

- Charges:
 - In 24:4-6 - “Notwithstanding, that I be not further tedious unto thee, I pray thee that thou wouldest hear us of thy clemency a few words. / 5 For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes: / 6 Who also hath gone about to profane the temple: whom we took, and would have judged according to our law!”
 - In These Verses - Tertullus Lays Out 4 Main Charges Against The Apostle Paul!
 - The First Charge - That He Was:
 - A Malicious Danger! (24:5)
 - He Was A “Pestilent Fellow” - Or - A Plague To The Empire & To The Human Race!
 - Tertullus Tries To Explain Himself With:
 - The Next Charge - That He Was:
 - A Malicious Disturber! (24:5)
 - That He Was “A Mover Of Sedition” - Which Is Something That The Romans Never Liked, And Would Have Caused Felix To Sit-Up And Take Notice!
 - The Third Charge - Is That He Was:
 - A Malicious Director! (24:5)
 - As The “Ringleader Of The Sect Of The Nazarenes!” - The Term “Ringleader” Was Often Used Described A General Over An Army Of Followers! Again - Something Felix Would Be Forced To Investigate!
 - And - The Fourth Charge - Is That He Was:
 - A Malicious Desecrator! (24:6)
 - Who “Profaned” The Temple, By Bringing Gentiles Into The Restricted Holy Areas Of The Temple - Which The Romans Granted To The Jews As A Crime Worthy Of Death!
 - Tertullus Laid Out These Charges:
 - With Great Flattery:
 - And Falsehood - Twisting The Truth:
 - To Suit The Jews Purpose Of Condemning Paul For His Faith!
 - But Then - In 24:7-8 - We Hear A:
- Complaint:
 - Because Of How The Roman Captain In Jerusalem:
 - Had Treated Paul & Them!
 - 24:7-8 - “But the chief captain Lysias came upon us, and with great violence took him away out of our hands, / commanding his accusers to come unto thee: by examining of whom thyself mayest take knowledge of all these things, whereof we accuse him!”
 - Many Of These Words You Will Not Find Today:
 - In Some Of The More Recent Translations:
 - But - There Is Enough External & Internal Textual Evidence That Would Warrant Us Keeping Them In Our Bibles!
 - Because - It Shows Another Reason:
 - Why The Jews Were So Incensed!
 - Because Their Roman Enemy, Lysias, Seemed To Take The Side Of Their Religious Enemy, Paul!
 - And There Was No Love Lost Between Them!
 - And - With These Charges - There Was:
 - Concurrence!
 - 24:9 - “And the Jews also assented, saying that these things were so!”
 - The Jews Rested Their Case!
 - And - As Far As They Were Concerned:
 - It Was Air-Tight!
 - But - Then - In 24:10-21 - Paul Is Given The Opportunity To Make His Defense!
 - And With Simplicity And Honesty - We Can Hear:

2. ***The Plea – Of Paul:***

- Who - Shows Himself To Be An “Equal” To Tertullus:
 - In His Oratorical Skill:
 - And Even - In His Understanding:
 - Of Both Jewish & Roman Law!
 - To Which - Felix Must Have Been Surprised & Impressed!

- And In 24:10-13 - He Makes:

- A Defense!

- 24:10-13 - "Then Paul, after that the governor had beckoned unto him to speak, answered, Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself: / 11 Because that thou mayest understand, that there are yet but twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem for to worship. / 12 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with any man, neither raising up the people, neither in the synagogues, nor in the city: / 13 Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me!"

- In The First Part Of Paul's Address:

- He Defends Himself From:

- 3 Of The 4 Charges Made Against Him!

- To The Charge Of Being Dangerous:

- He Says - 24:12 - "They Neither Found Me In The Temple Disputing With Any Man!"

- He Had Gone To Jerusalem Peacefully:

- And For The Purpose Of Worship And Fellowship!

- To The Charge Of Being A Disturber Of The Peace:

- He Says - 24:12 - "Neither Raising Up The People!"

- He Was Not There To Usurp Any

Authority! Not The Jews! Not Rome! He Was A Loyal Subject & Citizen!

- To The Charge Of Being A Desecrator Of The Temple:

- He Says - 24:13 - "Neither Can They Prove The Things Whereof They Now Accuse Me!"

- He Did Not Go To The Temple To Profane It! In Fact - 24:18 - The Jews Had Even Found Him "Purified In The Temple!"

- So - To Those 3 Charges - Paul Made His Plea:

- "Not Guilty!"

- But - There Was One Charge:

- The Third Charge - In Which He Saw An Open Door To Present The Firm Foundation For His Faith!

- So - In 24:14-16:

- A Door!

- 24:14-16 - "But this I confess unto thee!"

- With These Words - And To That Third Accusation - Paul Says - "I'm Guilty As Charged!"

- "That after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: / And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. / And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men!"

- In 24:14 - Paul Uses The Same Word The Jews Did:

- To Describe His Christian Faith - In 24:5!

- They Might Consider It:

- Heresy - But - He & Thousands Like Him Believed It To Be:

- "The Way!"

- "The Christian Way" Was Getting To Be Well Known By That Time:

- All Throughout The Roman World:

- And Even Beyond!

- So - It Was Not Some Small "Cult" - It Was Not Something "Done In A Corner" - Paul Would Later Say! (26:26)

- It Was A Message Of:

- Faith & Hope & Life:

- That Was Consistent With:

- The Historic Faith Of The Jews!

- So - If Paul Was On Trial For His Christian Faith:

- He Was Guilty As Charged!

- But Then - He Further Made:

- A Demand!

- In 24:17-21 - A Demand For Proof Of Their Other Charges!

- "Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings. / 18 Whereupon certain Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with multitude, nor with tumult. /

19 Who ought to have been here before thee, and object, if they had ought against me. / 20 Or else let these same here say, if they have found any evil doing in me, while I stood before the council, / 21 Except it be for this one voice, that I cried standing among them, Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day!”

- With Courage & Confidence:

- He Appealed To Roman Law & Justice!

- Where Were His Accusers?

- What Were His Crimes?

- Why Was He There? Except It Be For:

- His Faith - Which Even Roman Law Permitted!

- And With These Words - Paul Rested His Case!

- And Rested In The Providence & The Promise Of God:

- To Him - When He Was Back In Jerusalem!

- 23:11 - “As thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome!”

- Now - It Was Time For Felix:

- To Render His Judgment!

- But Instead - We Read About:

3. *The (Almost) Persuasion – Of Felix:*

- Because - Even Though History Informs Us That:

- Felix Was *Not* Known For Being A Moderate Or A Beneficial Ruler:

- He Still Seems To Have Had A Certain Level Of:

- Comprehension About “The Way”:

- 24:22-23 - “And when Felix heard these things, having more perfect knowledge of that way, he deferred them, and said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter. / And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him!”

- Felix’s Decision Was To Make No Decision!

- And To Await The Jew’s Nemesis From Jerusalem, Lysias - Who - They Knew - Felix Would Believe Over Them!

- And That Is The Last We Hear About His Accusers For Two Years!

- And Completely Out Of Character For Felix:

- He Appears To Be Very Deferential:

- And Even Kind To Paul - At Least - For Awhile!

- Perhaps It Was Because Of His:

- Curiosity About “The Way”:

- 24:24 - “And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ!”

- He Wanted To Hear More:

- About Paul’s Faith! If It Riled Up The Jews So Much - There Must Be Something Special About It!

- But - When Given The Opportunity:

- 24:25 - Paul Preached - And - “Reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come!”

- No Flattery Came Out Of Paul’s Mouth!

- But A Fearless Preaching About Felix & Druscilla’s Need For Salvation!

- Listen To How John Dick Describes The Scene For Us!

- “The Apostle, whose Liberty And Life Depended Upon The Will Of Felix, Dares To Address Him In The Language Of Truth, Without Being Deterred By The Thought, That So Wicked A Man Was More Likely To Be Offended Than Reformed!”

- But Paul Did Not Back Down! And That Led To:

- Conviction About “The Way”:

- In 24:25b - Because - “Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee!”

- “Felix Trembled!”

- He Heard About His Sin! He Heard About His Guilt! He Heard About The Judgment He Deserved!

- And He Trembled!

- But - What Did He Do To Appease His Troubled Conscience?
 - Instead Of Asking / Demanding:
 - As The Philippian Jailor - “What Must I Do To Be Saved!”
 - Once Again - Felix’s Decision Was To Make No Decision!
 - And He Orders Paul From His Presence Instead!
 - He Let Pass That Golden Opportunity For The “Terror Of The Lord” To Persuade Him To Repent & Believe The Gospel Message He Heard From Paul!
 - And Shows That - In Reality:
 - He Had:
- Confusion About “The Way”:
 - Because - In 24:26-27 - “He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him. / But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix’ room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound!”
 - The Heart Of Felix Was Never As Soft:
 - As It Was First Was - There In 24:25!
 - And He Let His True Character Of Covetousness Reign In His Heart Instead!
 - Though It Would Not Profit Or Benefit Him In Any Way:
 - Felix “Lost His Own Soul”:
 - As He Sought To “Gain The Whole World!”
 - And In Doing So - He Was Confused About The Whole Nature Of The Christian Faith!
 - Neither The Apostle Paul Nor The Church:
 - Paid Felix’s Bribes - And So There Paul Remained:
 - For Two Years - As A Prisoner:
 - Until Another Roman Prefect Took His Place!

Conclusion:

1. Yet - The Reason He Was Able To:
 - Make The Solid Defense That He Did:
 - Before The Jews & Before Felix:
 - Was Because His Faith Was A Reasonable Faith:
 - And Was Fixed On A Firm Foundation!
 - And So - Briefly - I Want To Revisit:
 - 24:14-16 - Where We See The Firm Foundation:
 - For His Faith & For Your Faith:
 - As A Believer In Christ!
 - 2. We See In 24:14 - That:
 - Paul’s Christian Faith:
 - Was According To God’s Preserved Word!
 - “But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets!”
 - The Christian Faith:
 - Was Not & Is Not:
 - Something New & Novel!
 - No - It Finds Its Roots Deep In The Soil Of The Old Testament Scriptures!
 - In John 5:39 - Jesus Himself Said:
 - “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me!”
 - And After The Resurrection Of Jesus On The Road To Emmaus - We Are Told In Luke 24:27 - That - “Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself!”
 - Paul Also Wrote About The Central Truth:
 - Of Our Faith - In 1 Corinthians 15:3 - “How that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures!”
 - Our Faith In Christ Is Rooted In:
 - The Truth Of The Old Testament Scriptures!
 - It Is There That We Learn About:
 - The Person Of Christ:

- As The Anointed & Approved One Of God! The Messiah!
- The Purpose Of Christ:
 - “To Seek And To Save That Which Was Lost!” (Luke 19:10)
- And The Price Of Christ:
 - His Suffering & Death For Our Sins!
- There Is A Firm Foundation:
 - For Your Faith In Jesus Christ!
 - And You Can Defend Your Faith:
 - Through The Word Of God!
- 3. We Can Also See In 24:15 - That:
 - Paul’s Christian Hope:
 - Was According To God’s Promised Word!
 - “And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust!”
 - Your Christian Hope:
 - Has A Firm Foundation:
 - Because Of:
 - The Promise Of A Resurrection!
 - Even All The Way Back In The Book Of Job:
 - Which Many Believe Is The Oldest Book In Our Bibles!
 - Job Expresses Hope In A Resurrection:
 - In Job 19:26 - When He Says - “And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God!”
 - This Promise Is Confirmed:
 - In The Book Of Genesis:
 - When In Genesis 5:24 - “Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him!”
 - This Shows That There Is A Promise:
 - And A Hope:
 - Of Life After Death!
 - But - Even More - There Is:
 - The Proof Of A Resurrection:
 - In The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ From The Dead!
 - In John 14:19 - Jesus Said - “Because I live, ye shall live also!”
 - When Jesus Rose From The Dead 3 Days After He Died On The Cross:
 - He Proved That Resurrection Is Not Only Possible - It’s Available:
 - To Those Who Believe In Him!
 - And This Reveals:
 - The Purposes Of A Resurrection!
 - The Bible Also Teaches That There Will Be:
 - A General Resurrection From The Dead!
 - That Is - Everyone Who Is Dead Will Come Back To Life!
 - But Not All Will End Up At The Same Place!
 - For Some - Their Resurrection:
 - Will Be For Reward:
 - Because They Belong To Christ!
 - For Others - Their Resurrection:
 - Will Be For Retribution:
 - Because They Never Turned To Christ From Their Sin!
 - We Are Told This Even In The Old Testament Book:
 - Of Daniel 12:2 - “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt!”
 - There Is A Firm Foundation:
 - For Your Hope As A Christian!
 - That - Colossians 3:4 - “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory!”
 - 4. But Then - We Can Also See From 24:16 - That:
 - Paul’s Christian Life:
 - Was Lived According To God’s Powerful Word!

- “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men!”
 - Your Christian Life:
 - Has A Firm Foundation:
 - Because God:
 - Through His Spirit & Through His Word:
 - Will Enable You To Live Your Life As You Should!
 - A Life Lived:
 - For The Glory Of God:
 - As You Seek To Have A:
 - “Conscience Void Of Offence Toward God!” - And:
 - A Life Lived:
 - For The Good Of Others:
 - As You Seek To Have A:
 - “Conscience Void Of Offence Toward Men!”
 - There Is A Firm Foundation:
 - For Your Life As A Christian!
5. And This Is Why:
- Paul’s Defense Before Felix:
 - Was So Solid & So Sure!
 - Because It Was Built On:
 - The Solid Bedrock:
 - Of Christ And His Word!
6. And This Is The Only Defense:
- That Will Stand!
 - What Foundation Do You Have:
 - For Your Faith?
 - For Your Hope?
 - And - For Your Life?
7. If You Were On Trial Instead Of Paul:
- Would You Be Able To:
 - Take The Stand Before The Jury Of This World:
 - And Demonstrate:
 - **What** You Believe?
 - **Why** You Believe!
 - And - **How** Your Belief:
 - Comes Through In Your Life?
 - Remember These Words:
 - From Peter - 1 Peter 3:18:
 - “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear!”
 - And You Can:
 - If The Foundation Of Paul’s Faith Is The Foundation Of Your Faith!
 - Because It Alone Is Firm!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com