

**First Baptist Church of Progress Village**  
**Wednesday Bible Study**  
**Acts of The Apostles – Chapters 24-25**  
**Todd E. Hammond, Senior Pastor**  
**July 17, 2024**

**Keyphrase:** Patience through the Process.

Trials against Paul: Street Mob 22, Sanhedrin 23, Felix 24, Festus 25, Agrippa II 26

**I. Paul appears before Felix.** (Roman Procurator / Governor)

Felix was known to be cruel, lustful, and greedy, which meant that he looked for and expected bribes leading to corruption to the highest bidder

**Acts 24:1 (KJV)** *And after five days Ananias the high priest descended with the elders, and with a certain orator named Tertullus, who informed the governor against Paul.*

A. The Sanhedrin bring an attorney (Tertullus) to present the case against Paul.

**Acts 24:5-6 (KJV)** *For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes: Who also hath gone about to profane the temple: whom we took, and would have judged according to our law.*

Accusation 1: Insurrectionist, troublemaker

Accusation 2: Ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

Accusation 3: Profaned the temple.

1. Ananias and Tertullus admit to being stopped from “mob justice” by the Chief Captain.

**Acts 24:7-8** *But the chief captain Lysias came upon us, and with great violence took him away out of our hands, 8 Commanding his accusers to come unto thee: by examining of whom thyself mayest take knowledge of all these things, whereof we accuse him.*

2. The Jewish delegation affirmed the false accusations levied against Paul.

**Acts 24:9** *And the Jews also assented, saying that these things were so.*

**B. Paul defends himself in truth.**

**Acts 24:10-13 (KJV)** *Then Paul, after that the governor had beckoned unto him to speak, answered, Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself: Because that thou mayest understand, that there are yet but twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem for to worship. And they neither found me in the temple disputing with any man, neither raising up the people, neither in the synagogues, nor in the city: Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me.*

1. Paul declares there was no time, no witnesses, and no evidence supporting their claim.

**Acts 24:14-20 (KJV)** *But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.*

**17** *Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings. Whereupon certain Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with multitude, nor with tumult. Who ought to have*

*been here before thee, and object, if they had ought against me. Or else let these same here say, if they have found any evil doing in me, while I stood before the council,*

2. Paul acknowledges the **disagreement** in their fundamental belief in the resurrection of the dead.

**Acts 24:21** *Except it be for this one voice, that I cried standing among them, Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day.*

**Acts 24:22-23 (KJV)** *And when Felix heard these things, having more perfect knowledge of that way, he deferred them, and said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter. And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him.*

C. Felix **delays** judgment for **selfish** reasons.

**Acts 24:24-26** *And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him.*

1. Felix heard Paul say he brought alms and offerings, so he wanted in on the action.
2. Felix heard the Gospel of Jesus and **rejected** it.

D. Felix is **replaced** as Procurator, but refuses to release Paul.

**Acts 24:27 (ESV)** *When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.*

## II. Paul appears before **Festus**.

**Acts 25:1-3** *Now when Festus was come into the province, after three days he ascended from Caesarea to Jerusalem. Then the high priest and the chief of the Jews informed him against Paul, and besought him, And desired favour against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem, laying wait in the way to kill him.*

A. Jews admitted to wanting to **murder** Paul.

**Acts 25:4-6** *But Festus answered, that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself would depart shortly thither. Let them therefore, said he, which among you are able, go down with me, and accuse this man, if there be any wickedness in him. And when he had tarried among them more than ten days, he went down unto Caesarea; and the next day sitting on the judgment seat commanded Paul to be brought.*

**Acts 25:7 (KJV)** *And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove.*

B. The second trial went much like the first only without the “hired gun”. Accusations without proof.

**Acts 25:8 (KJV)** *While he answered for himself, Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all.*

C. Paul **defends** himself again in the same way as before.

**Acts 25:9-12 (KJV)** *But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me?*

*10 Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest.*

*11 For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar.*

*12 Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? unto Caesar shalt thou go.*

Festus having gotten everything he could get was willing to let the murder plot proceed, but even he had to respect the plea to Caesar, else it would be his own life and position in jeopardy.

**Next Week Read Chapter Acts 25:13-27 and Chapter 26:1-32**

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS - Defense of the Faith (Apologetics)**