

091 - The Sinner Terrified - Acts 24:24-27 - 2013-11-03

Call to Worship: Luke 4:8

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-20

Sermon: "The Sinner Terrified" Acts 24:24-27

Benediction: Revelation 1:17-18

INTRODUCTION

Recall that Paul was delivered out of the hands of murderous Jews in Jerusalem, and brought to the governor, Felix, in Caesarea. The governor heard the Jews' false accusations against Paul, and Paul's defense of himself. Felix could see there was no substance to any of the charges, but rather than clear Paul, he delayed, he stalled. Then, after a time, Felix called for Paul. We see here a very brief summary of how Paul spoke to Felix and his wife, Drusilla on that occasion.

Acts 24:24-27 And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. (25) And as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go your way for this time; when I have a convenient time, I will call for you. (26) He hoped also that money should have been given him by Paul, that he might release him: therefore he sent for him often, and conferred with him. (27) But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' position: and Felix, willing to show the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.

BODY

Righteousness

Governor Felix, the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all your ungodliness and unrighteousness, and the way that you suppress the truth in your unrighteousness. What may be known of God is manifest to you, for God has shown it to you. The things that you can see He has created reveal to you things about Him that you cannot see---his eternal power and his deity. So you have no excuse for your failure to worship and to live by His laws, because you know God is there. But knowing God, you do not glorify Him as God, nor are you thankful, but have become vain in your imagination, and your foolish heart has become dark. You say you are wise, but you are actually a fool. Look just how foolish you are---instead of worshiping the invisible, incorruptible God in His glory, you worship man-made images in the shapes of all kinds of animals! You have changed the truth into a lie, and worshiped and served creatures instead of the creator!

Self-control

Governor Felix, because of the way you refuse to worship God in spirit and in truth, God has given you up to uncleanness, to dishonor yourself with Drusilla in this adulterous

affair you are calling a marriage. You were married, and should have been faithful to the wife of your youth, with whom you were one flesh. But when you saw Drusilla, your flesh was enflamed with lust. Because you denied to worship God, he did not help you restrain yourself. You had no temperance, no self-control. God gave you over to your passions. You plotted and schemed, divorced your wife, and stole Drusilla away from her husband. Now you live out of control in an adulterous affair with this woman you call your wife. But knowing how sinful the flesh is, I know that your inner lusts for perverted sexual no doubt run to things even more twisted and evil than this. What's more, since you do not have God in mind, he has given you over to be filled with unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; you are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity, and whispers. You are a backbiter, a hater of God, spiteful, proud, boasting. You even invent new ways to do evil. You even dishonor your own parents. You are without spiritual understanding, you are a covenant breaker, you do not have even natural wholesome affections, you are implacable, and unmerciful.

Judgment to come

Governor Felix, you know all about judgment. You know all about unrighteous law-breakers having to face the tribunal to be judged for their crimes. Many times over the past six years, as governor of Judea, you have sat as judge. Even now you sit as judge over me. You have the power to release me, or to hold me prisoner. You even could have me put to death.

You as a judge are unjust. You are holding me in prison, who have not even been charged with any real crime. You are delaying the carrying out of justice, which delay is injustice. Even now you are hoping that I or someone who cares about me will offer you a substantial bribe to let me go. You are well known in this country as a tyrant, ruling cruelly over this nation by your own fancy. Because your ideas of justice and judgment are so perverted, you do not consider the judgment that is to come at the end of this world. Oh yes, even you pagans know there shall be a judgment. You know your sins are deserving of punishment from God, yet you still do them and have pleasure when others join you in your wickedness.

God has allowed you, and others like you, to live like this for a long time. But now He commands all men everywhere to repent. And he declares that he has appointed the day when he will judge every person for his sins. And the man he has appointed as judge is not corrupt. He is a perfect judge, who will not fail to execute faithfully all the punishment that lawbreakers like you deserve. He will not delay justice; he cannot be bribed; all unrepentant sinners he will throw into the lake of fire for everlasting punishment. Who is this one? He is Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, the one I serve. God has shown his approval of him by raising him from the dead. Now it is only a matter of time before he returns to earth for judgment. Every person, whether still living or having already died, will have to stand before his judgment seat.

Terrified (KJV trembled ESV alarmed NIV afraid)
The governor was terrified at what he heard.

Delay
He delayed, then apparently never repented and believed

APPLICATION

Are you delaying? Do you think you will have plenty of time and opportunity?

APPLICATION: When Paul spoke to unbelievers concerning the faith in Christ, the subject matter in this case was righteousness, self-control, and judgment to come.

-Where is, "Jesus loves you"?

-Where is, "God has a wonderful plan for your life"?