THOU WHITED WALL
Acts 23:1-12

The council: Sanhedrin. 70 elders of Israel. Supreme Court of day.

- Some served with Paul
- Some students of Gamaliel
- Many were fellow Pharisees
- They had commissioned him to arrest and bring Christians to Jerusalem.

Acts 23:1 Earnestly beholding: gazing intently. Focusing eyes intently on men
Men and brethren: usual way to address council

I have lived in all good conscience. I have lived out my convictions...

Mac: A conscience uninformed by biblical truth will not necessarily pass accurate judgments

A person’s conscience has to be trained.
- Weak - 1 Cor 8:7, 10
- Wounded - 1 Cor 8:12
- Defiled - Titus 1:15
- Evil - Heb 10:22
- Seared - 1 Tim 4:2.

Conscience:
- Court of law
- Inner alarm system
- Function of spirit of man. 1 Thess 5:23

Good conscience: 1 Tim 1:5; Heb 13:18; 1 Pet 3:16, 21
Clear Conscience: That inner freedom of spirit and the assurance from knowing that people see you as you really are and knowing that not one person is able to point a finger at you and accuse you of wrong doing toward him that you’ve never made right.

Blameless conscience: Acts 24:16
Pure conscience: 1 Tim 3:9; 2 Tim 1:3
Prerequisites to clear conscience:
- 1. Born again.
- 2. Spiritual depth. Heb 5:11-14

Acts 23:2 Smite him on the mouth: cudgel or pummel (with stick or bastinado), repeated blows; Ananias.

- High priest for 11-12 years
- Cruel, mean, wicked ... one of most corrupt to ever hold office.
- Josep... says he stole tithes
- Oppose him -- severely beaten (Antiquities 20.9.2).
- Violent man.
- Hated by Jewish nationalists.
- Mercenary, money hungry, wealthy, influential.
- Prior to this ... dismissed from office by Felix.
- Figurehead.
- Still had clout ... considered high priest by people.
Acts 23:3... *thou whitened wall.* Ezek 13:10-16; Mat 23:27-28
Veneer, pretense, false front.

1 Cor 4:12... *being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it.*
- Paul not [Jesus](#).
- Paul outraged at hypocrisy of spiritual leaders.
- Paul not realize was [high](#) priest.

Acts 23:4 Perception: insulting God’s man
Revilest: reproach, vilify; insult; abuse.

Acts 23:5 *I wist not*... didn’t realize was [high](#) priest.
Lesson: Even though this man in direct violation to Law of Moses... a hypocrite it didn’t give Paul right to treat with disrespect. Still in place of authority.
Deut. 17:8-14
Why Paul not know High Priest?
- Absent from Jerusalem for several years.
- Sudden meeting. No one explain hierarchy of council.
- Not always necessary for high priest to be present
- Paul nearly blind

Paul admits ignorance...supports authority of Word Exodus 22:28
Humble, open, no-defensive spirit.


Pharisees: Believe in resurrection and afterlife, spirit beings, of the hope and resurrection ... This whole thing is about resurrection of dead.

Acts 23:7
Phillips: So, on the spur of the moment, Paul tossed a charge of high explosive into the council by identifying himself as a Pharisee. That charge detonated at once in a most violent fashion.


Pharisees: yes after life, supernatural, spirit beings, angels

Rather agree with Paul than admit agreement with Sadducees.

Great cry: prolonged clamour. Lots of shouting and disorder

Acts 23:10-11 Be of good cheer,
- No support from believers
- Just had mouth bloodied
- Some of old friends on council full of animosity and hatred
- Feels alone and unsupported.

God given no further instruction concerning will.
... *bear witness also at Rome* Not finished with you. So same at Rome.

So What?
Hate hypocrisy?
Committed to having a clear conscience?
Understand principle of authority?
Willing to humble self, even when you can justify your actions?