

Acts 24

Today we look at the apostle Paul's testimony before the governor Felix and we see three sets of players here and their stand. One, the Jewish leaders, two Felix and Drusilla his wife and lastly Paul himself.

v.1-8 the charges of Tertullus

- great peace and prosperity- false "In reality he [Felix] had put down several insurrections with such barbarous brutality that he earned for himself the horror, not the thanks, of the Jewish population." (Stott) In particular, he ordered a massacre of thousands of Jews in Caesarea, with many more Jewish homes looted by the Roman soldiers.

- noble Felix- - Antonius Felix began life as a slave. His brother Pallas was a friend of the emperor Claudius; through such influence, he rose in status – first as a child gaining freedom, and then through intrigue he became the first former slave to become a governor of a Roman province.

the Roman historian Tacitus says concerning him," through all cruelty and licentiousness he exercised the authority of a king with the spirit of a slave "The picture drawn by Tacitus of Felix's public and private life is not a pretty one. Trading on the influences of his infamous brother [Pallas, a favorite of the emperor Claudius], he indulged in every license and excess, thinking 'that he could do any evil act with impunity' (Tacitus, *Annals* 12.54)." (Williams)

- False charges of sedition and profaning the Temple

v. 10 Paul's testimony- *1Pet 3:14-17 (NKJV)* *14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. 17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.*

- worship the God of my fathers, believing all things written in the law

Paul makes it clear that he has not abandoned either the God of Israel or His revelation through His Word

Believing all things written in the law

- Jesus is the only way to salvation
- He is coming again
- Righteous living- not accepting sinful lifestyles or compromise

Can we believe in evolution? Early earth theory? Adjusting church to reflect society?

- Assurance of the Resurrection- this is the heart of Christian belief- our faith is comprised of the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen ***Rom 10:8-9 (NKJV) 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.***
- see 1 Corinthians 15
- see Revelation 20 and 21
- Jesus says , *where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched*

v.22-27 Felix response- I'll listen when I have a convenient time

v.24 Drusilla- the youngest daughter of Herod Agrippa I- her father had killed James the apostle, her great uncle had killed John the Baptist, her great grandfather tried to kill Jesus after Magi came

- at 14 she became the wife of Azizus, the king of Emesa, some years later Felix lured her away to be his wife, her father was an Edomite and Jewish, she had been brought up as a Jew, she knew

v.25 Paul had the opportunity to witness more

Three responses

Jewish leadership- refused to believe, therefore they became an enemy

- That can be your response today- you say you believe in heaven and hell but do you really? Does it affect your life?
- Unbeliever not wanting to repent- example of wwf wrestler
- Compromising churches, government
- *Time for a line in the sand*

Wait for a convenient time

- Unsaved- there will never be a more convenient time than this
- Saved
 - – young people- when I get older I'll serve
 - – I'm not a stage where I feel led to serve right now, not my time, I've already done my time
 - What are you waiting for? Will you be standing by the grave for a loved one wishing that perhaps you had shared Jesus, maybe gone ahead and offended them?

We can be sold out like Paul

1Thess 5:1-6 (NKJV) 1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

2Pet 3:10-14 (NKJV)

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

Eph 5:15-16 (NKJV) 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.