

Read: Acts 24-26

Monday

24:1-21 — Paul stood trial before the Roman governor Felix. What differences do you observe between Paul's opening remarks and those of Tertullus (v. 2-4, 10)? What does the Bible teach about flattery (Prov. 7:21, 26:28; Rom. 16:18; Jude 16)? Paul told Felix that the accusations the Jews had made could not be proved but the things that he was saying could be confirmed (v. 11-14). He also said, "I ... always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men" (v. 16). Do you think Tertullus and Ananias could honestly make the same claim? Can you honestly make that same claim?

Tuesday

24:22-27 — Several days after Paul's first defense before Felix in Caesarea, Paul was invited to speak to Felix and his wife Drusilla (v. 24). Drusilla, Felix's third wife, was a Jewess who divorced her first husband Azizus, king of Emesa, to marry Felix while she was still a teen. How did Felix respond to Paul's teaching (v. 25)? Felix was troubled by what Paul said to him but he invited him back several times to speak to him. Why did he continue to listen to Paul? Why do you think some people attend church and listen to sermons if they are not saved and they cannot understand the things of God?

Wednesday

25:1-12 — Felix was succeeded as governor of Judea by Porcius Festus two years after Paul had been originally imprisoned at Caesarea (24:27). All this time Paul had been held as prisoner, apparently without a formal trial. How do you think you would feel after sitting in prison for two years without a trial? Would your faith in God be shaken? What promise could Paul hold onto?

Thursday

25:13-27 — Several days after Festus told Paul that he would be tried in Rome (i.e., Caesar), King Agrippa and his sister Bernice paid a diplomatic visit to Festus at Caesarea (v. 13). Marcius Agrippa II was the great grandson of Herod the Great. Bernice had been married to her uncle but he had died and now she was living with her brother with whom she was accused both in Rome and Palestine of having an incestuous affair. When Festus sought Agrippa's advice concerning Paul's case, what did he say about the Jews' charges against Paul and about what Paul believed (v. 18, 19)? What do you think Festus' comments indicate about his own spiritual condition?

Friday

26:1-11 — Paul's message to Agrippa is filled with hope. Agrippa was a man who "had it all." He had money, power and anything the world had to offer. Why do you think Paul talked so much about the resurrection and the hope in Christ? Solomon well said, "He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver" (Eccl. 5:10). Even the wealthiest people are not satisfied by the things of this world. Christian, what satisfies you? Take some time today to reflect on the riches and hope you have in Christ.

Saturday

26:12-32 — Paul again used his personal testimony to share Christ with Agrippa and Festus. What do you think Paul means by his statement in verse 19? What was Festus' reaction (v. 24)? What was Agrippa's reaction (v. 28)? God was at work through His servant Paul, but we do not see any indication that Festus, Agrippa or Bernice ever repented and accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. Sometimes wealthy or powerful people can be the hardest to reach with the gospel: they don't think they need a Savior. This fact did not deter Paul; he was obedient to the heavenly vision. Paul's mission, like ours, was to share the glorious good news of Jesus Christ wherever and whenever God allowed. Take time this week to do just that.
