

Recap of 9/4/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 26:12-32

1. Paul describes unbelievers in vs. 18 as those who are trapped in the darkness of sin (the darkness of selfishness, wrong motives, wrong priorities, wrong actions) and under the power of Satan who is the destroyer.
2. Faith in Jesus Christ brings a person into the light, frees them from the power of Satan, brings pardon from sin (the cancellation of the debt of sin) and a new status, by faith, set apart to God, positionally perfect in Christ (Colossians 1:12-14).
3. "Lost sinners are in spiritual darkness and only Christ can give them light." (Wiersbe)
4. "None more firmly than Paul rejected works, before or after conversion, as a ground of salvation; none more firmly demanded good works as a consequence of salvation." (G. H. Lang)
5. Both Jews and Gentiles alike needed to repent [meaning "to change one's mind, they are rejecting the risen Savior, God's only provision for sin and righteousness] and turn to God. They should do works in keeping with their new position.
6. Paul's message emphasizes the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies (such as Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22). Jesus suffered and paid the penalty for our sins, and is the first to rise from the dead ("first fruits, 1 Corinthians 15:20; "firstborn from among the dead", Colossians 1:18).
7. Paul's life changed dramatically, a change that can only be explained by his Damascus Road experience, where he saw and heard the risen Christ.
8. Festus responds to Paul message by calling him mad.
 - "But the Festuses of this world need to answer one question. If belief in a resurrection is mad, what have they to lose by trusting Christ? If belief in a resurrection is not mad, what have they to gain?" (Richards)
 - You can pursue wealth and position and fame with all that's in you and the world will not think you mad—they will envy you, imitate you, emulate you, honor you. But share the gospel and you are considered mad, simple, uneducated, intolerant.