

ACTS CH 24 – PAUL BEFORE FELIX

24:1-9 - Tertullus attempts to paint Paul as a trouble maker who personally instigates riots everywhere he goes in the eyes of Rome, riots were illegal and equivalent to rebellion.

24:10-21 - Paul centers the disagreement on theological matters, knowing that Roman officials generally stayed out of internal religious disputes.

24:22-27 – Paul is kept in custody, reasons with Felix concerning Jesus.

Some info about the Drusilla and Felix:

- Drusilla Felix's third wife, was the daughter of Herod Agrippa I. She disobeyed Jewish law by divorcing her husband and marrying Felix. Felix was not known for his righteous practices, including taking Drusilla from her first husband King Azizus.

What was it concerning the topics of Faith in Jesus, Righteousness, Self-control, and The Coming Judgment that left Felix so shook up? To get that answer, let's look directly at what Paul writes on these topics.

- Romans 1:16-32 speaks on Faith in Jesus, Righteousness, Self-control.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, 2 Thessalonians 1:7b-12 & 2 Corinthians 5:10 speak on the coming judgment
- 2 Corinthians 5:10, "10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

What affect does Paul's reasoning have upon Felix? It illustrates the truth of Hebrews 4:12, that "the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

A note on the fear of the Lord:

- Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."

- 2 Chronicles 19:7, "Now then, let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the Lord our God, or partiality or taking bribes."

- 1 Corinthians 2:12-15, "12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

- Felix's heart was set on gain, not knowledge of the Lord, just like Simon the magician back in chapter 8. The guy who had a sin named after him (simony). **What do you treasure most in your heart?**