

THE DECISIONS OF FELIX
Acts 24:23-27

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul has defended himself before Felix
 - 1) He defended his innocence vs. 12
 - 2) He admitted his guilt vs. 14-16
- B. Felix was no stranger to Jewish ways
 - 1) He had been Procurator many years
 - 2) He had more, "perfect understanding of that way"
 - 3) His wife was a Jewess
- C. Felix had made many decisions, some good and some bad. Here makes two major mistakes.
 - 1) His worst decisions involved indecision
 - 2) Time will decide for us! No! We make all decisions! Time has no will.

I. Felix's Decision About Paul vs. 22-23

- A. Felix had the truth
 - 1) He heard these things
 - 2) He had more exact knowledge than the Sanhedrin
 - 3) "know" = oida = "I have perceived"
akribesteron = "more perfect" or "more accurately"
 - 4) "that way" = tes hodou = "the way"
- B. Felix decided to be undecided
 - 1) "deferred" = anaballomai = "to throw over", "put off",
"throw over the shoulder"
 - 2) "uttermost" = diaguosomai = "I will know through", +
ta = "the things"
 - 3) He had sufficient evidence to act!
- C. Paul would be kept vs. 23
 - 1) "he commanded a centurion to keep Paul"
 - 2) "to let him have his liberty"
 - 3) "anasis" = "a letting loose", "relaxation",
"as strings hitherto tightly drawn or strained", "hence,
rest from labour and anxiety"
 - 4) He could have all his friends.
"forbid" = koluo = "to cut off", "to weaken"
"acquaintance" = idios = "one's own", "peculiar for
one", "proper for one", "Paul's proper friends"
"minister" = hupereteo = "an under rower or a sailor",
"to act for another, and under his direction", "to
subserve"
 - 5) "or come unto him"

D. This was precisely what Paul needed!

- 1) He needed the pressure taken off
- 2) He needed the time for study
- 3) He needed the time for prayer
- 4) He needed the time to write
- 5) God gave him two years

II. Felix's Decision About Christ vs. 24-27

A. He arranged a private meeting

- 1) "Felix....Drusilla....he sent for Paul"
- 2) "heard him concerning the faith of Christ" - "Concerning faith in Christ"

B. Paul's message vs. 25

- 1) "reasoned" = dialegomai = "to speak to and fro, alternately", "to converse with, discuss, reason, argue"
"There was exchange between Paul and Felix"
- 2) "righteousness" = dikaiosune = "the doing or being what is just and right; the character and acts of a man commanded by and approved of God, in virtue of which man corresponds with Him and His will as His ideal and standard. All that God commands and approves."
- 3) "temperance" = egkrateia = "mastery or dominion over", "self-command", "self control", (opposite of self-indulgence), "the grace by which the flesh is controlled"
- 4) "judgment to come" = "coming judgment" = krima = "the result or issue that comes from judging", "the decision arrived at", "the sentence pronounced", "That which will befall the unrighteous and intemperate"
- 5) "faith in Christ" will prepare us for judgment to come.

C. The work of the Holy Spirit

- 1) Jesus had promised a convincer
- 2) John 16:7-11
- 3) "Felix trembled" = ginomai = "to become" + emphobos
"in fear" = "become terrified"

II. Felix Decided To Decide Later

A. "Go thy way for this time"

- 1) "this time" = nun echou = "as for the present", or "holding the now" = "time out", "stop the clock"
- 2) "let everything stay just as it is"
- 3) "convenient season" = kairos = "the right measure and relationship", as regards time and place. "The opportune time when a thing should be done", "This is not the right time and place"
- 4) "I will send for thee". When the time is right, and the place is right, I will do it"

III. The Duplicity of Felix vs. 26

- A. "He loved "also" that money should be given him of Paul",
"that he might loose him"
 - 1) He knew of the offering Paul brought to Jerus
 - 2) Paul's friends would bribe him

- B. "wherefore he sent for him the oftener and communed with
him"
 - 1) "oftener" = puknos = adj. "thick", "firm", "solid",
"close together", hence "frequent"
 - 2) "communed" = homileo = "homily", "to speak or talk
with anyone", "converse"

IV. The Stedfastness of Paul vs. 27

- A. "But when two years were fulfilled"
 - 1) Felix thought about it for 2 years
 - 2) Paul never yielded

- B. Paul was left bound as a favor to the Jews
 - 1) "pleasure" = charis = "a pleasing work", "a favor",
"a kindness"
 - 2) "bound" = "to bind", "to deposit" Paul was left in
prison as a deposit, "to convince the Jews of Felix's
good intentions"

