

Paul before Felix

This week we learn how Paul faithfully and bravely testified of his faith in The Lord Jesus Christ.

**As Paul reasoned of righteousness,
temperance (self-control), and
judgement to come, Felix trembled...**

Acts 24v25

Bible Readings for this week

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Acts 21v1-19 (Paul faces danger by going to Jerusalem)	
Monday	Acts 21v20-40 (Paul arrested – yet still preaches Christ)	
Tuesday	Acts 22v1-16 (Paul, unafraid, gives his testimony)	
Wednesday	Acts 22v17-30 (Paul continues his testimony)	
Thursday	Acts 23v1-19 (Paul’s enemies plan to kill him)	
Friday	Acts 23v20-35 (Paul is sent to Felix, the Roman Governor)	
Saturday	Acts 24 (Felix hears Paul but will not believe)	

Important Lesson for us today: *If the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, we must respond - Coming to Bible/College Class and Church, hearing the Gospel, feeling the guilt of our sins is good - **but** if we do not respond with repentance and prayer, trusting that Jesus Christ alone can save us, then we are in a very dangerous place. Great open sins ruin a soul but so too does hearing without believing, listening without repentance, being convicted of our guilt without trusting only the Lord Jesus Christ. We all shall be judged according to how we have responded to the Gospel call to repentance. To hear of the way of salvation and yet neglect it, is one of the worst sins we can commit. (read John 16v7-11). **May we urge you to respond today.***

Hymn 360 – You are invited to come to the Saviour now, make no delay.

- Come to the Saviour now! His mercy calleth thee; In true repentance bow, Before Him bend the knee. He waiteth to bestow Salvation, peace and love, True joy on earth below, A home in Heaven above.
- Come to the Saviour: view The Lamb of Calvary; For in His merits you Have an unfailling plea. No vain excuses frame, For feelings do not stay; None who to Jesus came Were ever sent away.

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

Paul Defends His Faith Before The Roman Governor, Felix.

- **Paul Returns to Jerusalem:** -
 - He reports to the Jerusalem Church the results of his 3rd missionary journey and his successful preaching of The Gospel of Christ to Jews and Gentiles.
 - Unbelieving Jewish leaders, Ananias and Tertullus, raise strong opposition. Seeking to preserve the Old Testament teaching, and rejecting Christ as Messiah, they said to the people, **‘Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men everywhere against the people, and the law ...’** Acts 21v28.
 - Arrested for his safety, Paul testifies faith in Christ; as a Roman he is sent to Felix.
- **Felix – The Roman Governor of Judea was:** -
 - **Ruthless** – he had been born a slave but had risen to this exalted position.
 - **Powerful** – he had a garrison of Roman soldiers to protect and support him.
 - **Ambitious** – he was totally corrupt, cruel, a cheat, very selfish, and greedy.
- **Paul – The Prisoner Speaks of God’s View of a Person’s Heart:** -
 - Paul, in a later private interview with Felix, speaks of: -
 - **Righteousness** - God is not impressed by a persons’ achievement, **but** by how a person behaves – God looks at the motives of our heart – **why** we do something.
 - **Self-Control** – Felix and his wife knew little of self-control; they always got their way.
 - **Paul explained** that The Lord Jesus Christ, Almighty God, selflessly gave His life on Calvary, bearing the sinners guilt, to save them, and give them His righteousness.
 - **Judgement to Come** - God is the ultimate Judge. One day He will judge everyone. Those who have repented and asked The Lord to be their Saviour will enter Heaven.
- **Felix’s Reaction:** -
 - **He trembled before his prisoner** – Convicted of his sin, yet he puts off repenting, saying to Paul, **“when I have a convenient time, I will call for thee.”** Acts 24v25.
 - **He hardened his heart against repenting and believing** - very greedily he seeks a monetary bribe from Paul to set him free. No thought of changing.
- **Never Ignore God’s Gracious Warnings:** -
 - God says to us ‘do not admire those who have great wealth, or success in this life’.
 - God has set us a target list of values – 100% holiness in thought, word, and deed.
 - His standard is too high. He has provided forgiveness through One Who is perfect – The Lord Jesus gives us His Robe of Righteousness to replace our filthy rags of sin.
 - Sincerely seek the Lord in prayer to change our proud, selfish, rebellious hearts – to give us a new nature of faith, causing us to repent our sin, and trust in Christ alone.

Do not run away like Felix – rejecting God’s way of forgiveness - hardening our heart, convincing ourselves that we can live successfully without God, and His forgiveness.

The Apostle John wrote, **‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and the truth is not in us.**
1 John 1v9-10.