

1. Live ready to die

These statements were written or spoken in route to Jerusalem:

Romans 9:2 ...I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart.

³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed, *separated* from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation.

² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

³ For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Acts 20:22 ...behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there,

²³ except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.

²⁴ "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 21:12 ...we as well as the local residents *began* begging him not to go up to Jerusalem.

¹³ Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

2. Witness with wisdom

¹⁷ And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.

¹⁸ And now the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.

¹⁹ And after he had greeted them, he *began* to relate one by one the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

²⁰ And when they heard it they *began* glorifying God; and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law;

²¹ and they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.

²² "What, then, is *to be done*? They will certainly hear that you have come.

²³ "Therefore do this that we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow;

²⁴ take them and purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses in order that they may shave their heads; and all will know that there is nothing to the things which they have been told about you, but that you yourself also walk orderly, keeping the Law.

²⁵ "But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote, having decided that they should abstain from meat sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication."

²⁶ Then Paul took the men, and the next day, purifying himself along with them, went into the temple, giving notice of the completion of the days of purification, until the sacrifice was offered for each one of them.

3. Look for opportunities to share

²⁷ And when the seven days were almost over, the Jews from Asia, upon seeing him in the temple, *began* to stir up all the multitude and laid hands on him,

²⁸ crying out, "Men of Israel, come to our aid! This is the man who preaches to all men everywhere against our people, and the Law, and this place; and besides he has even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place."

²⁹ For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

³⁰ And all the city was aroused, and the people rushed together; and taking hold of Paul, they dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut.

³¹ And while they were seeking to kill him, a report came up to the commander of the *Roman* cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion.

³² And at once he took along *some* soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them; and when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

³³ Then the commander came up and took hold of him, and ordered him to be bound with two chains; and he *began* asking who he was and what he had done.

³⁴ But among the crowd some were shouting one thing *and* some another, and when he could not find out the facts on account of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks.

³⁵ And when he got to the stairs, it so happened that he was carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob;

³⁶ for the multitude of the people kept following behind, crying out, "Away with him!"

4. Use words to share your story

³⁷ And as Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the commander, "May I say something to you?" And he said, "Do you know Greek?"

³⁸ "Then you are not the Egyptian who some time ago stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?"

³⁹ But Paul said, "I am a Jew of Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city; and I beg you, allow me to speak to the people."

⁴⁰ And when he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the stairs, motioned to the people with his hand; and when there was a great hush, he spoke to them in the Hebrew dialect, saying,

22:1 "Brethren and fathers, hear my defense which I now *offer* to you."

² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew dialect, they became even more quiet; and he said,

³ "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, just as you all are today.

⁴ "And I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons,

⁵ as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.

⁶ "And it came about that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me,

⁷ and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?'

⁸ "And I answered, 'Who art Thou, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.'

⁹ "And those who were with me beheld the light, to be sure, but did not understand the voice of the One who was speaking to me.

¹⁰ "And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Arise and go on into Damascus; and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.'

¹¹ "But since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

¹² "And a certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, *and* well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,

¹³ came to me, and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very time I looked up at him.

¹⁴ "And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear an utterance from His mouth.

¹⁵ 'For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard.

¹⁶ 'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

¹⁷ "And it came about when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I fell into a trance,

¹⁸ and I saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste, and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about Me.'

¹⁹ "And I said, 'Lord, they themselves understand that in one synagogue after another I used to imprison and beat those who believed in Thee.

²⁰ 'And when the blood of Thy witness Stephen was being shed, I also was standing by approving, and watching out for the cloaks of those who were slaying him.'

²¹ "And He said to me, 'Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

²² And they listened to him up to this statement, and *then* they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not be allowed to live!"

1 Corinthians 9:19 ...though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more.

²⁰ And to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law, though not being myself under the Law, that I might win those who are under the Law;

²¹ to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law.

²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some.

All Scripture is NASV