

Courage Under Fire (Acts 22:24 - 23:1-22)

- Last week: Paul's defense of his gospel ministry: Jews in Jerusalem
- 1. Paul's defense of who he was and what he did (22:1-5)
- 2. Paul's defense of his conversion (22:7-16)
- 3. Paul's defense of his ministry to them at that point (22:17-21)
- 4. The verdict of the Jews and the fathers in Jerusalem (22:22-24)

I. God's Providence in Paul's Roman Citizenship (22:24-26)

- Roman centurion about to examine Paul by scourging
- Paul says he is an uncondemned Roman citizen – no scourging takes place
- Paul tells the commander he was born a Roman citizen

II. God's providence in Paul before the Sanhedrin (22:30-23:1-10)

- Paul testifies his conscience is clear before all men
- Priest orders Paul to be struck, Paul warns the priest God will strike him
- Riot breaks out over resurrection Pharisees shout "*find no evil in this man*"

III. God's Providence Uncovering the Plot Against Paul (23:11-22)

- Jesus encouraging Paul "be of good cheer" - mission will be fulfilled (11)
- Paul's sister's daughter overhears plot against Paul from the Jews

Conclusion and Application

1. It was necessary that Paul suffer for Paul to fulfill mission given to him
2. God's wondrous sovereign hand of providence in all these events
3. God always made a way of escape: God knows how to protect His own