

***Study Hints for Thinking Further***  
***International Bible Lessons***

***Acts 26:19-32***

**Sunday, November 4, 2012**

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

**Five Questions for Discussion  
and Thinking Further**

**1. What are some things that can happen to a person if they choose to disobey Jesus and the Scriptures?**

God can keep goading a person to obey, as He goaded the Apostle Paul. God can discipline someone in ways that will lead them to obey Him eventually. The person can die physically or be severely injured, perhaps in an accident. The person can die spiritually. God can abandon them as Paul explained in Romans chapter 1. If church members choose to live in disobedience to Jesus Christ, the church may try to correct their behavior or discipline them. The legal system may discipline them or punish them. Their

bodies, minds, and spirits may suffer, and they may lose the ability to reason clearly.

## **2. Why did Paul make his defense both from his experience and from the Scriptures?**

Experiences and the Scriptures are two witnesses. If the argument of Paul had been from experience only, he could have been misled and then mislead others. The Scriptures can be reasoned from, and if someone knows the Scriptures and their correct interpretation, they have good evidence that what Paul said is true (this would be the case with all who listened to Paul; they could refer to what the Scriptures taught). The Scriptures are of a higher authority than human experiences, and the Scriptures can be used to help us determine which experiences are from the true God and which are not from God, for God will never contradict himself. Experiences may mislead, the Bible never will mislead.

## **3. Explain why Paul insisted that people “should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance” (Acts 26:20)?**

If someone is truly born again or born from above, they will live a new and different life. A baby in the darkness of a mother’s womb lives differently after they are born. A person who truly comes to faith in Jesus Christ lives a new life as a follower of Jesus Christ. True Christians leave behind a life of living in darkness and come to live in and according to the marvelous light of God, especially as revealed in the Scriptures with the Holy Spirit’s assistance. Jesus and His apostles always preached repentance and

faith. We repent of our sins and confess our sins and God cleanses us from all of our sins, because Jesus Christ died on the cross in our place; therefore, out of true love and appreciation for what God has done for us, we glorify and honor God by doing deeds consistent with repentance. For example, after Paul became a Christian, he quit persecuting Christians and began to preach the faith he once tried to destroy.

#### **4. Why did Paul insist that he preached “nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would take place” (Acts 26:22)?**

Why did Paul insist that he preached “nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would take place” (Acts 26:22)? Paul preached the Bible, and later the Holy Spirit led Paul to write how Jesus fulfilled the Scriptures. Paul emphasized that he was not teaching anything contrary to the Bible; he was explaining the Bible.

#### **5. How did Paul respond when Festus called Paul “insane”?**

Paul answered with reason and respect. He did not respond with insults or name calling. Paul stressed that he was “speaking sober truth” – that our choices have consequences. Then he appealed to King Agrippa, who knew the prophets, to emphasize that the King could correct him if he misunderstood or misinterpreted the prophets – which the King did not do. So, to prove he was not insane, Paul continued to reason carefully from the Scriptures.

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