

Bereans Bible Institute
Module VII – The Apostolic Mission
Lesson 31 – The Ministry of the 12th Apostle – Paul (Part 18)

I. Review

A. Acts 7:55 – 8:1 Rage against Steven (including Paul) when he testified that he saw Jesus at the Father's right hand (Ps. 110:1).

B. Acts 22:17-22 Rage against Paul when he testified to having heard and seen Jesus speaking to him from heaven. (Psalm 110:1)

II. Vss. 23-30 Paul's rights as a Roman citizen (born in the Roman city of Tarsus of Jewish parents – Acts 21:39, 22:3).

A. Acts 16:35-40 at Philippi Paul also exercised his Roman citizenship rights.

III. Acts 23:1-10 Paul allowed to face his accusers under Roman law.

A. Vs. 1

1. Paul looking earnestly at the council

2. "men and brothers"

3. Paul's conscience was clean

B. Vs. 2 "Paul struck in the mouth"

1. **Matt. 26:63-68** Jesus similarly mistreated for referencing **Psalm 110:1** & **Dan. 7:13-14**

C. Vs. 3 Paul points out the hypocrisy of the council

D. Vs. 4-5 Paul apologizes for his ignorance (cf. Steven – **Acts 7:1, 51-53**)

E. Vs. 6-10 Paul divided the Sanhedrin (consisting of Levites) along theological lines

1. Sadducees were the 'ruling class' (including the chief priest) who had achieved a political status from Maccabean (Hasmonean dynasty) through intermarriage of aristocracy.

a. Objected to Jesus' 'resurrection' on theological principle (no afterlife, no judgment, no resurrection).

2. Pharisees were the common 'Levites:' Josephus falsely claimed that the Pharisees believed in the "immortality of the soul" and in 'reincarnation.' However, the Jewish Encyclopedia states: "*No true estimate of the character of the Pharisees can be obtained from ... Josephus, who, writing for Roman readers (and in view of the Messianic expectations of the Pharisees), represents the latter as a philosophical sect. ... Josephus carefully avoids mentioning the most essential doctrine of the Pharisees, the Messianic hope, which the Sadducees did not share with them; ... But it was not the immortality of the soul which the Pharisees believed in, as Josephus puts it, but the resurrection of the body as expressed in the liturgy, and this formed part of their Messianic hope.*" (Jewish Encyclopedia – Pharisees)

IV. Acts 23:11 Jesus appears to Paul again.