

THE ACTS OF JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 24:1-26:32

Paul on trial

Introduction: In view of all that goes on in the world, how should a Christian view government officials and authorities?

The Accusation (Acts 24:1-9)

Tertullus –

The accusation that Tertullus brought against Paul was that he was “a ringleader of the Nazarene sect” that “even tried to desecrate the temple.” **Evaluate** Tertullus’s accusation.

Application: If you were charged with the “crime” of stirring people up by sharing God’s Word. Would there be enough evidence to convict you?

Paul’s Defense (Acts 24:10-21)

Christians are to show respect to the government. How does Paul show respect in these verses?

How does Paul defend himself?

Application: If you ever faced such a situation, how does Paul serve as an example here?

Paul states, “I believe everything written throughout the Law and in the Prophets; and I have the same hope in God that these men have.” With the people at your table think of two prophecies from the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled.

Paul says that he is on trial because of the resurrection of the dead. Look to Acts 23:6-10. Is Paul being truthful here?

Paul Witnesses in Prison (Acts 24:22-27)

Here we see that Paul witnessed to Felix about “righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment.” Also, we see that Felix was quite corrupt. Based on these things consider the following statements.

“I want nothing to do with a corrupt government.”

“We should pray for the government officials who do what is right.”

“It seems my witness is having no effect on her, I should just give up.”

Paul before Festus (Acts 25:1-12)

God told Paul that he would testify in Rome (Acts 23:11). By appealing to Caesar, Paul would certainly testify to the truth of the Gospel in Rome. This happened according to God’s plan. Notice that God’s plan did not mean everything that Paul would face would be happy. With this knowledge react to the following statement. God’s plan for you is good.

Agree or Disagree: It is okay for a Christian to make an appeal in court to avoid suffering.

Paul before Agrippa (Acts 25:13-26:8)

Festus deduced that the heart of the matter of the dispute between the Jews and Paul was Jesus’ resurrection. In this way, how does Paul operate as an example in the culture wars of modern society?

Paul was wrongfully imprisoned for years, yet his demeanour toward the governmental authorities remains respectful. Apply Paul’s actions as an example when faced with government officials that you feel “do not deserve your respect.”

The unfair treatment could have caused Paul to lose his focus. Yet, he remains focused on presenting that Jesus is alive. What are three issues that could take away focus from your clear goal of pointing people to the resurrected Christ?

In those situations, what can keep help you focus on the resurrected Christ?

Pointing to Jesus (Acts 26:9-32)

Paul asserts that the Christian faith is not insanity. What about our faith would make people think it is?

What gives us confidence that the faith is sensible?

Paul’s hope was for Festus to believe in Jesus. Write a prayer that the Holy Spirit bring a certain government official to saving faith.

Conclusion: Over the next week, include, by name, one government official in your prayers each day. (Why would you pray for them? What would you pray about?)