



Hey Christ Church!

Here is something to think about. If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? That is something that we should ask ourselves everyday—Is Jesus showing in me? Once again, in the verses that we study today, Christianity is called “The Way.” Paul refers to himself as a follower of the Way. By definition, the way is a course of action or path. So, being a follower of the Way is by very definition an active endeavor.

Paul is before his accusers and stands to defend himself. In one sense, he is now taken out of action, but we learn that his influence is still strong in his letter writing and his evangelism. See what more you can learn about Paul and his “following of the Way” as you read through these verses.

Stay Safe, Pray Always and Press On!
In Christ’s Greater Love,
Roger

SESSION FORTY-THREE

6/3/2020

Acts 24:1-27

Five days later the high priest Ananias went down to Caesarea with some of the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and they brought their charges against Paul before the governor. ² When Paul was called in, Tertullus presented his case before Felix: “We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation. ³ Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. ⁴ But in order not to weary you further, I would request that you be kind enough to hear us briefly.

⁵ “We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect ⁶ and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. ^[7] ⁸ By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him.”

⁹ The other Jews joined in the accusation, asserting that these things were true.

¹⁰ When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied: “I know that for a number of years you have been a judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense. ¹¹ You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. ¹² My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. ¹³ And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me. ¹⁴ However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, ¹⁵ and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. ¹⁶ So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

¹⁷ “After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings. ¹⁸ I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple courts doing this. There was no crowd with me, nor was I involved in any disturbance. ¹⁹ But there are some Jews from the province of Asia, who ought to be here before you and bring charges if they have anything against me. ²⁰ Or these who are here should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin— ²¹ unless it was this one thing I shouted as I stood in their

presence: ‘It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.’”

²² Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. “When Lysias the commander comes,” he said, “I will decide your case.” ²³ He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs.

²⁴ Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish.

He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ

Jesus. ²⁵ As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.” ²⁶ At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.

²⁷ When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.

1) Paul is brought before his accusers and before the governor of the Caesarea region. Read verses 5 through 8 and list the accusations made against Paul.

2) What are some important points of Paul’s defense? (verses 10-21)

3) Reread verse 15. What do you think Paul means about the righteous and the unrighteous (Good and bad) both being raised from death?

4) What do you think of Felix’s treatment of Paul?

5) When Paul spoke to Felix about faith in Christ Jesus as well as justice, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix became frightened. Why do you think Felix reacted in such a manner?

6) How long was Paul kept there in prison and what kind of prison was it?

7) Why did Felix keep Paul in prison?

FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

8) How hard would it be for you to go to prison for your belief in Jesus? Would you do it? Or would you disown Him to stay out to prison?

9) What are those things in your life that you will not compromise? Are they God-centered or self-centered?

10) Ask God to guide you in His direction -- even if it is a different direction than you would have picked.