

Gamaliel *Stuart Briscoe*

I. Introduction.

A. Gamaliel was able to avert a dangerous situation.

II. He was known for his religion: he was a Pharisee.

A. The Pharisees focused on a meticulous observance of the law--it affected the food that they eat and the people they spent time with.

III. He was deeply respected.

A. Theology was at the center of Israel.

B. Gamaliel was one of the most outstanding theologians at his time.

C. He taught the Apostle Paul.

IV. He was thoroughly reasonable.

A. Gamaliel believed that history had a way of repeating himself.

B. He knew that there would always be an uprising and the people would fade into history.

C. He knew that time would tell. If the movement was of men then it would fade. If it was of God then it would mean something.

V. Gamaliel was wrong.

A. You can be religious, respected and reasonable, but be thoroughly wrong.

B. He was off on a tangent--he never made a decision about who Jesus was.

C. The thrust of the Christian gospel is that we preach Christ.

D. Gamaliel had no excuse. Gamaliel knew that nobody had been found--he was confronted by the facts of Christianity.

Application questions:

1. What was outstanding about Gamaliel?

2. Who are some modern "Gamaliels?"

3. Why is reason and wisdom not enough to know God? Explain.
