

090 - What Makes Up the Life of the Christian - Acts 24:1-23 - 2013-10-27

Call to Worship: Psalm 119:17-18

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10:11-25

Sermon: "What Makes Up the Life of the Christian" Acts 24:1-23

Benediction: 1 Peter 1:3

INTRODUCTION

Here Paul is brought to a hearing before the Roman governor, Felix.

A lawyer for the Jewish leaders accuses Paul.

Paul defends himself.

In this account, we receive instruction as to how the world, under the sway of the devil, accuses the Christian individual and the Christian church, and how the Christian and the church answer those accusations.

In the process, we see a summary from Paul of how he has lived, giving us instruction about how we are to live, and exhortation to live that way.

BODY

I. The World Makes Its Accusations As to What Makes Up the Life of the Christian

A. As to his life in general, he is a plague, a disease 24:5a

a. NIV troublemaker; KJV pestilent fellow

b. lit. a plague, a disease

c. he goes around like a horrible, contagious disease

B. As to his relationship with the government, and public peace and order, he incites uprisings all over the world (24:5b)

C. As to his relationship with the established church, with mainstream religious life, he has two offenses

a. he is with a heretical group (24:5c)

i. his group is a split-off, that divides people over religion

b. he has profaned the temple (24:6)

i. he dares to come into our holy place

ii. his very presence is detestable to our institution

II. The Christian Denies the False Charges Against Him (24:10-13)

A. He is not afraid to be judged as to his life (24:10b)

B. What he has to say can be checked against the facts (24:11)

C. He does not incite riots anywhere (24:12b)

D. Any charges of wrongdoing cannot be proven, because they are not true (24:13)

III. The Christian Asserts What Really Makes Up the Life of the Christian (24:14-16)

A. The Christian worships the one true God

But this I confess unto you, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, (14a)

We worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

We worship God in a certain way, The Way

To worship the way that the Lord Jesus has commanded is not actually divisive

hoc est enim corpus meum

sprinkling infants

B. The Christian believes the whole Bible

believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: (14b)

1. the corrupt religious leaders accusing Paul believed the bible; they just didn't believe everything it says

2. the Christian believes all that the bible says

3. this is a division between the Christian and every other religious person in the world

4. historically this has been, and continues to be, a dividing point among Christians, also

a. some Christians understand rightly a doctrine from the scriptures, and say to their brothers, "here is a bible doctrine we must believe and practice"

b. their brothers say, "no, that is not a bible doctrine"

c. those who believe and hold to all that the bible teaches find themselves in some kind of unwanted division with their brothers

d. this is a sad reality, which, thankfully shall be remedied in the resurrection!

C. The Christian hopes in the resurrection

And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. (15)

D. The Christian works hard to keep a clear conscience

And in this do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men. (16)

1. he works hard to keep himself clear of offense toward God; always loving God with his whole being

The Christian

a. does not worship other gods besides the one true God

b. does not try to worship God through images or any other inventions

c. does not speak of God empty of the true meaning of who God is

d. does to forget the sabbath day, but rests from all of his own works, words, and thoughts on that day, that he may worship God through Jesus Christ

2. he works hard to keep himself clear of offense toward men; always loving his neighbor as himself

The Christians

a. does not dishonor his father and mother, or any other authority, but honors them

b. does not murder, or do any other harm to his neighbor, or even desire it in his heart

c. does not commit adultery, or even look lustfully

d. does not steal anything from his neighbor, his boss, or anyone else

e. does not testify falsely against someone in court, nor does he say anything that will harm anyone

f. does not covet what belongs to someone else, but is content with what he may own rightfully

CONCLUSION

Since the generation when believers first came to be called, "Christians," we have been accused by the world, which says that our lives are made up of being a plague on society, disturbing the public peace, and causing divisions over religion.

For our part, let us live as Paul lived, so that we may say as he said, that their accusations are untrue. What makes up the Christian life is this:

We worship the one true God

We believe the whole bible

We hope in the resurrection, and

We work hard to have a clear conscience before both God and men