

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are the dangers in flattering someone?
2. How important is a good, true, testimony? Why?
3. What kind of hope did Paul express to Felix?
4. What is the danger in deferring the judgment of God's Word upon our own personal life?
5. Is there ever a convenient season in our lives for us to "call for Him"?

### SUMMARY:

As Paul was brought before Felix he was preceded by Tertullus, who made a flattering, slandering, prosecution speech to Felix against Paul. How often people today try to cover their own sin by flattery. Paul spoke straightforward testifying of his faith and hope in God. When he began to reason of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, but deferred in his own acceptance of the Word for his own life.

### NOTES:

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**[SoF:15]** We believe that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is an invitation for everyone to live a life of abandonment to Him, Who loved us and gave Himself for us - surrendering His personal ambitions and possessions in an unreserved committal to take the proclamation of the Gospel throughout "all the world to every creature". **[SoF:6]** We believe that all are sinners and lost, awaiting the judgment of God, but God is not willing that any should be lost.

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #7

February 16, 2020

First Quarter

### PAUL'S DEFENSE BEFORE FELIX

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**LESSON TEXT:** *Acts 24:1-27*

**LESSON SETTING:** The judgment hall of Felix

**TIME:** Approximately 58 A.D.

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#### I. A FALSE ACCUSATION. Acts 24:1-9

- A. Flatterers. (vs. 2) Psalm 12:3; Proverbs 28:23
- B. Slander. (vs. 5, 6) Psalm 101:5; Proverbs 11:9
- C. Lying. (vs. 5-9) Proverbs 19:5; Revelation 21:8

#### II. A BOLD DEFENSE. Acts 24:10-21

- A. True Testimony. **[SoF:15]** (vs. 10-13) Mark 5:18-19; 2 Timothy 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15
- B. Eternal Hope. (vs. 15) Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:3
- C. Spirit Striving. Luke 13:24; Philipians 1:27
- D. Godliness. (vs. 15, 16) 1 Timothy 4:7; 2 Peter 3:11

#### III. A DEFERRED JUDGMENT. Acts 24:22-27

- A. Last Judgment. **[SoF:6]** Matthew 25:31-32; Hebrews 9:27; Jude 4-5
- B. Conviction of Sin. (vs. 25) Psalm 38:4; Acts 2:37
- C. Procrastination. (vs. 25) Matthew 8:21; 25:11-12; Luke 13:25

**GOLDEN TEXT: . . . AND BE READY ALWAYS TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERY MAN THAT ASKETH YOU A REASON OF THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU, WITH MEEKNESS AND FEAR:** *1 Peter 3:15*

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Acts 25:1-27; 26:1-32

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Daniel 5:10-31; Acts 9:1-22

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Life and Writings of Paul

**TOPIC:** PAUL'S TESTIMONY TO AGRIPPA

**INTRODUCTION:**

For two years Paul remained a prisoner and it is certain he took advantage of every opportunity to confess Christ before men. Then Felix was replaced by Festus. He went to Jerusalem and there the Jews demanded Paul to be brought before them. Festus refused but invited them to come to Caesarea to accuse Paul.

At this time King Agrippa appeared so he also could hear Paul's testimony. Paul was happy to give it. It made no difference to Paul whether he gave his testimony to his own people or to royalty, just so that God could use him.

The Bible is silent as to whether Paul's testimony during these two years bore any fruit. We know Felix did not repent at this time, nor Festus, nor Agrippa, but still Paul witnessed.

We dare not become discouraged in our witnessing. How often the devil tries to discourage us, but like Paul, we must prevail and work for Christ. He does give us the strength and courage to do what He asks of us.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** To be effective, a Christian's witness must be based upon his own experience and knowledge of Christ.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *WHEREUPON, O KING AGRIPPA, I WAS NOT DISOBEDIENT UNTO THE HEAVENLY VISION.* Acts 26:19

How much the world would have lost, had Paul not been obedient to the heavenly vision! Not only his own salvation was at stake, but think of the many churches which were established among the Gentiles, and of the many epistles which are recorded for our own instruction today. Paul had obeyed the heavenly vision; he had entered the service of the "King of Kings," so now he could testify before an earthly king "*how great things the Lord hath done.*" (Mark 5:19)

If we see a heavenly vision today, if we hear the Holy Spirit speak to us, will we continue "kicking against the pricks," or will we obey?

Give faithful servants ever  
Who have but one endeavor,  
Thy gospel to proclaim;  
Who heed Thy Spirit holy  
And strive and labor solely  
O Lord, to glorify Thy name. Z.H. 207:8

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 17–23**

M. God's Message Appears. Daniel 5:10-16  
T. God's Message Interpreted. Daniel 5:17-31  
W. \*Paul's Appeal to Caesar. Acts 25:1-12  
T. \*Agrippa and Festus Confer. Acts 25:13-27  
F. \*Paul Appears Before Agrippa. Acts 26:1-11  
S. \*Paul Testifies Before Agrippa. Acts 26:12-18  
S. \*Agrippa's Reaction. Acts 26:19-32

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