

“ALMOST PERSUADED”

Acts 26:19-29

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INTRODUCTION

Undoubtedly we are all familiar with the hymn “Almost Persuaded”. And most of us have likely heard several sermons based on this passage warning unbelievers who come so close to faith in Christ of the dangers of rejection of the opportunity they have.

Unfortunately, the text does not really support the idea that Agrippa came that close to faith in Christ. However he did have a significant opportunity and he wasted it – as did many before him. His pride, his passions, his pretentious power, and his powerful friends all likely contributed to his postponement and rejection of the Christian faith.

In this passage we see three kinds of men: the man of passionate faith, the man of skeptical doubt, and the man of puzzling questions.

- I. Paul: THE MAN OF PASSIONATE FAITH (19-23)
 - A. His Obedience To Heaven (19)
 - B. His Faithful Proclamation of Gospel Truth (20)
 - C. His Capture By His Enemies (21)
 - D. His Adherence To the Authority of Scripture (22-23)
 1. He gives Gospel truth to all persons in society (“small and great”).
 2. He limits his message to the teachings of the prophets and Moses.
 3. He focuses his message on the person of Jesus Christ – His sufferings, His resurrection, his giving light to both Jews and Gentiles.
- II. Festus: THE MAN OF SKEPTICAL DOUBT (24-25)
 - A. His rude and loud interruption (24)
 - B. His accusation of madness-- due to too much academic work
 - C. Paul’s words of sober truth (25)
- III. Agrippa: THE MAN OF PUZZLING QUESTIONS (26-29)
 - A. Agrippa’s clear knowledge of the facts of Christianity (26)
 - B. Agrippa’s relation to the prophets (27)
 - C. Agrippa’s polite but ironic reply: “With a little effort you are trying to persuade me to act the Christian.” (28)
 - D. Agrippa’s need along with all others who hear the word – become as Paul is, but without the chains. (29)

CONCLUSION

We have no evidence that Agrippa ever became a Christian – every indication is that he did not.

Many persons have followed his lead putting off personal accountability.

What will you do with this Jesus who is called Christ?