

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" = apologeomai = "to answer again", "to say the same things again"
 - 2) "offended" = hamartano = "to miss the mark", 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"

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- 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