

Acts 23: Wisdom and Protection of the Lord

I. Paul Defends Himself (vv. 1–10)

- A. In all good conscience: In a world which denies God, conscience is bankrupt, has lost its value, can no longer be a protection
 - 1. Being struck
 - 2. Condemned in heart because of rebuking the high priest
- B. According to wisdom — Paul perceiving ...
 - 1. “I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee” (v. 6)
 - 2. Caused dissension and division — the result of natural wisdom

II. The Lord’s Direction — Speaking in His Presence (v. 11)

- A. “Take courage!”
 - 1. Don’t lose heart
 - 2. Don’t use your own hand
 - 3. Everything shall be accomplished according to the Lord’s will
- B. Witness for the Lord at Rome: The guideline for the saints’ life is neither conscience nor wisdom; rather it is a higher law and principle — the inner direction from the Lord

III. The Jews’ Deep Hatred (vv. 12–22)

- A. Binding themselves under an oath, the Jews formed a conspiracy to kill Paul
- B. The scheme was exposed — the Lord’s hand protected all things in secret

IV. The Commander’s Protection and Description (vv. 23–35)

- A. Sent Paul with soldiers to the governor
- B. Because Paul was a Roman citizen — every arrangement by the Lord is good
- C. Under no accusation deserving death or imprisonment