

Acts 24

200 soldiers, 75 horsemen, and 200 spearmen have just escorted Paul to Caesarea where he was to stand before Felix and his accusers.

Last week we saw....

### **I. The Accusations v1-9**

1. Paul is a plague
2. He is a trouble maker
3. He is a ringleader

And here we are with more money, more material resources, more avenues, more mobility, more opportunity...and yet, possibly some of the most impotent Christians in history.

### **II. The Defense v10-21**

1. **According to the “Way,” I worship God**
  - a. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life
  - b. You can try to worship God in your way, this way, that way, or according to “the way”
2. **I believe everything laid down by the Law and Prophets**
3. **I have hope in God for the life to come**
  - a. Where is our hope...really?
  - b. 1 Corinthians 15:19 *If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.*
4. **I strive for a clear conscious towards God and Man**

That is where we left off last week. Now we pick up in verse 22.

### **III. The Offense v22-27**

#### **1. Righteousness**

Leviticus 19:2

Leviticus 20:7

Deuteronomy 18:13

2 Corinthians 7:1

Matthew 5:48

1 Peter 1:15-16

## 2. Self Control

Felix lacked self control!

- a. Drusilla, the youngest daughter of Herod Agrippa was given in marriage to a king in Syria
- b. Felix, love struck, hired a magician to help lure her away from her husband
- c. So, at 16, she became Felix's 3rd wife and bore him a son.
- d. It might have been her encouraging that Felix to send for Paul

Add to your faith, virtue, knowledge, **self control**, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love.

- a. 1 Corinthians 9:25 *Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.*
- b. Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

## 3. Coming Judgment

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

Hebrews 9:27 *And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,*

Revelation 20:11-15

## 4. Fear

1. Felix did not have to hold on to such fear.
2. Unfortunately, he bought one of the lies of Satan
  - a. Jesus isn't worth giving up that pet sin for
  - b. Jesus isn't gracious enough to forgive and accept me
3. 1 John 4:18 *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.*

Felix held on to his sin and rejected that love. He leaves Paul sitting in prison, hoping for kickbacks from the Jews, for the next 2 years until Festus succeeded him.

1. When Festus took over, Felix did not pardon Paul, but left him in prison still.
2. Festus who repeats the whole scenario again: he re-examines Paul in 25:1-12
3. Paul appealed to Caesar...but this leaves Festus in a predicament.
4. He doesn't really know what to tell Caesar about this man.
  - a. He knew what Felix passed along to him
  - b. He knew what he heard from Paul
  - c. But he didn't really have anything clear to communicate about why Paul is coming to appeal his case before him.
5. So, he capitalizes on a visit by King Agrippa in verses 13-27 to have Paul appear one more time in hopes of getting some counsel on what to tell Caesar.

All of this, because Felix rejected the clear message of the Gospel and the conviction of that message.

2 Corinthians 6:2 *for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"*