

Answers to Sermon Notes

“The Terms of Our Testimony, Part III: Trusting in His Sovereign Care”

Acts 23:10-35

1/16/22

1. Are you **afraid** to testify?
 - a. Do you **fear** what testifying to the truths of Christ might **mean** for you?
 - b. Do you secretly wish that God would **spare you** from having to testify in any significant way?
 - c. The truths before us this morning are designed by God to **take away** those thoughts and fears.
2. Looking to Paul as our **example** as he engages in this ongoing formal testimony we have seen:
 - a. That our testimony is **founded** on testifying to the personal transformation we have experienced through a **saving** encounter with the risen Christ.
 - b. That we must be **intent** on testifying within proper boundaries:
 - a. Proper **Legal** Boundaries
 - b. Proper **Behavioral** Boundaries
 - c. Proper **Creative** Boundaries
3. This morning we see that our testifying must also be done while **trusting** fully in God’s sovereign **care**.
 - a. As we do so we want to look at **three aspects** of this.
 - a. Just **what is this**, “sovereign care of God,” that we are to trust in as we testify?
 - b. What does it **look like** for us to actively trust in it?
 - c. What are the **results** of trusting in the sovereign care of God as we testify?
4. What is this, “**sovereign care** of God,” that we are to trust in as we testify?
 - a. God is sovereign over (**in control** of) all things. (Eph. 1:11, Dan. 4:35, Prov. 16:9)
 - b. God **uses** his control of all things to **care** for his own. (Ps. 139:1-17, Rom. 8:28-30)
 - a. He is sovereign over both the **macro** plan and every **micro** plan. (Mt. 10:26-33)
 - c. Given that at the heart of our recreated **purpose** in this world is to testify, God has prepared a **specific** plan for how he will use the testimony of each believer. (vs. 11, Jn 21:18-22)
 - a. Each call to testify is a **divine** appointment.
 - b. And intended to be a **specific** part of his sovereign, unfolding **plan**.
 - d. Because God is sovereign the plan is **certain**, and he will provide all that is **needed** in order to accomplish it.
 - a. Some possible **questions**:
 - i. How can the plan for my testimony be certain when I am so **uncertain**?
 - ii. How can the plan for my testimony be certain without making me a **robot**?
 - iii. How can the plan for my testimony be certain and my choices still be **necessary**?
 - a. Divine **Concurrence**: “Both God and man **acting** at the same time so that the Lord’s **plan** is fulfilled and our choices are really and truly **our own**.”
 - i. All past failures his plan has already **allowed** for.
 1. Which includes **forgiveness** for the **repentant**.
 - ii. All future **successes** he is preparing you for.
 1. Through things like **this sermon**.

5. What does it look like to **actively** trust in it?
 - a. It looks like the rest of our 4-part plan for living out the **will** of **God**.
 - a. **Trust** in His Sovereignty.
 - i. This is the **foundation**, and what we have already covered above.
 - b. **Know** your responsibilities.
 - i. This refers here to what we **covered** in Parts I and II of this series.
 - a. That the foundation of our testimony is the testimony we give of the **personal** transformation we have experienced in our **saving** encounter with the risen Christ.
 - b. And that all of our testifying needs to be done within **proper** boundaries.
 - c. **Look** for opportunities. (vs. 12-16)
 - i. As we trust the sovereign care of God we know that he will sovereignly bring the **provisions** that we will **need**.
 - a. He does this here for Paul by bringing to him the **news** of this **conspiracy**.
 - ii. Part of trusting his sovereign care is **embracing** the opportunities he brings.
 - a. The **Drowning** Man Joke.
 - d. **Walk** by faith. (vs. 17)
 - i. Taking **action** regarding what God has provided.- 6. What are the **results** of trusting in this sovereign care of God as we testify?
 - a. **Courage**. (vs. 11)
 - a. No matter what happens, as we are faithful, **God wins**.
 - b. We can begin the **victory dance** as soon as we begin our testimony.
 - b. His plan coming **to pass**.
 - a. As we have **faith**, embracing his divine appointments and all other things he provides, his purposes are **sure** to be achieved.
 - b. This is why we note this morning that our testifying **must** be done while **trusting** in his sovereign care.
- 7. There is no reason to **fear**.
 - a. God has **purposed** for you to testify in specific important ways.
 - b. And to share the **victory** and **glory** with you, his child.
- 8. So take **courage**, and go **forward** to testify.