

**Acts 24 – Paul before Felix****I. Paul is accused before Felix, v.1-9**

- A. Paul is accused of:
  1. Being a “plague”
  2. Being a creator of dissension among the Jews
  3. Being the ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes
  4. Tying to profane the temple

**II. Paul defends himself before Felix, v.10-21**

- A. No proof of accusations, v.11-13
- B. Still worships the God of his fathers, believes the Law and the Prophets, v.14
- C. Believes in the resurrection as “they” do, v.15
- D. He was purified in the temple (according to Jewish custom) and was not causing trouble at the time of his being seized, v.17-18
- E. Either Paul’s real accusers should come to bring accusation and proof, or the ones present should provide proof of Paul’s wrongdoing, v.19-21

**III. Felix hears Paul concerning the faith, v.22-27**

- A. Felix had a “more accurate knowledge of the Way”, v.22-23
  1. Decided to adjourn until he could hear Lysias’ account
  2. Paul was treated more like a citizen in protective custody than a prisoner
- B. Felix and Drusilla hear Paul concerning the faith, v.24-26
  1. Paul “reasoned” about:
    - a) Righteousness – The standard by which God judges one to be in an approved state before Him
    - b) Self-control – The means by which one submits to the standard of righteousness in order to be approved by God
    - c) Judgment to come – The fact that there will be a day when God judges the world in righteousness coupled with the consequences of either submitting to the righteousness of God, or not submitting to the righteousness of God
  2. Felix was afraid, sent Paul away
    - a) Wanted to think about Paul’s words?
    - b) Wanted to make Paul *think* he was thinking about Paul’s words?
    - c) Sought a bribe from Paul to be released
- C. After two years, Porcius Festus succeeded Felix, v.27
  1. Felix left Paul bound, desiring to do the Jews a favor

**Acts 25 – Paul before Festus, appeals to Caesar****I. Paul before Festus, v.1-12**

- A. The Jews plot to kill Paul, v.1-5
  1. Festus does not heed the request of the Jews to bring Paul to Jerusalem
- B. The Jews accuse and Paul defends, v.7-8
  1. The Jews made serious complaints which they could not prove
  2. Paul defends himself by saying that he had committed no offense against the Law, the temple, or against Caesar
- C. Paul appeals to Caesar, v.10-12

1. Festus suggests moving the proceedings to Jerusalem
2. Paul demands proper justice as a citizen of Rome

**II. Festus arranges for Agrippa to hear Paul, v.13-27**

- A. Festus explains the situation to Agrippa, v.13-22
  1. The matter was beyond Festus' knowledge to judge, v.18-20
- B. Festus presents Paul to Agrippa, v.23-27
  1. Agrippa and Bernice come in with "great pomp", v.23
  2. Paul "committed nothing deserving of death", v.25
  3. Festus wanted to have something specific to write about with which to charge Paul, explaining his appearance before Caesar, v.26-27

**Questions for Acts 24:**

1. What were the charges against Paul? Were these charges accurate?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How does Paul defend himself? What does Paul specifically bring out that would give any Roman politician reason to pause?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What is the significance of the three "sermon points" that Paul apparently presented to Felix?

**Questions for Acts 25:**

1. Judging by Paul's defense, what were at least three accusations that the Jews made before Festus against Paul?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why does Paul appeal to Caesar instead of going to Jerusalem? In what difficult position does this place Festus? Why is this such a precarious position?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why does Festus appeal to Agrippa? Why is Agrippa more qualified to hear and understand Paul?