



Paul's Confession
Acts 24:1-27

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October 22, 2017



Rome's legacy

- ❖ Law
- ❖ Language (Latin)
- ❖ Literature



Paul's defenses:

- ❖ Crowd (22)
- ❖ Sanhedrín (23)
- ❖ Félix (24)
- ❖ Festus (25)
- ❖ Herod Agríppa (25-26)

What will we learn?

- ❖ Mere acquaintance with the gospel is not enough for salvation.
- ❖ I can control my conscience, but little else.
- ❖ Truth is not determined by the majority.
- ❖ We are responsible for speaking the truth, not for the response.
- ❖ Earthly powers are not trustworthy.

Like Jesus:

- ❖ Paul travelled to Jerusalem with disciples.
- ❖ He was opposed by hostile Jews.
- ❖ He predicted his own suffering.
- ❖ He declared his readiness to die for the cause.
- ❖ He expressed his commitment to the will of God.



Like Jesus:

- ❖ Paul was rejected by his own people and arrested without cause.
- ❖ Paul was unjustly accused by false witnesses.
- ❖ Paul was slapped in the face in court.



Like Jesus:

- ❖ Paul was the victim of a secret Jewish plot.
- ❖ Paul saw and heard the mob rise against him.
- ❖ Paul endured several trials.

Caesarea Maritima/ Jerusalem

at the time of
Paul's forced transfer
to Rome



GREAT SEA
(The Mediterranean)

SIDON

TYRE

Phoenicia

DAMASCUS

Syria

CAPERNAUM

SEA OF
GALILEE

Galilee

The
Decapolis

NAZARETH

CAESAREA
MARITIMA

Samaria

Arabia

SAMARIA

JORDAN
RIVER

Judea

JERICHO

JERUSALEM

SALT
SEA

MELBOURNE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

Caesarea Maritima/ Jerusalem

at the time of
Paul's forced transfer
to Rome

GREAT SEA
(the Mediterranean)



Arab



Herod's Palace at Caesarea Maritima
The Outer Portico

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Herod's Promontory Palace
Ruins at Caesarea Maritima

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Reconstruction illustration of
Herod's Promontory Palace entrance



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Caesarea Maratima ruins
on the Mediterranean Sea

Acts 23

- ❖ Christianity is consistent with Old Testament Judaism and vice versa.
- ❖ Individual governing authorities may promote good or evil, but our obligation is to submit.
- ❖ God's providence does not always lead to physical rescue, but it is always at work.

Acts 24:1

Five days later the high priest Ananias went down to Caesarea with some of the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and they brought their charges against Paul before the governor.

The background of the slide features a close-up, soft-focus photograph of a person's hands clasped together in prayer, resting on an open book. The lighting is warm and natural, highlighting the texture of the skin and the pages of the book. The text is overlaid on this image.

Acts 24:2

When Paul was called in, Tertullus presented his case before Felix: “We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation.”



Captatio benevolentiae

- ❖ = winning of goodwill
- ❖ standard Greco-Roman rhetorical device

Acts 24:3-4

“Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Félix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. But in order not to weary you further, I would request that you be kind enough to hear us briefly.”



Tacitus:

**“Felix wielded the power of a king with
the temper of a slave.”**

Acts 24:5-6

“We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him.”

Charges against Paul:

- ❖ Worldwide troublemaker
- ❖ Leader of the Nazarene sect
- ❖ Attempted desecration of the temple



Acts 24:8

“By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him.”

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the book and the person's arms. The text is overlaid on the image.

Acts 24:9

**The other Jews joined in the accusation,
asserting that these things were true.**

Acts 24:10

When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied: "I know that for a number of years you have been a judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense."

Acts 24:11-12

“You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city.

Acts 24:13-14

“And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me. However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets,

Acts 24:15-16

“and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.”



Paul's confession:

- ❖ I worship the God of our ancestors.
- ❖ I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the prophets.
- ❖ I have the same hope in God as these men.
- ❖ I strive always to keep my conscience clear.



Acts 24:17-18

“After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings. I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple courts doing this. There was no crowd with me, nor was I involved in any disturbance.



Acts 24:19

“But there are some Jews from the province of Asia, who ought to be here before you and bring charges if they have anything against me.

Acts 24:20-21

“Or these who are here should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin — unless it was this one thing I shouted as I stood in their presence: ‘It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.’”

Paul's defense:

- ❖ I did not cause the disturbance (verses 11-13).
- ❖ The Way does not violate Judaism (14-16).
- ❖ I did not desecrate the temple (17-19).
- ❖ There is no proof of any charge against me (20-21).



Acts 24:22

Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case."

Acts 24:23-24

He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs. Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus.

Felix and Drusilla

❖ Félix

- ❖ Slave to Roman governor
- ❖ Third marriage

❖ Drusilla

- ❖ Daughter of Herod Agrippa 1
- ❖ Sister of Herod Agrippa 2
- ❖ Second marriage

Acts 24:25-26

As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.



Acts 24:27

When two years had passed, Félix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Félix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.



Ephesians 6:12

**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,
but against the rulers, against the authorities,
against the powers of this dark world
and against the spiritual forces of evil
in the heavenly realms.**

What did we learn?

- ❖ Mere acquaintance with the gospel is not enough for salvation.
- ❖ I can control my conscience, but little else.
- ❖ Truth is not determined by the majority.
- ❖ We are responsible for speaking the truth, not for the response.
- ❖ Earthly powers are not trustworthy.





Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper