

Paul—Acts 24

Defense Before Felix

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 01. Chapter 24...** “The third of five defenses which marked the early part of Paul's period of imprisonment is given in this chapter, the same being a formal arraignment and trial before the Procurator Felix at Caesarea, about 58 A.D., in which the high priest Ananias and his company from Jerusalem were legally represented by a lawyer named Tertullus, and in which Paul convincingly spoke on his own behalf. Events of this chapter (except the last paragraph) occurred only twelve days from the time Paul entered Jerusalem from Caesarea (Acts 21:17)” [Coffman].
- 02. 24:4... I pray thee that thou wouldest hear us of thy clemency a few words**—“Clemency is from the Greek *epiekes*, and means 'reasonable, likely, fair,' it also may mean gentleness. The clemency of Felix was an invention of Tertullus' flattery; Felix was well known as an avaricious man; he was not a lover of righteousness” [H. Leo Boles, *A Commentary on Acts of the Apostles*, p. 378].
- 03. 24:5... a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes**—“NAZARENE derives from the city, Nazareth, the town in which Jesus grew up. A stigma was attached to the community—**And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?...** (Jn 1:46), and so NAZARENE was likely employed here as a hateful epithet in an attempt to degrade Jesus. ... This is the only place in the New Testament where the word is applied to Christians, and it is employed by an enemy. There is NO AUTHORITY for wearing this title religiously today” [Wayne Jackson, *The Acts of the Apostles: from Jerusalem to Rome*, pp., 323-24].
- 04. 24:22... having more perfect knowledge of that way...** “Felix was not ignorant of the teachings of Christ; during the years he had held office in Judea and Samaria, at Jerusalem as well as Caesarea, he had frequent opportunities to learn what Christians taught and how they lived; even Philip, one of the seven (Acts 6:5), lived in Caesarea” [H. Leo Boles, p. 385].
- 05. 24:25... And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and JUDGMENT**—“As a pagan, Felix might have entertained almost no concept of this ultimate moment of accountability; however, with her Jewish upbringing, Drusilla would not be unaware of the divine appointment (Eccl 12:14)” [Jackson, p. 333]

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **The Period of the Church.**

III. Summary.

The innocent person who is falsely charged welcomes the opportunity for the facts to be presented. Such was the case with Paul as he stands before Felix. A flowery orator was selected by the Jews to present the case against Paul. Paul argues that the only reason he was arrested had to do with differences in religious convictions. Felix decides to wait a while before announcing his decision in the case. There is a second hearing before Felix. Paul preached the gospel to Felix and caused Felix to understand his need for salvation. However, Satan remained in control of Felix' life as procrastination reigns in his life. How foolish he was to put off obeying the Lord. It is revealed to us here that Felix leaned toward letting Paul go IF

he would pay a little money as a bribe. However, two years pass by and Paul remains in prison at Caesarea.

IV. Outline.

1. Paul stands before Felix (Acts 24:1).
2. Tertullus brings the charges against Paul (2-9).
3. Paul gives his own defense before Felix (10-21).
4. Felix puts off his judgment of Paul's case (22-23).
5. A second hearing of Paul before Felix (24).
6. Felix TREMBLES, but postpones obedience to the gospel until a CONVENIENT SEASON (25).
7. Felix desired to let Paul go (26).
8. Paul remains imprisoned for two years at Caesarea (27).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ Felix had married a Jew.
02. _____ The word PROVIDENCE as used in Acts 24 concerns God's protective care of His own.
03. _____ Paul told Felix it was due to JEALOUSY of the Jews that he was standing before him.
04. _____ Paul had a lawyer to answer the charges against him which had been presented by Tertullus.
05. _____ In his defense, Paul mentioned the gifts he had brought with him to Jerusalem.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ Who replaced Felix as Governor: (a) Agrippa; (b) Festus; (c) Tertullus.
07. _____ Felix deferred judgment in Paul's case until: (a) the Passover was over; (b) Lysias could come; (c) winter.
08. _____ In Paul's defense, he indicates that the only just charge upon which he has been called in question by the Jews was: (a) a religious question; (b) a non-religious question.
09. _____ Who agreed to the charges Tertullus made against Paul: (a) Festus; (b) the Jews; (c) Felix.
10. _____ What label was given Christianity by the Jews: (a) heresy; (b) the religion of the Gentiles; (c) none is mentioned.

Fill in the Blanks

11. _____ are the words of praise attached to the name of Felix by Tertullus.
12. That he might _____ is the reason that Felix had hoped Paul would offer him money.
13. Tertullus told Felix that Lysias had taken Paul from the Jews with _____.
14. Felix _____ when Paul talked to him about: _____, temperance, and _____ to come.
15. Paul told Felix that he came to bring _____ to his nation.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to Acts 23 Questions... [(1) False, Acts 23:1; (2) False, Acts 23:29; (3) True, Acts 23:8; (4) False, Acts 23:26; (5) False, Acts 23:19; (6) b, Acts 23:30; (7) a, Acts 23:5; (8) c, Acts 23:8; (9) a, Acts 23:14; (10) b, Acts 23:22; (11) smite, whited, wall, commandest, Acts 23:3; (12) Herod's, Judgment, Hall, Acts 23:35; (13) good, cheer, Jerusalem, witness, Rome, Acts 23:11; (14) 9, 200, 70, 200, Acts 23:23; (15) kill (Acts 23:13-15).]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **AFTER THE WAY WHICH THEY CALL HERESY,...** (Acts 24:14). *Christ's way was a SPECIFIC way which was easily identifiable.* It was not then, nor is it now MANY DIFFERENT WAYS! There are many folks tied into man-made churches today who need to understand this fact. The followers of Jesus were living their lives in a certain way. It was a way which stood out as being different.
2. **AND HAVE HOPE TOWARD GOD...** (Acts 24:15). *Like Paul, all Christians have HOPE because of the resurrection that is to come.* This hope prevents life here upon earth from being most miserable—**If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable** (1 Corinthians 15:19).
3. **...RIGHTEOUSNESS, TEMPERANCE, AND JUDGMENT TO COME** (Acts 24:25). *Paul's sermon topics, that were worthy to be presented to Governor Felix, is likewise worthy for us to present to the lost in our day!*
4. **...FELIX TREMBLED...** (Acts 24:25). *An illustration of the results of the kind of preaching done in the 1st Century.*
 - 1) In order to produce such a reaction Paul must have pointed out clearly to Felix that he was in a LOST condition without Christ.
 - 2) In order to produce such a reaction Paul must have been quite emotional and persuasive.
 - 3) In order to produce such a reaction Paul must have painted a very frightening picture of the consequences of disobedience to God!
5. **...WHEN I HAVE A CONVENIENT SEASON, I WILL CALL FOR THEE** (Acts 24:25). *There are many like Felix who continually look for that CONVENIENT SEASON.* We have no record that it was ever found. Sadly, many who are willing to put off obedience to the will of the Lord never do find such a convenient season. Serving the Lord is **NOT a matter of convenience, but rather of conviction** (cf., Luke 14:25-33).
6. **...WILLING TO SHOW THE JEWS A PLEASURE, LEFT PAUL BOUND** (Acts 24:27). *There have always been those who have been willing to do that which they know to be wrong in order to gain some group's favor* (cf., John 12:42-43; Acts 12:1; 25:9).
7. The following lessons come from the book, *Treatises of Luke*, by Frank L. Cox, pp., 226-27. Learn...
 - 1) That evil minded people will often speak evil of a Christian, especially if he is a leader, and make false charges against him.
 - 2) That every such charge can be answered by a simple recitation of facts.
 - 3) That the resurrection of the last day must be either a fear or a hope—a fear if we are sinners, a hope if we are Christians.
 - 4) That the hope of the resurrection 'inspires us with courage and wisdom in our labors; with patience and strength in our afflictions; with steadfastness and joy in the hour of death' [Lange].
 - 5) That in preaching to lost men, the preacher should uphold the divine standard 'of righteousness and self-control' and warn them of 'the judgment to come.'

- 6) That it is the height of folly to wait for a convenient season to do what can and should be done now.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

A A W F H R T H E P R O P H E T S I F E
 J L C M B V B H X J U I S V S H E I E M
 G V H M B E G A N T O A C C U S E D L W
 J E W S F R O M A S I A H U Z M X V I A
 D E L P M E T E H T E N A F O R P S X D
 A C C U S E R S N A P A U Q U S O O Y F
 P E S T I L E N T R P Y Q Z G E R W S H
 R L Y S I A S C U M W N S S C O Y O E R
 E B E L I E V I N G I S U N A T N R R S
 D Z U T F D X U P S E L A W N R O S E H
 A C Q H W E H O E N L R Y E E E I H H G
 E E O M H E P N S U E T M T C B T I L B
 L C U U J P E U T P L G T M I V C P L V
 G D C B B R O R M F D R F O G J E I A V
 N I I R A E E E R U X I M H T T R O C S
 I K O Z T T T P J T H E L A W W R R Y C
 R M A H K C B O R C X V R Y H S U T E M
 R N G E F Y J D Z H B C W O S C S R H A
 I I C H E E R F U L L Y A N S W E R H A
 R N I L X J J M B W T E X M D X R D R L

[The words (or word locaters) listed below are to be found in the text of our lesson. They also are found in the puzzle above. This is just one more way to reinforce what you have studied from the text. Why not read the whole verse where the word is found one more time as you do the puzzle? Thank you for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. Let's desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow (1 Pet 2:2). DRL]

Acts 24

Tertullus, 1	they call heresy, 14
began to accuse, 2	so worship I, 14
Felix, 3	believing, 14
pestilent, 5	the law, 14
ringleader, 5	the prophets, 14
Nazarenes, 5	resurrection, 15
profane the temple, 6	Jews from Asia, 18
Lysias, 7	righteousness, 25
accusers, 8	temperance, 25
cheerfully answer, 10	judgment, 25