

## PAUL - A SINCERELY RELIGIOUS MAN

Acts 26:1-10

### Introduction:

- A. Paul before King Agrippa -- reviews past life as a sincere Pharisee.
- B. Paul's life divided into two periods -- both characterized by sincere devotion to God:

### Discussion:

#### I. He had been a SINCERE SINNER.

- A. Sincerely believed he was doing God's will. (v. 9; Acts 23:1)
  - 1. Yet, a Pharisee, the son of Pharisees - chief of sinners. (Acts 23:6; 1 Tim. 1:15)
  - 2. Trained by Gamaliel - a sincere religious teacher. (v. 4; Acts 22:3).
    - a. Danger of placing children at feet of able, sincerely wrong teachers.
    - b. Danger greater than irreligious teachers - contrast harder to show.
- B. Sincerely mistaken about the facts of true religion.
  - 1. Religion from the heart - but from a improperly taught heart. (Cf. Rom. 10:9,17)
  - 2. Mistaken about God's son - thought he was blasphemer.
  - 3. Many are sincerely mistaken about God's will.
    - a. Have been taught a perverted gospel. (Gal. 1:6,9)
      - (1) Based on perverted passages. (Eph. 2:8,9; Acts 8:22).
      - (2) Based on human tradition. (Matt. 15:9,13; Ps. 127:1).
        - (a) Traditionally many churches - not one. (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4)
        - (b) Traditionally denominational names and titles.
      - (3) Based on emotionalism rather than Bible facts.
        - (a) Social gospel thrives of emotional pull.
        - (b) Subjective religion thrives on emotional pull.
    - b. Have been taught a partial gospel. (Mt. 4:4; Acts 20:20,27).

#### II. He became a SINCERE SAINT.

- A. As sincere as a Christian as had been as a Pharisee.
- B. As sincere in obeying truth as had been in practicing error. ( cf. Acts 26:19).
  - 1. Obeyed to become a Christian. (Acts 9:6,18; 22:16).
    - a. A disciple. (cf. Acts 9:26; Matt. 28:18-20).
    - b. A member of Lord's church. (cf. Acts 2:38,41,47)
  - 2. Obeyed to remain a Christian.
    - a. Had to keep under body. (1 Cor. 9:27).
    - b. Had to worship God and teach others.

### Conclusion:

- A. We can be sincere, but mistaken in religion.
  - 1. Must not depend on our sincerity to save us.
  - 2. Must not ignore the sincere in our evangelism.
- B. We must constantly study to be sincerely right.