

Week 23 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is the best dessert or candy ever created?

Acts 22 ~ Acts 23 ~ Acts 24 ~ Acts 25 ~ Acts 26

1. When Paul gives his defense in Acts 22, what do you think his motive is? When we find ourselves being defensive what are some of our motives? What can we learn from Paul?
2. Some people have a sudden, dramatic testimony of salvation like Paul, while others have a testimony of growing up and believing in Jesus at early age. Is one testimony more “powerful”? Why or why not? What is your testimony? How does God use our testimonies to save others?
3. Why do you think they interrupted Paul’s testimony when they did (Acts 22:22)? Paul avoids a flogging at this point by exerting his rights as a Roman citizen. How does this example help us think through the role of government today?
4. God tells Paul “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome” (Acts 23:11). How is Christian witnessing simply “telling the facts” about God? Why do we need the Lord’s exhortation to “take courage”?
5. In Acts 23:13 Paul has 40 people making a pact together to find and kill him. How does Paul’s suffering for Jesus put our own suffering in perspective?
6. Paul says in Acts 24:16 “I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.” What does it mean to have a “clear conscience”? How do you maintain a “clear conscience”?
7. Governor Felix seemingly has an interest in hearing the Gospel and is alarmed (Acts 24:24-25). When have you seen someone seem to understand the Gospel but yet fail to submit to Jesus as Lord and Savior? How do you think Paul was feeling when Felix left him in prison for two years? (Acts 24:27) What doubts, fears, regrets, or worries might he have encountered?
8. When Paul meets King Agrippa (Acts 26) what does he water do? Does he try to smooth things over in a way to benefit himself? How does Paul’s example encourage your faith?
9. How does Festus reply to Paul’s witnessing? (Acts 26:24). How do people in our culture today similarly mock Christian beliefs?
10. What do you think about Paul’s response to King Agrippa in Acts 26:29? How should this be our motive for everyone we encounter?

More questions at: www.southfork.church/2022-discussion-questions

10 Steps to Have & Maintain a Good & Clear Conscience

Acts 24:16

Conscience: conformity to what one considers to be correct, right, or morally good

1. R_____ Christ as Lord & Savior The Lost Have a D_____ Conscience

- Romans 2:14–16 “For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. [15] They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them”
- Titus 1:15–16 “To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. [16] They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.”

The Lost Have a S_____ Conscience “their conflicting thoughts”

- Romans 1:19–23 “For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. [20] For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. [21] For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. [22] Claiming to be wise, they became fools, [23] and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images...”
- Romans 1:32 “Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”

2. Put In the Hard, Humble W_____ for a Good & Clear Conscience

- Are you willing to be proactive & purposeful in maintaining a clear conscience?
- Acts 23:1 “And looking intently at the council, Paul said, ‘Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day.’”
- Acts 24:16 “So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.”

3. Know - Understand and Believe the Scriptures

- Is there a topic I need to research biblically?
- Do I have doubts that I need to confront with truth?
- Psalm 119:9–11 “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. [10] With my whole heart I seek you... I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”

4. _____ - Obey the Scriptures

- Is there an area where I am intentionally ignoring biblical truths or justifying my opinions or behaviors?
- James 1:22 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

5. Self-Evaluate - Honestly A_____ Where You Are Sinning?

- Acts of Commission - Am I doing something I shouldn't?
- Acts of Omission - Am I failing to do something I should?
- Lamentations 3:39–40 “Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins? [40] Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the LORD!”

6. Get Godly F_____

- Who knows you at your best and worst? What would they say?
- Who is a godly friend from whom you could seek counsel?
- Proverbs 15:22 “Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.”

7. Correct - Confess When Wrong, To God & Others

- Who do I need to confess my sin specifically to?
- Who do I need to ask for forgiveness from?
- Who do I need to be forgiving towards?
- www.trustworthyword.com/forgiveness
- Understand Not Everyone Will Forgive or Show Mercy or Grace - Romans 12:18 “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

8. C_____ - Take Practical Steps to Avoid Future Sin

- How have I been tempted before?
- What priorities or relationships need to change?
- What protections and boundaries should be emplaced?
- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-sin

9. Resist Satan's Deceiving, Accusing, and Condemning Attacks Regarding Forgiven Sin

- Genesis 3:1 “Did God actually say...?”
- Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
- 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

10. Press Forward In F_____

- Philippians 3:13 “one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead”
- Galatians 5:1 “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

This Next Week's New Testament Reading Plan:

Week 24: Acts 27 & 28 ~ Romans 1, 2, & 3

- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo
- **Our Plan:** www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan

10 Steps to Have & Maintain a Good & Clear Conscience

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1. Receive Christ as Lord & Savior

The Lost Have a Defiled Conscience

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The Lost Have a Suppressed Conscience

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