



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Living with “He Is Risen Indeed” Peace April 8th, 2018

(Acts 26:19-29)

¹⁹ “So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. ²⁰ First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds. ²¹ That is why the Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. ²² But I have had God’s help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— ²³ that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

²⁴ At this point Festus interrupted Paul’s defense. “You are out of your mind, Paul!” he shouted. “Your great learning is driving you insane.”

²⁵ “I am not insane, most excellent Festus,” Paul replied. “What I am saying is true and reasonable. ²⁶ The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.”

²⁸ Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

²⁹ Paul replied, “Short time or long—I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.”

1. Reflect on the emotions and peace you felt on Easter Sunday, compared to your emotions and peace on Easter Monday, and throughout this past week. Did you find that you were more at peace on Easter Sunday than the days after? Why do you think that is?
2. Looking at Paul’s words to Festus and Agrippa in vs. 19-26, put together a list of at least four reasons that Paul could be completely confident in his message of the Risen Savior.
3. If someone was a casual observer to this “trial,” who do you think they would assume had peace in their lives—Paul, or Festus and Agrippa? How is the reality different than the appearance? Why can the reality of our peace in Christ always be constant, even when appearance might say the opposite?
4. What are some different sources of “peace” that people pursue in their lives? Are all of those things bad in and of themselves? What might make those good things become bad things? Ultimately, why does every earthly source of peace fail to measure up to the resurrection peace that is ours in Christ?
5. Paul had backed Herod Agrippa into a corner. Either, he had to deny Moses and the Prophets, which would have angered his Jewish constituents, or he would have had to acknowledge that Jesus’ death and resurrection was the fulfillment of that prophecy, thus making him the Christ. How does Agrippa get out of it? Why do you think he was unwilling to admit to the clear evidence that Paul was giving him?
6. Brainstorm some ways that you can daily keep the peace-giving Easter promise, “He is risen indeed!” before your eyes, to help you find peace in every day struggles. Share your ideas with each other, then put some into practice!