

## **Paul Held by Felix for Two Years**

- 1. The Case Against Paul Is Respun by a Hired Gun (1-9).**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. Paul's Defense Is a Careful Presentation of Facts (10-21).**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3. Felix Uses Paul to His Own Advantage (22-27).**

CONCLUSION: Truth and Timing. So much depends on knowing the truth and then acting on it in a timely way. The Sanhedrin keeps spinning false claims and hoping that something will stick so they can be rid of that pesky Paul who keeps confronting them with the truth that they do NOT want to hear. And Paul simply keeps proclaiming the truth of the resurrection of Jesus. Day in and day out. Felix hears it and is terrified, but he doesn't act upon the truth. He procrastinates. Delays and focuses on lining his pockets instead of unburdening his soul. What about us? How will we respond to conviction of sin today?

## Second Corinthians 6:1-2

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says, “*In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.*”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

## Isaiah 49:7-13

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

<sup>8</sup> Thus says the Lord: “In a time of favor I have answered you;

in a day of salvation I have helped you;

I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages,

<sup>9</sup> saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’

They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture;

<sup>10</sup> they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.

<sup>11</sup> And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up.

<sup>12</sup> Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold,

these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.”

<sup>13</sup> Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing!

## Second Thessalonians 2:1-12

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup> not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. <sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <sup>6</sup> And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. <sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. <sup>11</sup> Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, <sup>12</sup> in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Tomorrow. It can wait until tomorrow, right?! Except some things cannot wait. When the God of the universe reveals truth to you, it is not a time to procrastinate. Jesus is risen! Follow Him today!

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

## Sunday Morning

**READ Acts 24:1-27; Isaiah 49:7-13; Second Corinthians 6:1-2; Second Thessalonians 2:1-12; Hebrews 3:1-15.** DISCUSS How is King Jesus establishing His Kingdom on earth? How does His sovereignty comfort you? Challenge you? PRAY “Lord Christ, thank You for preserving and protecting us. Thank You for faithfully doing exactly as You promised to save us.”

## Sunday Evening

Come join the *Young Adults' Fellowship* tonight at 6pm. Pray for them!

## Monday

**READ Acts 24:1-27; Hebrews 3:1-15; Proverbs 6:6-11.** DISCUSS How is our hope in the future supposed to affect us now? Why? What do you need to deal with before God today? Don't put it off! MEDITATE on **Hebrews 3:13**. PRAY, “Lord Jesus, reveal to me anything that I have been putting off. Give me the faith in You that I need to deal with it now.”

## Tuesday

**READ Acts 24:1-27; Isaiah 49:7-13; Proverbs 6:6-11.** DISCUSS Who upholds all things? How are they upheld? Who is ruling and reigning now? Is He trustworthy? MEDITATE on **Hebrews 3:13**. PRAY, “Lord, You have ordained all our days. Teach us to use every one to Your glory.”

### Wednesday

READ **Acts 24:1-27; Second Corinthians 6:1-2; Psalm 90:12-17.** DISCUSS, What does it mean that “now is the acceptable time” in Corinthians? How has God brought salvation to them? What are they supposed to do? When? What have you been putting off? MEDITATE on **Hebrews 3:13.** PRAY “Lord, forgive us for our procrastination. Teach us to respond to You immediately.”

### Thursday

READ **Acts 24:1-27; Second Thessalonians 2:1-12; Psalm 90:12-17.** DISCUSS, How can incorrect information about the Day of the Lord lead us astray? What are we waiting for? How certain are we that it will come? Why does that matter? MEDITATE on **Hebrews 3:13.** PRAY “Father, make us long for Christ’s return. Teach us to number our days as we look to You in faith through our faithful use of all the days You give us.”

### Friday

READ **Acts 24:1-27; Isaiah 49:7-13; Second Corinthians 6:1-2; Second Thessalonians 2:1-12; Hebrews 3:1-15.** DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REPENT of whatever the Holy Spirit is pointing out in your life! MEDITATE on **Hebrews 3:13.** PRAY for repentance for all of us.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *There will be both the in-person and live-stream services available.* READ **Acts 25:1-27.** Invite others to join you for either *in-person or live-stream service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to be glorified in our testimony of Him.

## Hebrews 3:13

“But exhort one another every day,  
as long as it is called ‘today,’  
that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”