

PAUL BEFORE FELIX ACTS 24

Paul was taken by soldiers to Antipatris and the next day the horsemen took him to Caesarea where they delivered the letter to the governor. The governor told Paul, *“I will hear thee, said he, when thine accusers are also come. And he commanded him to be kept in Herod's judgment hall”* (Act 23:35). It is now time for Paul to stand before the governor and offer his defense.

I. Paul's trial before Felix (24:1-23).

A. Tertullus makes charges.

1. Five days after the chief captain sent Paul to Caesarea, the high priest, Ananias, with the elders came down to Jerusalem.
2. Also in this group is an orator, named Tertullus (attorney).
3. He will make the formal charges against Paul.
4. He begins with a complimentary address.
5. He placed three formal charges against Paul.
 - a. A pestilent fellow and a move of seditions among the Jews everywhere (plague, epidemic).
 - b. A ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.
 - c. Gone about to profane the temple.
6. First two charges, if sustained affected the peace of the state—crimes which the governor could not ignore.
7. The third charge if true, gave the unbelieving Jews ample excuse for their opposition.
8. It was truly a skillful attack against Paul.
9. Lysias rescued him from us.
10. Verse 8 may be referring to Felix questioning Lysias.
11. You will find thing to be just as we have presented them to you.

B. Paul answers the charges.

1. Twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship.
 - a. Instead of heresy, he was worshiping as the Law taught.
 - b. Instead of profaning the temple he had come to worship.
2. They did not find me carrying on a discussion with anyone.
3. They did not find me causing a riot.
4. They cannot prove any of the charges they have made.
5. This I do admit: (v.14).
 - a. According to the way (Christianity – Acts 22:4).
 - b. I worship the God of our fathers.
 - c. Believe all things written in the law and the prophets.
 - d. Having a hope toward God.
 - e. Both the righteous and the wicked with be raised.
6. Paul is saying, *I serve the same God they have served for centuries...I have the same hope in God that the great majority of Jews have...A hope that includes a belief in the resurrection.*
7. I have always a conscience void of offence (v.16).
8. I came to bring alms to my nation.
9. Those who accused me should be here.
10. The real problem is, “I believe in the resurrection” (v.21).

C. Felix (vss. 22-27)

1. More perfect knowledge...
 - a. He had a better knowledge about Christianity than they gave him credit for.
 - b. He knew enough about the life and doctrines of the Christians to know that Paul was not guilty of the charges brought against him.

2. When Lysias comes (no indication that such ever occurred)
 3. Paul kept in custody, yet had freedoms.
 - a. Moderate restrictions.
 - b. Friends could provide for him.
- D. Felix sent for Paul
1. Why did he do that?
 - a. The scriptures indicate that they wanted to know more about the faith that puts a man into Christ.
 - b. Paul took advantage of the opportunity to preach the gospel to these people.
 - c. He could have complained about the lack of justice, the delays, an number of things.
 - d. Paul realized his great responsibility to God (I Cor. 9:16).
 - e. Here was a man and woman living in sins, and he may never have another opportunity to talk to them about the things of eternity.
 - f. This is II Tim. 4:2 in life...
 2. The message.
 - a. We have three main points (Righteousness, temperance (self-control) and judgment to come)
 - (1) Preach on righteousness to such a man and women.
 - (2) Preach on self-control
 - (3) Preach on judgment to come.
 - (4) What preacher today would select a subject which Felix must have regarded as a personal reflection and which Drusilla might have regarded as an insult.
 - (5) It's not easy to go into the homes of the ungodly and tell them plainly of their sins.
 - (6) Isaiah 58:1,2
 - (7) When Paul and others spoke, they did not speak of the sins and crimes of people in a far away place. They addressed the problems where they were.
 - b. Righteousness
 - (1) Right doing as prescribed by God (Psa. 119:172)
 - (2) Matt. 5:6
 - (3) II Tim. 3:16; 4:8
 - (4) Titus 2:12
 - (5) More than morality, includes obedience.
 - c. Temperance (self-control)
 - (1) To control or master the passions or desires of the body.
 - (2) When he spoke of temperance, he condemned them at every word.
 - d. Judgment to come.
 - (1) Every person will give an account for the deeds done
 - (2) Acts 17:30-31
 3. Response of Felix.
 - a. Trembled, he was terrified.
 - b. When you look back over your life...when you consider the judgment.
 - c. Felix was saying: *I see the direction to which your speech would carry me. I see the course that it would have me take, but it is not convenient to do it today.*
 - d. What is a convenient season? It's a season when you can do a thing just as easily as not.
 - e. Convenient season NEVER comes
 4. He hoped to receive money as a bribe to let him go.
 5. Festus came on the scene and continue to keep Paul under arrest.
- Con: For the hope of the resurrection I am called in question. A convenient season... will never come. Delay is still rejection. II Cor. 6:2—now is the day of salvation.