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## Almost A Christian

Wyatt Sawyer

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Setting: Caeseran courtroom, A. D. 50. Church 17 yrs. old.

INT: Characters: King Agrippa, Bernice, Festus, Paul, Chief captains, and city dignitaries.

Plot: Paul called to explain his arrest before the King.

Study: The reaction of a King to the gospel of Christ.

I. AGRIPPA STATED PUBLICLY THAT HE WAS NOT A CHRISTIAN.

- A. King admitted his true status before God. Lost man.  
 1. Caused him to admit life of a Christian is desirable.
- B. Paul could appreciate his problem for he too had once owned a high position in the world. Gal. 1:14.
- C. Danger today: People thinking they are Christians when they haven't obeyed Christ. Good American, good Chr????  
 1. Member of church living below standard just "almost!"

II. AGRIPPA TESTIFIED TO THE CORRECTNESS OF PAUL'S WORDS.

- A. King admitted that Christ's life was the fulfillment of the predictions of the prophets. v. 26.  
 1. Caused him to admit faith in Christ desirable.
- B. Paul was honest man all his life; badly mistaken about the Lord's church. v. 9. Frank to admit mistakes.
- C. Danger today: People will not admit mistake. Blind themselves to need of a change. Deceiving themselves only  
 1. Any Christian who has made bad mistake is almost a Christian until repents and prays forgiveness.

III. AGRIPPA ACKNOWLEDGED SALVATION, A MATTER OF PERSUASION.

- A. King admitted the facts almost persuaded him, but the cost was too high. Too far to repent now.
- B. Paul paid the price: loss of fame fortune and power.
- C. Danger today: Too many unwilling to pay price. Mk. 8:34.
- D. What should it take to convince men?  
 1. God has reasoned with men. Isaiah 1:18.  
 2. Established persuasive preaching for all ages. IC.1:21  
 3. Terror of Lord caused Paul to preach harder. II C.5:11  
 a. J. A. Harding's motto: "Preaching as though never to preach again; as a dying man to dying men."

INV: Suppose the world had ended at the close of Paul's sermon!

1. What would have been the destiny of King Agrippa?  
 a. Almost persuaded, almost saved, almost secured.

Suppose the world ends with the close of this message?

1. What would be your destiny? Almost? Planned to? Soon?  
 2. Most who put it off long never obey the gospel.  
 3. Erring Christians, who delay, soon lose the courage.