

ACTS CH 22 – PAUL’S DEFENSE BEFORE THE JEWS

22:1-21 – Paul addresses the mob

- Paul was likely speaking Aramaic, which was the common language of the Hebrew people
- “Paul was always sensitive to his audience but never willing to compromise the gospel.”
- “Acts 9:7 says that Paul’s traveling companions heard the voice but did not see anyone, but here Paul himself said that they did not hear the voice of the One who was speaking to him. The grammar here supports the idea that Paul’s traveling companions may have heard the voice but did not understand it.”

22:22-29 – Paul flexes his citizenship before the tribune

- The crowd despise Paul’s inclusion of the gentiles so much that they set out to murder him right then and there. The last time we saw a group of angry men take of their cloaks, Stephen was martyred (Acts 7:58)
- Roman law forbade the punishment of a Roman citizen before a trial
- V28 – “In the first century, a number of different ways for gaining citizenship were opened up, including the payment of large bribes to appropriate officials (equal to as much as a year’s wages), the emancipation of slaves, and the granting of citizenship to entire cities. Other means included people performing honorable or meritorious service for the empire.”

“Are we Christians all to use opportunities and advantages provided us by our place in society? If so, how are we to use them? Are there any principles that might guide our use? When are we not to use them?”

- Revelation 21:1-2 – A new heaven, a new Earth, one city – Jerusalem
- The *only* city mentioned in the new heaven and new earth is Jerusalem.
- Kristen Gilles, *First and Foremost Citizens of Heaven*, “We must not idolize our nation or forget the multinational character of the body of Christ. He has ransomed his church from every nation, tribe, and tongue. Rather than boast in our national pride, let us boast in Christ alone.”

- Erik Raymond “As Christians our platform is not a politician, a party or an issue, it is the gospel.”

God’s Expectations for Christians – Dual Citizenship

- Matthew 22:15-22- They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” Then He *said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.”
 - The coin carries Caesar’s image, and with it our obligation to country
 - We carry God’s image, and with it our duty to heaven
- Romans 13:1-7 – Be subject to earthly authority.
- Russell Moore - president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. Article - *Should Christians Fight for the Religious Liberties of False Religions?*
- Jennifer Marshall. Article – *The Christian Calling to Citizenship*
- Seek the good of the City – Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7, 10

Our allegiance to God and our heavenly citizenship should never be superseded by our allegiance to country. Acts 5:29, “We must obey God rather than men.”

However, as dual citizens it is our duty to be subject to earthly authority

- Philippians 3:17-21
- Hebrews 13:14
- 1 Peter 2:9-25
- 1 Corinthians 5:17-21
- Titus 3:1-8
- Micah 6:8
- 1 Timothy 1:5

Why this matters – as ambassadors for God’s kingdom, everything we do and say has an eternal impact on the lives of people around us.