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"