

- <http://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/when-the-pursuit-of-justice-isnt>
- Romans 12:19

#### 25:11-12 – Paul Appeals to Caesar

- The Roman governors exercised supreme jurisdiction over the provinces but all Roman citizens had the inalienable right of appeal.
- The emperor at this time was Nero (AD 54–68)
- Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible, “Paul’s appeal to Caesar... does not necessarily mean that he was judged by Nero. The emperor had made it known at the beginning of his reign that he would not be a judge. Instead he appointed prefects of the Praetorian Guard to judge cases for him. In the early part of AD 62 Nero changed that rule and judged a case himself. Therefore, whether Paul stood before Nero or before one of the prefects is difficult to determine. If prosecutors failed to appear, Paul’s case may not have come before the judge at all. According to Philippians 1:7, 12–14, Paul was still expecting a trial at the time of his writing that letter.”

#### 25:13-27

- Festus had no idea what to accuse Paul of when sending him to Rome - Acts 25:26-27.
- “Festus would naturally want the counsel of Agrippa, who knew Judaism but was more sympathetic to Roman interests than the priestly aristocracy was proving to be.”
- Agrippa II, “had responsibility for the temple and appointing the high priest, among other duties. He would have had an interest in the charges against Paul as one who had violated the temple.”

#### Justice and Injustice – how it’s a gospel issue.

- 1 Peter 2:13-25 – Honor all authorities, even the unjust, just as Christ did.
- 1 Peter 3:13-18
- Revelation 20:12. it is not for us to harken that reckoning on, but to preach Christ and him crucified. For we all fall short of God’s holiness, and we are all deserving of the God’s justice. But thanks be to God for his mercy!
- Ephesians 2:4-7

## ACTS CH 25 – PAUL APPEALS TO CAESAR

### The Main Players:

- Agrippa II – son of Herod Agrippa I, persecutor of the church in Acts 12, and the same Agrippa I who died back in chapter 12 by worms after accepting the flattery of being called a god. Agrippa I was survived by his daughters Bernice, Mariamne, and Drusilla, and by a son Agrippa who was 17 at the time. In AD 50, six years after his father’s death, Claudius made him king of Chalcis. Agrippa II was in control of the temple treasury and the vestments of the high priest and thus could appoint the high priest (Antiq. 20.5.2 §103; 9.4 §213; 9.7 §222). The Romans consulted him on religious matters, which is probably why Festus asked him to hear the apostle Paul at Caesarea Bernice - Eldest daughter of Herod Agrippa I and sister of Agrippa II. She was a two-time widow at this point in her life, and developed a deep relationship with her brother – with whom it is rumored she had an incestuous relationship with.

#### 25:1-12

- Festus wants this ordeal to be over with. So, though he initially denies the Jewish officials their request to have Paul brought to Jerusalem, he later consents to their wish, adding that he would preside at the trial.
- Paul is saying that, since he has discredited the Jewish accusations that he violated the Mosaic law, a Roman court is the only place where he should be tried. 1 Peter 4:12
- Was it just for Paul to be continually tried and imprisoned on false accusations? To a further extent, is God just when we ourselves fall under various injustices today?
- Mark Dever, *God and Politics*, “In a fallen world, legal is not the same thing as moral. Illegal is not necessarily the same thing as immoral and so earthly authority must humbly remember that it is not the ultimate power.”
- Paul was living this reality, and it shows us that the right decision isn’t always the easy decision. Standing for truth may mean taking the long and complicated road. As followers of Christ, we must act and love justly in an unjust world. Romans 13:1