

Convicted But Not Converted

Acts 24:24-25

- At the Beginning of Acts 24, Paul is in a prison in Caesarea, having been escorted there by a Cavalry of Roman soldiers after an attempted assassination attempt of Paul by Jewish leaders in Jerusalem
- Once he gets to “safety” in prison in Caesarea, the Roman Governor of the province, a man by the name of Felix, hears his case publicly
- The Jewish leaders had chosen Tertullus, who was a Roman advocate they hired to prosecute Paul

Tertullus is an Orator Who Sought To Impress Governor Felix In Opening Remarks , Acts 24:2-9

“Seeing that through you we enjoy great peace, and prosperity is being brought to this nation by your foresight, we accept it always and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness.

Nevertheless, not to be tedious to you any further, I beg you to hear, by your courtesy a few words from us.”

“..For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law. But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took him out of our hands, commanding his accusers to come to you.”

*Remember, if God be for us, who can be against us?
Romans 8:31*

“..... By examining him yourself you ascertain all these things of which we accuse him.” and the Jews also assented, maintaining that these things were so.”

- The Bible says then, after Tertullus had finished his opening remarks and Governor Felix nodded to Paul to speak, Paul begins his defense, disputing the accusations that were leveled against him
- But verse 22 says that even before Paul’s trial concerning his defense of his new Christian calling, Governor Felix had more accurate knowledge about the Christian religion than he let on. He knew more about Christ than admitted
- What if more people obeyed what they already knew?!
- He decided to wait until Commander Lysias could come, who had violently removed Paul from Jerusalem
- Paul is sent back to prison

The Plot Thickens

The Bible says that after a few days, Felix was ready to hear more from Paul, and on this occasion, he brings his wife Drusilla, a Jewish woman

What About Drusilla?

- She was the granddaughter of Herod the Great and youngest daughter of Herod Agrippa
- She was the niece of the Herod who beheaded John the Baptist
- History says that at about the age of 15, she married King Aziz of Emesa on his becoming a Jew
- She left him and illegitimately married the Roman Governor Felix

What About Drusilla?

- Her marriage to Felix was sinful in that as a Jewess, she married a foreigner who did not confess the faith of her fathers
- It was also sinful because she married Felix illegally because her first husband, from whom she had not been divorced, was still alive
- So in essence, Felix married a woman who was still married
- History says she was more beautiful than either of her two sisters, Bernice and Marianne, with great hatred between Drusilla and Bernice

So Paul Has A Private Audience With This Couple!

- Standing before this couple he could have easily watered down his message
- Seeing that this man had the power to deliver him to his accusers, he could have flattered his position to some degree
- He could have tried to negotiate a financial bribery settlement for his freedom, after all verse 26 of Acts 24, we are told that Felix was looking for that

But Instead His Subject To Felix
Concerned Three Things:

Righteousness

Self Control

Eternal Judgment

To Come!

Righteousness

- Proverbs 14:34, *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people”*
- We are living in a day of unrighteous behavior
- Leaders should be especially cognizant of their behavior
- Proverbs 17:7 *“We don’t expect eloquence from fools, nor do we expect lies from our leaders”*
- Governor Felix needed to know that followers have rightful expectations of people in position
- Remember James 3:1 *“Brethren, be not many masters, for ye shall receive the greater judgment.”*

Self Control

- When Paul begin to talk about Self Control, *The “Sword of the Spirit”* struck Felix in his heart saying *“thou art the man” 2Samuel 12:7*
- His life was out of control, his lifestyle was wrong
- His marriage was a disgrace
- Self Control is very important for the believer, our tongue, our thoughts, our opinions

The Question Now Is Whose On Trial, Paul or Felix?

Judgment to Come

- This subject is not mentioned in many sermons across the nation because it's not a *“feel good subject”*, but **Paul didn't leave it out**
- **Felix was a Governor in charge of earthly judgment, but Paul made Felix to understand that even he was under the Judge of another**
John 12:48, 2Timothy 4:6-9

Paul Was Successful Because:

*Felix
Trembled!*

*When the Word is Preached Correctly,
it should awaken the conscience!*

Hebrews 4:12

2Timothy 4:1-5

But Felix Didn't Listen To His Heart!

- Verse 25, *Felix was afraid and answered, “Go thy way for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you. “Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him.”*
- As far as we know, he never answered the call of Christ
- At the Eternal Judgment, of which we know he heard about, it won't be Paul's fault that Felix may be lost!

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 8:38