

# Paul on Trial - Part 05 – Acts 24

## *Trial in Caesarea*

### 1. Lysias' Letter

- a. Felix was the Roman governor of Judea, a politician of ill repute.
- b. Lysias records he did Paul no violence and that he had judged him innocent
- c. *"when thine accusers are also come"* – a righteous law – Acts 25:16, John 8:10-11

### 2. Tertullus' Accusations (24:1-9)

- a. As Saul once persecuted the disciples, so do his kinsmen persecute him Act 9:1-2
- b. 24:1-4 - Tertullus speaks flattery and lies in submission to the sinful governor
- c. The charges: pestilent, seditious, chief of the heretics, profaning the temple
- d. All presented as offensive to Roman rule (not God's word) – remember Lk 23:2
- e. 25:6 – *"would have judged according to our law"* – by public stoning w/o trial?
- f. 25:7 – Blaming Lysias with no mention of the public defense or council hearing

### 3. Paul's Defense (24:10-21)

- a. 24:11-13 - *"yet but twelve days since..."* – Defense 1: There is no evidence
  - i. *"neither can they prove the things"* – these are false accusations
- b. 24:14-16 – *"way they call heresy, so worship I"* – Defense 2: I teach the scripture!
  - i. *"Believing all things which are written"* – don't we, too? - 2 Tim 3:15-16
  - ii. Paul taught faith in Christ... don't we? – Jn 1:45, 5:39, Lk 24:27, Gal 1:23
  - iii. He taught the hope of resurrection and judgment, don't we? 2 Tim 2:8, 15
  - iv. *"herein do I exercise myself"* – good works in light of resurrected judgment
- c. 24:17-19 - Defense 3: They that found me purified in the temple are absent!
- d. Paul is before Felix for one thing he said to the council... resurrection.

### 4. Is Paul Teaching Peter's Message?

- a. 24:11, 14, 17-18, 21 –If this is all we know of his ministry, where's the mystery?
- b. Are these contrary to the mystery? No. Is Paul being accused by believers? No.
- c. Is the gospel of the kingdom found here? (Mark 1:14-15, Luk 9:1-6) No.
- d. Is the gospel of the circumcision found here? (Acts 3:25-26, cp Gal 1&2) No.
- e. Is there a temple, Jew/Gentile, or apostles sent to Israel today? No.
- f. Did Paul know the mystery? A: Yes (Rom 16:25, 1 Cor 2:7-8)
  - i. The mystery is not antinomian, anti-Semitic, nor unscriptural.
- g. Paul was never sent with Peter's message. Peter was never sent with Paul's.

### 5. Paul in Bonds (24:22-27)

- a. Felix says he is waiting for Lysias, but is playing politics – see Acts 24:26-27
- b. 24:24 - Felix brings out Paul for his Jewish wife's sake, and hears the gospel
  - i. Why would Paul teach the mystery to an unsaved Roman?
- c. Paul is bound (that is captive), but has guarded liberty for more than 2 years.
- d. Paul is bound here for more than 2 years. Could he written epistles? Possibly