

¹¹since you can take note of the fact that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship.

¹²Neither in the temple, nor in the synagogues, nor in the city itself did they find me carrying on a discussion with anyone or causing a riot. ¹³Nor can they prove to you the charges of which they now accuse me. ¹⁴But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve (worship) the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; ¹⁵having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection for both the righteous and the wicked.

¹⁶In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men.

Defense: Paul, I am not a rioter or insurrectionist, but I am guilty of worshiping the one true God, holding firmly to Scripture's authority, and the promise of eternal life through Jesus.

¹⁷Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings; ¹⁸in which they found me occupied in the temple, having been purified, without any crowd or uproar. But there were some Jews from Asia-- ¹⁹who ought to have been present before you and to make accusation, if they should have anything against me. ²⁰Or else let these men themselves tell what misdeed they found when I stood before the Council, ²¹other than for this one statement which I shouted out while standing among them, 'For the resurrection of the dead I am on trial before you today.'"

This trial is bogus; the accusers are not here.

Acts 24:24-27 NASB

²⁴But some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵But he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you." ²⁶At the same time too, he was hoping that money would be given him by Paul; therefore he also used to send for him quite often and converse with him. ²⁷But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and wishing to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul imprisoned.

Felix was more interested in information than transformation.

Christianity of trial: Five Marks of a Faithful Witness:

- People of peace. (v.12)
- Followers of Jesus/The Way. (v.14)
- Shaped by Scripture. (v.14)
- Civically engaged. (v.17)
- Willing to speak truth to power. (v.24-25)

notes

GROUP DISCUSSION

The Power of a Testimony: Book of Acts
GateWay Church of Visalia, Pastor Lance Ainsworth
Acts 24, October 15th & 18th, 2026
Paul's witness to Felix.

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: What's one thing I need to know about you to be your friend?

Read Aloud: 24

1. What is the difference between being persecuted for your faith and being criticized because of your own behavior? How can Christians stand firmly on biblical convictions while still being people of peace?
2. Paul was willing to acknowledge what he believed, even when it was unpopular. What makes it difficult for Christians to speak openly about their faith today? How can Christians demonstrate that their faith makes them better neighbors, citizens, and members of their communities?
3. Paul spoke to Felix about righteousness, self-control, and coming judgment. Why do you think these subjects frightened Felix? Felix was interested enough to keep meeting with Paul, but he never responded decisively. What is the difference between being interested in Christianity and being transformed by Christ?
4. How can Christians contribute positively to their communities while remaining faithful to biblical convictions? When might speaking the truth about Jesus require courage? How can we prepare ourselves for those moments?