



## INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

### THE OFFENSE OF CHRIST

#### PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

Jesus had told Paul, when he first believed, that he would take the gospel before kings. Finally, after a prolonged imprisonment without cause, he speaks before King Agrippa.

His message is simple. He tells of the hope of which the prophets spoke. He addresses the hope which drives worship among all the Jews. This hope is the resurrection. Jesus' death and resurrection had not taken place in a back corner somewhere. It was well known and attested to throughout the land. The king himself knew of it. Paul states that this long awaited hope, promised by God to their ancestors, has now occurred. His clear witness to this hope is the sole reason he is behind bars.

He presents the gospel with such clarity that even the king is moved. The prophets had foretold that the Messiah would come, suffer, and rise from the dead. The Messiah calls people to repent and turn to God. True repentance produces a changed life. The Messiah offers complete forgiveness of sins and acceptance before God through faith in Jesus.

As you read, consider the simple truth of the gospel. Thank God for the complete forgiveness that is offered in Jesus. Can you take these foundational gospel truths and share them with others as Paul did?

#### READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Acts 25:13 – 26:32

#### How should we live when life doesn't make sense?

Live by faith, especially when life doesn't make sense.

Faith makes sense when life doesn't.

#### Our faith is in Jesus, not our circumstances!

**That was Paul's message in the middle of the storm and in the middle of the silence.**

#### He spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. (24:24)

Faith – certainty of what we do not see.

Christ – Messiah (Chosen One, Anointed One, Savior)

Jesus – Not a 'generic' god. The Romans had many of them. JESUS

#### I. The good news (gospel) of salvation is rooted in truth. (24:25)

##### 1. Righteousness

The truth about man's condition and Jesus' perfection.

##### 2. Self-control

The truth about moral imperatives that we all fail to keep.

##### 2. Judgment

The truth about future judgment.

#### II. The good news (gospel) gives us hope. (24:14-15)

Compare Paul's hope (24:15) with Felix's hope (24:26).

Paul confesses his faith, his allegiance to and hope in Jesus. It is all because of the resurrection.

#### When life seems to be put on hold, how do we live?

We live in hope that stretches far beyond the momentary emptiness and challenges of this life, because of the resurrection.

#### How does this apply to me?

