

June 20, 2026

The graphic features the title 'When Evil Has the Floor' in large, stylized letters. 'When' is white, 'Evil' is red, and 'Has the Floor' is white. To the left, 'ACTS 24:1-9' is written vertically in white. In the top right corner, the St. John Baptist Church logo is displayed with the motto 'LOVE GOD • LOVE PEOPLE • MAKE DISCIPLES'. Below the logo is a portrait of Dr. Derrick E. Reaves, D.Min, Senior Pastor-Teacher. At the bottom right, the date 'June 21ST | 10:45 AM CDT' and the website 'www.stjohnbc.org' are listed.

Sermon Notes

Acts 24:1–9 (NLT)

¹Five days later Ananias, the high priest, arrived with some of the Jewish elders and the lawyer Tertullus, to present their case against Paul to the governor.

²When Paul was called in, Tertullus presented the charges against Paul in the following address to the governor: “You have provided a long period of peace for us Jews and with foresight have enacted reforms for us.

³For all of this, Your Excellency, we are very grateful to you.

⁴But I don’t want to bore you, so please give me your attention for only a moment.

⁵We have found this man to be a troublemaker who is constantly stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the cult known as the Nazarenes.

⁶Furthermore, he was trying to desecrate the Temple when we arrested him.

⁸You can find out the truth of our accusations by examining him yourself.”

⁹Then the other Jews chimed in, declaring that everything Tertullus said was true.

(Answer key located on the last page)

Three things God calls every believer to do when evil has the floor:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I. The PURSUIT of Evil: *Evil Will Come After You (Acts 24:1)*

Ananias did not just send a letter — he organized a full _____ campaign against Paul. Evil does not get tired easily.

Key Truth:

“The intensity of evil’s pursuit is not evidence that God has left you alone. It is evidence that you _____.”

Remember: God does not always take us _____ the hard places, but He never sends us _____ them alone.

Application — This Week: Write down Psalm 37:1–2 and put it somewhere you’ll see it every day.

II. The PRETENSE of Evil: *Evil Can Dress Itself Up*

(Acts 24:2–6)

Before accusing Paul, Tertullus opened with _____ — one of evil’s favorite weapons. Then he launched three specific charges:

1. “_____” — designed to make Paul sound dangerous before a fact was presented.
2. “_____” — painted Paul as the head of a dangerous cult.
3. “_____” — a calculated lie aimed at Jewish emotion.

Key Truth: God is not deceived by _____ presentations. Truth does not need a professional attorney. It just needs _____.

You do not have to out-argue evil. You just have to _____ faithful and let God handle the _____.

Application: Find 1 person to pray with you. Find 3 Scriptures that tell you who God says you are. Leave the verdict where it belongs — in God’s hands.

III. The PEOPLE of Evil: *Evil Will Rally Its Supporters*

(Acts 24:9)

The Jewish leaders who joined Tertullus were not strangers — they were people who had studied the same _____ and prayed the same _____. And yet they “chimed in, declaring that everything Tertullus said was true.”

Key Truth:

The crowd _____ the lie does not change the _____. In God’s courtroom, numbers do not vote. God is one vote — and His vote is the only one that settles the case.

Application: Memorize Romans 8:31 — “If God is for us, who can ever be against us?” Write it on an index card. Read it aloud every time the crowd feels overwhelming.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Which of the three ways evil operates resonates most with what you are facing right now — the Pursuit, the Pretense, or the People? Why?

Answer Key

Introduction –Three Things:
Stay | Stand | Let God Speak

Main Point I:
coordinated | matter to God's
kingdom | around/through

Main Point II:
flattery | 1: Troublemaker |
2: Ringleader | 3: Temple
defiler | polished/time |
stay/verdict

Main Point III:
Scriptures | prayers | affirming
| truth

The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
(Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News

... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **“God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins.**

Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!”

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9–10)

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