

Title: "True and Rational Words" (Part 1)
Text: Acts 26:1-32
Date: September 6, 2026

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Big Idea

Christians are called to be ambassadors for Christ in this life (cf. 2 Cor. 5:20). We're to reach others with the gospel that's reached us. But a lot of times we don't know how to do it. We can learn a lot by watching the Apostle Paul. Here in Acts 26 we see that he shares his faith in a way that is both *personal* and *biblical*.

Preliminary Observations

"Observation #1: Paul Begs the King for Patience

Paul can ask Herod to "listen to me patiently" (v. 3) because he knows the Christian faith will stand up to scrutiny. He's not trying to pressure people into quick decisions. This is not a sales pitch or a magic trick or some con. He's fully confident that if you give it time, if you listen patiently, you'll see: these are "true and rational words" (v. 25).

Observation #2: Paul Tailors His Message for Relevance

Paul doesn't say everything that could be said in his little speech to these Festus and Agrippa. He brings out and emphasizes those things that are particularly relevant for the people he's trying to reach.

So often, in our evangelism, we're trying to answer questions the people in front of us aren't really asking. All roads lead to the gospel if you know where to look. So, instead of forcing people to get on your road and walk with you, get on their road and walk with them. Everyone's looking for Jesus whether they realize it or not. Your job and joy is to help them see it, to see *him*!

Layer #1: Personal

Jesus isn't merely some idea to Paul. He's not just providing some rational set of proofs here, though, as we'll see, he does do some of that. But when he does it, he does it in the context of talking about

how Jesus has met *him*, how Jesus has saved *him*. Our faith is not merely intellectual, historical, factual, logical . . . it's deeply personal. And that's important! People don't just want to hear the truth from you, they want to see the truth at work in you.

In light of this, I suppose we could say, then, that effective evangelism actually begins with evangelizing yourself—making sure your own soul is in touch with the gospel. You have to be reached by Jesus, before you can reach others for Jesus.

Layer #2: Biblical (vv. 6-7, 22-23, 27)

The Bible is composed of 66 books of various genres, written over a 1500 year span, in 3 different languages, on 3 continents, by more than 40 different authors, coming from various walks of life, with different backgrounds, different skillsets, different personality types . . . and yet they're all ultimately telling one story: and it's a story that culminates and climaxes in the person and work of Jesus Christ!

As I see it, the fact that all these authors are ultimately telling one story is evidence to the fact that there really is ultimately one Author over them all and in them all: namely, God. In other words, the Bible's *unity* is evidence of its *divinity*!

So Paul is saying that, while this is personal for him, it's not just personal. It's also biblical. And, because it's biblical, it's something God is trying to communicate to the world. You need Jesus. You need the gospel!



Reflection Questions

- What keeps you from sharing your faith with others sometimes? What do you learn from Paul's example here in Acts 26?
- Think of a person in your life that you'd hope to see reached with the gospel. What are they looking for? What are they struggling with? What questions are they asking? How might you meet them on the road they're traveling down and walk with them towards Jesus from there?

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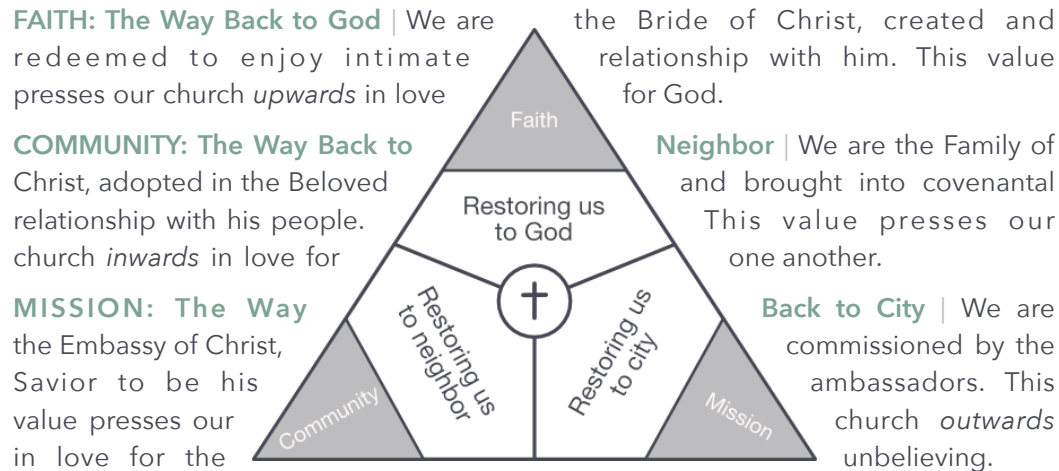


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Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



Mail: PO Box 23806, San Jose, CA 95153
Phone: (408) 320-7080
Email: info@mercyhillchurch.org
Web: mercyhillchurch.org



Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

Fall Kickoff!

Throughout the next few weeks (beginning Sunday, August 30th), we will be encouraging you to consider ways you might **plug in** (e.g. via Home Groups, DNA Groups, etc.) and **pour out** (e.g. serving on a team, etc.). We're not doing this to pressure or manipulate you. We're not trying to make your full schedule even more overloaded than it already is. We're after your flourishing and your joy. We truly believe that if we want to be healthy followers of Jesus (and healthy humans for that matter) our meaningful involvement in a local church is not an option. It's essential. We trust you believe that as well. In light of this, here are a few things you can look forward to in the weeks ahead:

- On Sunday, August 30th, one of our pastors will deliver a special message revisiting the mission of Mercy Hill.
- Throughout the weeks, we will be sharing stories and spotlighting different ways you can plug in and pour out.
- We have created a Fall Kickoff Follow-Up Form that we are encouraging everyone to fill out. We'd be so appreciative if you would!

Thanks already for your meaningful participation in our church family. Here's to even more!

To learn more, scan the QR code below.

All Church Hangout - Today!

All Church Prayer - Tonight!

Covenant Membership Class - Open Registration!

Scan the QR code below for more info and clickable content!

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