

## Sent out as sheep. (Even Christ himself.) **MORE THAN CONQUERORS!**

- (Matthew 10:16–18 ESV) Behold, I am **sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves**, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.
- (Psalm 44:22 ESV) Yet for your sake we are killed all the day long; we are **regarded as sheep to be slaughtered**.
- (Isaiah 53:7 ESV) He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; **like a lamb that is led to the slaughter**, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.
- (Acts 8:32 ESV) Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: **“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter** and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.”
- (Romans 8:35–37 NCV) Can anything separate us from the love Christ has for us? Can troubles or problems or sufferings or hunger or nakedness or danger or violent death? As it is written in the Scriptures: “For you we are in danger of death all the time. **People think we are worth no more than sheep to be killed.**” **But in all these things we are completely victorious through God who showed his love for us.**



## And innocent as doves. A clear conscience.

- (Acts 23:1 ESV) And looking intently at the council, Paul said, “Brothers, I have **lived my life before God in all good conscience** up to this day.
- (Acts 24:16 ESV) So I always take pains to have a **clear conscience toward both God and man**.
- (Romans 13:5 ESV) Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but **also for the sake of conscience**.
- (2 Corinthians 1:12 ESV) For our boast is this, **the testimony of our conscience**, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you.
- (1 Timothy 1:5 ESV) The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a **good conscience** and a sincere faith.



## PAUL'S DEFENSES ...

### ● **NUMBER ONE: BEFORE FELIX ... (ACTS 24:1–27)**

- Paul’s opponents accuse him of insurrection, 24:1-9.
- Paul counters that they have no proof, 24:10-13.
- Paul operates with a clear conscience, 24:14-16.
- Paul gives the real reason he was on trial, 24:17-21.

### ● **NUMBER TWO: BEFORE FESTUS ... (ACTS 25:2-8)**

- The Jews bring accusations/serious charges they cannot prove, 25:2, 6-7.
- Paul speaks to his innocence before the law of God and the law of Caesar, 25:8.

### ● **NUMBER THREE: BEFORE AGRIPPA ... (ACTS 26:1-19)**

- Paul is thankful that he is making his defense before King Agrippa, 26:1-3.
- Paul states the real reason that he is being brought before the king, 26:4-8.
- Paul was obedient to the heavenly vision, 26:9-19.



“Do you swear to spin the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.”

**DIGGING THE DIRT:** Despite intense effort, the opponents of Jesus, Daniel and Paul could **no evidence of government insurrection or corruption**. Only **accusations, never any proof**.

- (Romans 13:1 ESV) Let **every person be subject to the governing authorities**. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.
- (Luke 20:20 ESV) So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, **so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor**.
- (Acts 24:5–6 ESV) For we have found **this man a plague, one who stirs up riots** among all the Jews throughout the world and is a **ringleader** of the sect of the Nazarenes. He even tried to profane the temple, but we seized him.
- (Acts 24:12–13 ESV) And they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city. **Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me**.
- (Acts 25:7 ESV) When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, **bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove**.
- (Daniel 6:4 NASB95) Then the commissioners and satraps **began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption**, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him.

