

Acts # 80

“Speaking Boldly Will Get You Publicly Maligned” *Acts 19:8-10; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:1-8*

**So, Paul makes his case for the Lord Jesus Christ; not with coercion or flattery or salesmanship but by convincingly appealing to their free-will.**

Effective witnessing is simply providing accurate Gospel information that people need to make a decision to believe on Jesus Christ; so it's an appeal to their minds to decide for themselves.

*Paul knew biblical truth well and when you know the Word of God, it produces confidence in you.*

There is no more important expression of a more important function in life than the phrase: ‘*We know*’ in reference to God’s plan for our lives.

**Our bodies are shells or tents and inside, lives the real you, comprised of your soul and spirit.**

And we keep on groaning because in addition to the pressures that come from pain in the body, loss of health through disease, there are pressures placed upon our souls.

*Within our self-consciousness, we're prone to be arrogant or develop self-pity; our mentality can be plagued with mental attitude sins; our free-will can make decisions that are not in line with God's plan; our emotion can rob us of intimacy with God, our spouse or anyone else and our conscience can adopt the ever-present human viewpoint standards of our environment.*

**Mortality refers to Paul's human body which dies and inside of the body, it's the soul which is immortal.**

The body is mortal, limited, subject to death; immortality is not subject to death.

*Mortality is the human body; life is the resurrection body and the key phrase here is: ‘swallowed up’ which literally means gulped down; so what Paul wants to do is gulp down his resurrection body and that's what will happen to believers on earth at the time of the Rapture!*

‘We are always confident’ means we have absolute total assurance in our minds; meaning that our minds are unshakeable whether we're facing disaster or enjoying prosperity, we are mentally stable.

**Because of having biblical truth in his soul, Paul can confidently argue persuasively from a reasonable premise using logic and ‘*persuasively*’ literally means to influence by presenting correct information and here it means to present the Word of God; so it's not that Paul simply used logic as a professional debater would, he used the Bible as any prepared Christian would.**

From the biblical truth we have stored in our souls, we use the only logic which has the power to save.

*In Romans 1:16, it's the Gospel which is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes; it's not*

*the persuasive speech of the one preaching it.*

**They began to slander ‘The Way’ a term they used to describe Christianity.**

Not only did Paul very clearly preach the Gospel but he went on to do his best to persuade these people and that still wasn't enough for their hardened hearts.

*They actively reviled or abused it by using offensive language when referring to ‘The Way’; a reference to the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Way of salvation.*

Proper communication of the Word demands separation from religion, so sooner or later, we must steer clear of people in apostate denominations who desire to influence others with their false doctrine.

**And what if you're ridiculed, slandered or maligned?**

**Matthew 5:11-12**

**"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in Heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."**