

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 28, 2007

Passage: Acts 24

Memory Passage: Acts 24:16

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 24:1-9.** What is the next step taken by the Jewish leaders to get Paul back?
- (b) What kind of an approach does their attorney take in his presentation before Felix? See if you can find out anything historically about Felix and his relationship with the Jews. What does this tell you about Tertullus's approach (Jude 1:6)?
- (c) What do Proverbs 29:5; Proverbs 20:19; Proverbs 26:24-28 and Proverbs 12:17-22 tell us about flattery?
- (d) Read Psalm 12. What should be our confidence even in a world of flattering lips and deceit?
- (e) What accusations does Tertullus make regarding Paul? List the charges and evaluate the accuracy of each of them.
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 24:1-9 and Psalm 12. Discuss flattery. What is it? How can we spot it? How can we avoid using it ourselves? Read Psalm 141:3 and pray that the Lord will watch over your lips this week.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 24:10-21.** Compare Paul's introduction before Felix with that of Tertullus. Is there any flattery in Paul's speech?
- (b) How many days ago did Paul say that he had gone up to Jerusalem? How many days had he been at Caesarea (Acts 24:1)? What did he say about his activities while he was there (Acts 24:12-13)?
- (c) What was the first thing he "confessed" to (Acts 24:14)? How did he connect this? Why was this important?
- (d) What additional evidence did Paul give about his behavior in the temple (Acts 24:17-21)? What legal requirement does Paul note that they neglected (vv. 19-20)?
- (e) What does Paul say is the one thing that they have rightly accused him of (Acts 24:21)? Why would this be the most important doctrine in Christianity (1 Corinthians 15:17)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 24:10-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:7. What is the foundational truth for Christianity? How does the doctrine of the resurrection affect your salvation? How does it affect your daily walk with Jesus? How does it affect the truthfulness of our message? Pray for someone that needs to know Jesus as their savior.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 24:15-16.** What was the basis of Paul's hope? What did he say that he always strove to have? Why was this important to him (Acts 24:15)? How does a Biblical understanding of the judgment motivate us to live our lives (Romans 14:10)?
- (b) What should be our goal in life (2 Corinthians 4:2; 2 Corinthians 1:12; Hebrews 13:18)?
- (c) What does the conscience do for us (John 8:9; Romans 2:15)?
- (d) What can happen to us if we do not listen to our conscience (1 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:15)?
- (e) How can a person have a cleansed conscience (Hebrew 9:14; 10:22)? What is the ultimate result of a clear conscience? How does it affect our witness (1 Peter 3:13-16)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 24:15-16 and 1 Timothy 4:2. Talk about our conscience. What is it and why has God given everyone a conscience? What happens if we do not listen to our conscience? Pray that you will not go against your conscience unless it is something that is clearly stated in God's Word.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 24:22-27.** How much did Felix know about "the Way"? Why do you think he did not let this be known?
- (b) What evidence is there that God continued to bless Paul in this difficult situation (Acts 24:23)? Read Ephesians 3:20-21 and consider how God often provides us with blessings beyond what we would expect.
- (c) Why did Felix keep Paul for two years? What two reasons are given in Acts 24:26-27? What dominated Felix's heart (1 Timothy 6:10)?
- (d) See if you can find anything about Felix and his wife, Drusilla. What three topics does Paul discuss when he meets with them?
- (e) Compare these with John 16:7-11. How are these similar to Acts 24:25? How are each of these important in salvation?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 24:22-27 and Ephesians 3:20-21. Talk about how God is faithful to care for His children. How did God care for Paul and bless him even in his time of difficulty? What are some examples of how God has blessed you in difficult circumstances? Spend some time thanking God for all His blessings to your life.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 24:25.** How was Felix affected by Paul's teaching? What did he do about it? What are the dangers of putting off a decision about Jesus?
- (b) Compare this with the response of Herod to the preaching of John the Baptist (Mark 6:18-20; Luke 3:18-20; Matthew 14:3-5)?
- (c) How was Herod's conscience affected? What did he do about it? Was Felix's conscience affected? What did he do?
- (d) When is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:1-2; Isaiah 55:6)? Why is it important to respond now rather than waiting until later (James 4:11-14)?
- (e) How should we as believers respond when we are convicted by God's Word (Hebrews 3:7-8)? What does the writer of Hebrews tell us happens when we do not deal with sin (Hebrews 3:13)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 24:25 and Hebrews 3:13. Discuss why it is essential that we obey God immediately. How does delaying obedience to God affect us spiritually? Pray that you will each be sensitive to hear and obey all of God's Word.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 24. How does flattery affect us when we listen to it? How does it affect us when we use it? How does flattery show a lack of trust in God? Why is having a clear conscience important? What happens to our conscience when we fail to respond to God's Word? Pray for tomorrow's services that God's Word would touch the hearts and consciences of all who hear.

DATE: October 28, 2007

PASSAGE: Acts 24

Having a Clear Conscience

“Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”