

Acts # 88

**“A Defensive Testimony Leads To
A Very Poor Reception”**

Acts 21:37-22:2

In our context, Paul’s been warned over and over that he’s going to be abused, opposed, persecuted, arrested and imprisoned when he goes to Jerusalem but his focus on his mission that God gave him was unstoppable.

Paul lived each day with one purpose in mind and that was to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ and always even though in many instances they hated him and wanted to rid the earth of him, his message went to the Jew first and then after switching gears somewhat, primarily to the Gentiles.

Say what you will about the apostle Paul but he was courageous under the most intense pressure imaginable.

Please let me speak to the people is a polite request indicating that Paul is ever-mindful of the Tribune’s position of authority.

This shows that Paul and the Tribune, two great men are both objective under pressure. *Paul is poised under fire, which is to be expected because he has a tremendous amount of biblical truth circulating in his frame of reference.*

And from the unbelieving Tribune’s perspective, this shows that when God’s ordained laws are followed by anyone, it produces unusual people with great leadership qualities and capacity.

The Tribune represents everything good about the Roman Empire because he is calm, relaxed and objective, so he will investigate before he makes his next decision based on the facts of the case.

Arrogance creates hang-ups in the soul which become a source of false motivation in life.

These hang-ups which produce a reaction of mental attitude sins and evil place the rebellious believer directly under the command of Satan and it’s their false motivation that puts them under his policy.

Then, even the smallest pressure creates a trigger mechanism which fires off the entire range of other mental attitude sins like jealousy, bitterness and vindictiveness.

Not only is Paul happy now but his happiness will continue to be intensified in the future.

And it will continue regardless of any personal circumstances or catastrophes in history. *Biblical truth in his soul is the basis for Paul’s happiness, not the false or true motivation of others.*

So, Paul’s ministry and happiness will both continue since they don’t depend on what

others do.

Even catastrophe and disaster in history cannot change the blessings or happiness of the mature believer.

Happiness belongs to the person with no hang-ups in the soul, that is no hypersensitivity.