

**ALMOST THOU PERSUADEST ME TO BE A CHRISTIAN**  
**(Acts 26:24-29)**

**I. “Almost”**

- A. Almost is defined by Webster’s as: “vert nearly; all but” and the American Heritage Dictionary defines it as “not quite.”
- B. This carries the idea of just a little more and he would have obeyed the gospel.
  - 1. There was something lacking somewhere that kept Agrippa from committing to Christ.
  - 2. He was not far from obeying the gospel.
- C. It seems that the king mentally accepted the fact of the deity of Jesus.
- D. Paul told him what he preached (Acts 26:20-23).
- E. King Agrippa, just as each person who has ever heard the gospel, now had a decision to make.
- F. His reply was “almost.”
- G. There is an interesting conversation recorded for us in Mark 12:28-34.
  - 1. Jesus could tell this man was thinking about spiritual matters.
  - 2. He told him he was not far from the kingdom.
  - 3. This carries the idea of with just a little more effort, he could enter the kingdom.
  - 4. This shows us that faith only will not save because many of the scribes believed but would not obey (John 12:42).
- H. Think of the conversation in Matthew 19 between Jesus and the rich young ruler.
  - 1. Think of how good a person that young man was.
  - 2. He was almost there, but he went away sorrowful.
- I. It may be you have almost been restored, or almost obeyed the gospel.
- J. To remain in that almost state means that you are almost saved and to be almost saved means that you are totally lost.

**II. “Thou persuadest”**

- A. How does one become a Christian?
  - 1. We have seen that it is not through belief only.
  - 2. It is not through some feeling or experience either.
- B. Agrippa used the word “persuadest” which means to convince by use of argumentation.
  - 1. There were facts presented to Agrippa.
  - 2. There were logical reasons given for everything that Paul said.
  - 3. Paul taught Agrippa the gospel.
- C. Today, if you want to become a Christian you must be taught the gospel somehow (John 6:44-45; Matthew 28:18-20).
- D. God has given us plain language in the Bible in order to be persuaded ourselves and to persuade others to obey Christ.
- E. One of the most eye-opening accounts in the Bible is that of the rich man and Lazarus.
  - 1. While in torment, the rich man wanted his five brothers warned so they would not suffer his fate.

2. Abraham told him that they had Moses and the prophets.
  3. In other words, God's word was sufficient to convert them.
- F. God has laid out the arguments for obedience to the will of His Son, we have to comprehend and obey what is written.

**III. "Me"**

- A. Salvation concerns the individual.
- B. Are you saved: not your spouse, but you?
- C. Are you a Christian: not your parents, but you?
- D. God is concerned with us as individuals.
  1. Luke 15 proves this to us.
  2. The lost sheep, coin and boy are all parables about the individual and when one individual is saved God is overjoyed.
- E. Jesus was concerned about the individual (Matthew 16:24).

**IV. "To be a Christian"**

- A. If Agrippa had obeyed the teaching of Paul, what would he have become: a Christian.
- B. What kind of Christian?
  1. There is only one kind.
  2. A New Testament Christian.
- C. There is no hint of denominationalism in the Bible.
- D. It is openly condemned by Paul (1 Corinthians 1:10-13).
- E. As the book title by the late Thomas B. Warren says, The Bible only makes Christians only and the only Christians.
- F. Since this is the case, someone must obey something else besides God's word in order to be the member of a denomination.
- G. Christian is the divine name given by God for His people (Isaiah 62:2; Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16).