Acts 26:24–29

24 And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. 25 But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness. 26 For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. 28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. 29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

Introduction

3. Powerful
—Instructing Unbelievers

QUOTE: Most people’s trouble with the Bible is heart trouble, not head trouble. John R. Rice

John 1—As Many as Received Him

John 3—The Religious Man and Jesus

Romans 3—Just and Justifier

Romans 10—Believe and Receive

Conclusion

1 PETER 3:15
15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:
1. Personal — Connecting with Unbelievers

ACTS 26:1–6
Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself: 2 I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews: 3 Especially because I know thee to be expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently. 4 My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; 5 Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. 6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:

ACTS 26:9–11
9 I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. 11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

ACTS 26:13–15
13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. 14 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

2. Simple — Nudging Unbelievers

ACTS 26:27
27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

QUOTE: Accusations harden the will, but questions stimulate the conscience.

QUOTE: Bad evangelism says: I’m right, you’re wrong, and I would love to tell you about it. Tim Keller

Sample Questions:
What do you believe about faith and Christianity?
Have you ever understood the difference between Christianity and ???
Have you ever heard the story of the very religious man who spoke with Jesus?
Sometime, would you give me the opportunity to share why I became a Christian?
Have you ever really considered your belief system and where it comes from?
Has anyone ever explained to you the true message of the Bible?