

Acts 24-25

Paul before Felix & Festus



Location – Location – Location

What city? What place?

Caesarea – 300 miles north of Jerusalem

In Herod's Praetorium = Governor's residence

Upon what are the legal proceedings waiting?

Waiting for Paul's accusers to arrive.

Accusations against Paul

Who are listed among Paul's accusers?

The High Priest, Ananias

Some elders

An attorney named Tertullus

Accusations against Paul

Evaluate each accusation brought against Paul.

“He’s a real pest” – assertion & opinion

“stirs up dissension among Jews...” – false!

“a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes”

– not against any law!

“desecrate the temple” – rumor/no evidence

Accusations against Paul

What important word do we find in v. 9?

“asserting” – no evidence!

Summary of how Paul made his defense?

Stated the facts – Refutes their claims –

*Claims to believe and live just like “them”
...based upon belief in the resurrection.*

Places blame on “some Jews from Asia.”

“Resurrection” is used 11 times in Acts

- *Usually as a reference to Christ’s resurrection.*
- *After Paul was arrested, his usage changed:*

“Resurrection” in 1 Corinthians

- From Chuck Swindoll – “Paul had been in Ephesus for more than two years on his third missionary journey when he received a disturbing report of quarreling within the Corinthian church. The church he had founded so recently (Acts 18:1–17) had already developed deep divisions, a situation that required immediate action. Paul penned his letter in AD 55, just as he was planning to leave Ephesus.

“Resurrection” in 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved,

*3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that **He was buried**, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that **He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.***

“Resurrection” is used 11 times in Acts

- *Usually as a reference to Christ’s resurrection.*
- *After Paul was arrested, his usage changed:*
 - *Acts 24:15*
 - *Acts 24:21*
 - *Acts 23:6*
 - *Acts 23:8*
- *What is the difference here from the other seven instances?*

“Resurrection” in Daniel 12:1-3

“Now at that time ... there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. 2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.”

“Resurrection” in John 5:24-29

“Truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. 25 Truly, I say to you, an hour is coming... when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ... 28 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth ...to a resurrection of life, ...to a resurrection of judgment.

“Resurrection” in Romans 4:22-25

Therefore, IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions (forgiveness) and was raised because of (“by which”) our justification.

How did Felix's knowledge of "the Way" influence his decision about Paul?

- *Since he knew the bias of Paul's accusers against "the Way," he was unwilling to accept the accusations at face value.*

What prompted Felix to summon Paul again to hear from Him?

- *His wife, a Jewess, was now with him.*

What did Paul talk about to Felix? (v. 24-25)

- *Faith in Jesus Christ*
- *Righteousness*
- *Self-control*
- *the coming Judgement*

What was his response? ...his motives?

- *Felix became frightened, due to the godless lack of discipline in his life. He was convicted of his sin but desired to gain a bribe from Paul for his release. He sent Paul away with the promise to call for him again.*

How long until Paul meets with Festus?

Two Years.

Did Festus seem to be more favorable or less toward Paul's Jewish accusers?

Unclear!

- *He is unwilling to merely give in to their expectations for Paul to be brought to Jerusalem.*
- *However, when the Jews come to Caesarea, he is willing to do them a “favor.”*

What significant change did Paul make in his defense, compared to his defense to Felix?

He again claims his identity as a Roman citizen and appeals to stand before Caesar.

WHY?

- *He saw the political duplicity of Festus, wanting to gain favor with the Jews.*

Of what prejudice does Paul boldly accuse
Governor Festus?

*That Festus knows only too well that he is not
guilty of any wrong to the Jews.*

In 25:11 Paul is fearless of death, even death
in Rome. To what do you attribute this?

*Jesus had promised him that, as he had faithfully
witnessed to His cause in Jerusalem, he must also
witness to His cause in Rome.*

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