PAUL BEFORE FESTUS
Acts 25:1-22

INTRODUCTION:

A. God has given Paul as a witness to all the world
   1) "He is a chosen vessel unto me" 9:15
   2) "Gentiles", "kings", "children of Israel"

B. He has begun his witness before kings
   1) Felix, Governor of Judaea
   2) Festus, his successor

I. Festus and Paul’s Accusers vs. 1-5

A. Festus went to Jerusalem
   1) Caesarea was the capital city
   2) Jerusalem was a powerful city

B. The High Priest wanted Paul returned to Jerusalem to stand trial vs. 2-3
   1) "informed" = emphanizo = "to make plain"
   2) "favour" = charis = "a pleasing work"

C. Paul would be left in Caesarea
   1) verse 4
   2) The accusers should go back with him
   3) "able" = dunateo = "be able" vs. 5

II. The Judgment Seat of Festus vs. 6-

A. "he tarried among them no more than ten days"
   1) He brings Paul quickly to judgment
   2) The judgment of heretics requires haste
   3) "judgment" = bema = "a step, a raised place"
      The elevated seat of a judge.
   4) Paul was not here to be rewarded

B. The Jews came to accuse vs. 7
   1) "grievous" = barus = "heavy", "oppressive"
   2) "complaint" = aitiama = "charge", "guilt"
   3) "which they could not prove"

C. Paul answered for himself vs. 8
   1) "answered" = apologeteomai = "to answer again", "to say the same things again"
   2) "offended" = hamartano = "to miss the mark", "sin"
      This is most often translated "sin"

D. Festus pays a political debt vs. 9
   1) "pleasure" = charis = "a pleasing work"
   2) "will thou go up to Jerusalem"
E. Paul's appeal to Caesar vs. 10-12
   1) "This is the place where I should be judged"
   2) Festus knew Paul had not broken Jewish law
   3) He was willing to accept Just punishment
   4) "I appeal to Caesar"

F. Paul's request is granted vs. 12
   1) "conferred" = sullaleo = "to talk together". This does not mean he listened to anything the council said
   2) "unto Caesar thou shalt go"

III. The Dilemma of Festus vs. 27

A. He was visited by Agrippa and Bernice
   1) He was reluctant to divulge his problem
   2) Festus seeks Agrippa's advice

B. The trial of Paul retold 14b-21
   1) Festus understood Roman law vs. 16
   2) He did not delay justice vs. 17
   3) The charges were different from what he had expected vs. 18
   4) "superstition" = desidaimouia = "fear of the gods" vs. 19
   5) "affirmed" = phasko = "to assert", "to boast"
   6) "I doubted" = aporeomai = "to be in doubt which way to turn" vs. 20

C. Festus inquired of Paul vs. 20-21
   1) The motive is not the same as in verse nine
   2) "reserve" = tereo = "to keep an eye upon, to watch", "guard", "keep in safety"
   3) "until I might send him to Caesar"

IV. Paul's Prayer to Visit Rome Rom. 1:7-16

A. He thanked God for them
   1) They were obedient to the faith
   2) They were strategically located

B. He prayed to come unto them
   1) verse 10
   2) "a prosperous journey"

C. He longed to see them vs.11
   1) "for I long to see you"
   2) "to impart a spiritual gift"

D. He purposed to come to them vs. 13
   1) "but was hindered by providence"
E. Our prayers may be answered in ways we do not understand
   1) Paul was hindered
   2) His appeal to Caesar will bring him to them