

## Paul Confronts the Council

Acts 22: 30~23:35 [ESV]

<sup>30</sup> But on the next day, desiring to know the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them.

<sup>23:1</sup> And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day." <sup>2</sup> And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. <sup>3</sup> Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?" <sup>4</sup> Those who stood by said, "Would you revile God's high priest?" <sup>5</sup> And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"

<sup>6</sup> Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial." <sup>7</sup> And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. <sup>8</sup> For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. <sup>9</sup> Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?" <sup>10</sup> And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks.

<sup>11</sup> The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."

<sup>12</sup> When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. <sup>13</sup> There were more than forty who made this conspiracy. <sup>14</sup> They went to the chief priests and elders and said, "We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food till we have killed Paul. <sup>15</sup> Now therefore you, along with the council, give notice to the tribune to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case more exactly. And we are ready to kill him before he comes near."

<sup>16</sup> Now the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, so he went and entered the barracks and told Paul. <sup>17</sup> Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to tell him." <sup>18</sup> So he took him and brought him to the tribune and said, "Paul the prisoner called me and asked me to bring this young man to you, as he has something to say to you." <sup>19</sup> The tribune took him by the hand, and going aside asked him privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?" <sup>20</sup> And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire somewhat more closely about him. <sup>21</sup> But do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him, who have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they have killed him. And now they are ready, waiting for your consent." <sup>22</sup> So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging him, "Tell no one that you have informed me of these things."

<sup>23</sup> Then he called two of the centurions and said, "Get ready two hundred soldiers, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go as far as Caesarea at the third hour of the night. <sup>24</sup> Also provide mounts for Paul to ride and bring him safely to Felix the governor." <sup>25</sup> And he wrote a letter to this effect:

<sup>26</sup> "Claudius Lysias, to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings. <sup>27</sup> This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them when I came upon them with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman citizen. <sup>28</sup> And desiring to know the charge for which they were accusing

him, I brought him down to their council. <sup>29</sup> I found that he was being accused about questions of their law, but charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment. <sup>30</sup> And when it was disclosed to me that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him."

<sup>31</sup> So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. <sup>32</sup> And on the next day they returned to the barracks, letting the horsemen go on with him. <sup>33</sup> When they had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him. <sup>34</sup> On reading the letter, he asked what province he was from. And when he learned that he was from Cilicia, <sup>35</sup> he said, "I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive." And he commanded him to be guarded in Herod's praetorium.

### ■ Understanding the Scripture

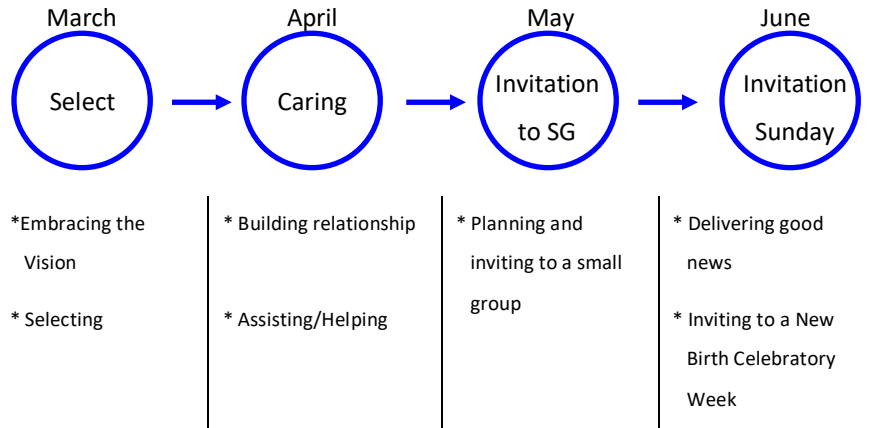
1. Paul was interrogated by Council. What is the name of the high priest at that time? Why was Paul interrogated by the Council?
2. At the time, the Council consisted of Pharisees and Sadducees, and there were theological differences between these two groups. Let's figure out these differences. [v.7~8]
3. Briefly explain strategy that Paul used during the interrogation.
4. How many people avowed to kill Paul?
5. Paul's relative had been living in Jerusalem. Who was he/she? [v.16]
6. Let us verify what tribune did to protect Paul. Share your thought and feeling about this.
7. Who was the Roman Governor who presided over this region at the time and where did he/she live?
8. Where did Paul stay when he came to Caesarea? [v.35]

### ■ Discussion Points

1. While defending himself in front of Council, Paul insisted by saying "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day." Please share your thoughts on Paul's proclamation. Also discuss how this could be applied in your life.
2. From Acts 23 up to Acts 28, the last chapter of the book, the main theme is "the Gospel's unstoppable advancement." In today's Scripture, there are many events that help to foil the conspiracy to kill Paul by 40-person alliance. In today's world, how shall we interpret and apply what we learned from "the unstoppable advancement of Gospel"?

## Guide for "Small Group Giving Birth to a Life"

Following the vision of "One New Person" in 2017, each small group is progressing in Giving Birth movement.



The main focus of May small group gathering is "inviting to a small group". Please refer to the guide below for planning.

1. Prior to an invitation to your small group, please meet the invitee with another person in your group. If invitee knows one more person in your group, he/she will feel closer.
2. Choose a time and place so that an invitee chosen as "One Life" will feel most comfortable.
3. Consider invitee's gender, age, and interest when planning a small group. You can also hold a specially designed small group gathering in addition a regular one.
4. Make every effort to make a good first impression. Radiant smiles and kindness always make people comfortable. It will be good to prepare a small gift also.
5. After the meeting, please pay attention to the candidate on an ongoing basis. It is more important to continue caring for the invitee after the meeting than the meeting itself.

According to the statistics from the study of evangelism, the success rate of evangelized people who are connected to a small group is much higher than those who are not. Let all small groups be blessed by demonstrating life so that they can bear fruit of One Life in 2017.

May 2017 First Meeting

## One Heart New Man

[한 새사람을 이루자]

### 'Paul Confronts the Council'

Acts 22:30~23:35

#### Announcements

1. 2017 Chodae Church slogan is 'One Heart New Man' [한 새사람을 이루자.]
2. Please follow the program guideline below during your small group meeting:  
2- 3 Praise Songs / Representative Prayer / Scripture Reading / Video Watching / Group discussion
3. Community Bible Verse Memorization and Special Song schedule is as follows:  
\* Community 23- (4/28), Community 24- (5/5), Community 20- (5/12)
4. May Small Group Leaders Training:  
\* Sunday, May 28, 3:15 pm @3<sup>rd</sup> floor Worship Room
5. Family Oriented Small Group Training  
\* Saturday, May 13, 9:00 am @2<sup>nd</sup> floor Classroom
6. Please be sure to submit a small group report via online after each Small Group meeting
7. The second Small Group study guide will be available on the second Sunday of every month in the church lobby.
8. Please participate in the program "If You Love, You Evangelize" in which a Small Group will give a birth.
9. Please pray for the new senior pastor search and the construction of the Education Building.