

Almost Persuaded

Introduction

1. The account of the Apostle Paul's conversation with king Agrippa is one that has been discussed for ages.
 - A. There are things for us to consider as we read and examine this important passage of scripture.
Acts 26:24-32
2. In verse 28 it says: "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."
 - **AGRIPPA**
 - Could not deny that he believed the prophets.
 - Could not deny the strong argument that the prophecies were fulfilled with Christ.
 - Could not deny the miraculous conversion of Paul himself.
 - He was a Jew
 - He had no particular hostilities toward Christians.
 - **He was so near** – yet like thousands of others he refused to allow the full conviction of truth to penetrate his mind.
 - As far as we know, Agrippa died in his sins. Lost forever. This did not have to be the case. He chose his own fate.

Paul's Persuasion of Agrippa

1. What was Paul persuading Agrippa to become or do?

A. He was persuading him to become a Christian

1) The Lord's people are called Christians.

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. **And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.**

2) The Lord's people are born into his family.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**"

3) We are baptized into Christ.

Galatians 3:26-27

Romans 6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

a. The purpose of baptism is to have our sins forgiven and to be saved.

Mark 16:16

Acts 2:38; 22:16

2. God is wanting to save every soul

John 3:16-17

Persuaded to Become a Christian

1. **Paul desperately wanted Agrippa to become a Christian. This is why Agrippa needed to become a Christian:**

A. Because of the terror of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:11 **Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord**, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

1) **We have seen the terror of the Lord in the flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, and Jerusalem's destruction.**

a. **In addition, we see it in other ways also:**

Romans 1:27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and **receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.**

Luke 12:4-5 And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: **Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!**

B. In order to gain eternal life with God.

Revelation 21:1-4

C. Because of gratitude shown to God.

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and **sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

1 John 4:19 We love Him **because He first loved us.**

What Kept Agrippa from Becoming a Christian?

1. The answer to this question would be speculation. We are not told why he did not become a Christian. However, some reasons why many today do not become Christians could be why he did not.

A. The love of the world.

1 John 2:15-17

1) Perhaps he did not want to go against the majority.

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

B. Procrastination.

1) Many today simply procrastinate. Putting it off - like Felix did.

Acts 24:25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

Joshua 24:15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Almost is Not Enough

1. We sing the song from time to time entitled “Almost Persuaded.” It makes mention that “almost is but to fail.” And so it is...
 - A. The Rich Young Ruler – Priorities
Mark 10:17-22
 - B. The Foolish Virgins – Not Prepared.
Matthew 25:1-13

Conclusion

1. We are not promised tomorrow or any other time. We only this moment. God is pleading with us now. Jesus is inviting you now.

Matthew 11:28-30 **Come to Me**, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

2. Please! Do not be like Agrippa – Almost Persuaded.
 - A. Almost – But Lost!

