

Acts 24:1-9

Felix hears the case against Paul.

Tertullus, an eloquent, “lying through the teeth” lawyer, presented the case against Paul to Felix.

First, he addresses the judge (Felix)...stating untruths in trying to build up the governor with “nauseating flattery” and then stating his case with three (3) specific charges against Paul:

- 1. He causes riots among Jews wherever he goes***
- 2. He is ringleader of a troublesome sect***
- 3. He tried to bring a Gentile into the forbidden part of the temple (verses 5,6)***

The basic message of Tertullus was that the “Roman Peace” is being threatened by Paul, who is a Political agitator. Felix had crucified those guilty of this in the past...Tertullus knew that.

The Jews liked this message and joined in the accusations.

Acts 24:10-21

Paul simply states the facts. Why does Paul simply and calmly state the facts with the utmost confidence?

He knew who he was, where he was going, why he was here, and what the outcome will be in the end!

Acts 24:22-27

Felix knew Paul was right...he knew about ‘the Way.’

Felix was afraid that Paul knew the facts concerning the Jews and his part in causing great harm to many of them.

He wanted Paul to come up with some money and be on his way. Paul stayed in Prison for 2 years under Felix. Felix was basically thrown out of office. He should have been executed for what he did to the Jews in the past...but, his kinfolk kept him from being executed.

Acts 25:1-12

Festus took Felix’s place. He seemed to be an upright and just man. He wanted to be fair with his prisoners and those on trial. You are innocent until proven guilty was his motto.

Festus thought Paul ought to be tried in Jerusalem.

He wanted to compromise with the Jewish leaders and send Paul back to Rome...

Paul stated that he was a Roman citizen and he must be tried as a Roman Citizen.

Festus agreed. "You appealed to Caesar...and to Caesar you will go!" Festus died after being in office only two years.

Acts 25:13-27

Paul was going to get his chance to speak to the Governor and King....

Little tentmaker Paul...in chains speaking to the King and Governor...royal guard...

Pomp and ceremony all around...Paul was going to have his chance to witness before the highest of courts...Caesar himself.

Paul brought before these dignitaries to speak his defense. His defense.....that Jesus Christ has changed his life and he can change anyone's life.

Festus said it all...and did not realize he was speaking the truth:

- *Paul was saying something about a dead man named Jesus and that*
- *He now says this man is alive!*

The resurrection of Jesus was and still is at the heart of Apostolic preaching.

It was not simply an abstract theory...

- *The first apostles had seen Him (Acts 2:32)*
- *So had Paul (1 Corinthians 15:8)*
- *It is a personal living experience....Jesus is alive!*