and Bernice came down with apparently unusual show as they had apparently learned nothing from their father's death (Acts 12:22-23). Festus camouflaged his embarrassment that the charge sheet was blank by consulting Agrippa as an expert on Jewish law. In fact, Agrippa epitomised all that was wrong with Israel. He would bother about the Sabbath or swine's flesh, but lead a grossly immoral life. What was being judged here was not really Paul but the whole Jewish externalised religion. His claim to be a practicing Jew was worth nothing.

### **Questions**

1. In view of all that was going on "behind the scenes" what had Paul for his comfort?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks that God is in control of all things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

"To open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." Acts 26:18

**Praise: Psalm 109:17-20 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# The Book of ACTS

## Thursday - Acts 26:1-18 - So Much Yet So Little

Once more Paul is called upon to defend himself. He uses conciliatory courtesy (vs. 1-3) without unprincipled compromise or man-pleasing at the expense of truth. He acknowledges his past with shame and enough detail to show its wrongness, but he does not glory in it (Romans 6:21; 1 Corinthians 15:8-9; Ephesians 3:8). He describes his conversion and call to the Apostleship. He then says certain things about Agrippa.

Agrippa knows the Scriptures and believes them as we see from tomorrow's passage (v. 27). He knew about the promises of the Christ (v.22), and he knew that God could raise the dead (v. 8). He obviously had much of this world's goods and standing before men. But he was not a Christian. Despite everything, he lacked the one thing needful. Paul had been like him but now stood before him to tell him of the resurrected Saviour. What would he do with the truth of the Gospel?

What have you done with it? That Gospel that you may have known all your life? Paul was not mad as Festus thought, and he was simply embracing what the prophets had said. Neither are Christians mad when they speak to you of Christ. You need Him.

### Questions

1. What advantages have you got and what use have you made of them (Luke 12:47-48; Matthew 12:41-42)?
2. Does anything we have last beyond this life, unless we have union with Christ?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

“To open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” Acts 26:18

**Praise: Psalm 49:1-5 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# The Book of ACTS

## Friday - Acts 26:19-29 - The Heavenly Vision

Agrippa's words, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (v.28) have been much preached upon. Were they said in sarcasm? Probably not. They were certainly uttered by a man with no desire to change. For him, this was an academic matter of debate among the Jews. He had knowledge of the Scriptures (v.3) and acknowledged their truthfulness (v.27), as we have seen. Such things alone, however, do not guarantee salvation.

Paul's response provides a deep insight into the twin truths of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. The Apostle says, "I would to God", recognising by this instant prayer that God alone can change a sinner's heart so that he desires Christ (Romans 10:1). At the same time, he expresses his hearty desire for the conversion of Agrippa and all that were present. This desire is expressive of that Christian compassion that is a fruit of the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart. In connection with his countrymen, he speaks of this love as something that has the complete approval of the Holy Spirit (Romans 9:1-3). Our belief in God's sovereign election need not, and indeed should not, dampen evangelistic compassion.

### Questions

1. Why should we care for the salvation of our neighbour?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray for the conversion of the men and women who live around us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"To open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." Acts 26:18

**Praise: Psalm 51B:7-10 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# The Book of ACTS

## **Saturday - Acts 26:27-32 - Loving Our Neighbour Evangelistically**

Love for our neighbour, as commanded in the law of God, expresses itself in a desire for their conversion and prayer for them (Matthew 5:44). This love is not only God-given but reflects the love and kindness of God in this world. God has not decreed to save all men, but He does show His kindness to all in bestowing many benefits upon them which stop short of salvation. One such is His sending the Gospel to them, even though He has decreed that only the elect will be saved through hearing it. Our love is to be patterned after His; "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). He does not command us to love contrary to His own love. God shows no such love to the damned in Hell and neither, therefore, will the redeemed in Heaven be troubled for them. We cannot understand this in advance, nor do we need to. But let us, then, emulate Paul's indiscriminate evangelistic love in the sure knowledge that out of the midst of mankind, the elect of God, given by the Son to the Father, will surely come to Him.

### **Questions**

1. Why should we pray for the conversion of our neighbour?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

"To open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." Acts 26:18

**Praise: Psalm 51B:11-16 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance  
by Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

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