## Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED



Last Week we looked at God's Protection and Providence on Paul's behalf because of his Proclamation to the Jews in the Temple Complex and then his Rescue by the Roman Garrison stationed nearby and then we saw Paul proclaim the Gospel to the Chief Priests and Elders of the Sanhedrin (Acts 23:1-10) God encouraged him with a future - implying rescue ... Rome Or Bust We ended last week with Claudius Lysias rescuing Paul again and sending him to Felix at the Praetorium of Herod in Caesarea for Paul's safety. Rescuing him from the Plot of Assassination by the (over) 40 Jewish Radical Assassins bound by an oath of not eating or drinking until they killed Paul. This was sanctioned by the Elders (Sanhedrin) and the High Priests (the family). When Persecution Arises – how we respond is at focus ...

God uses Persecution for the Gospel's sake, always.

Today we will go over all of Acts 24 and then look unpack a few ideas to seek to apply to our lives, today. → Paul & The Gospel on Trial – Part 1



#### Acts

#### **Accused of Sedition**

Now after five days
Ananias the high priest
came down with the elders
and a certain orator named
Tertullus. These gave
evidence to the governor
against Paul.

<sup>2</sup> And when he was called upon, Tertullus began his accusation, saying:

#### Chapter 24

"Seeing that through you we enjoy great peace, and prosperity is being brought to this nation by your foresight,

3 "we accept it always and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness.

4 "Nevertheless, not to be tedious to you any further, I beg you to hear, by your courtesy, a few words from us.







#### Acts 24:1-27 → Paul & The Gospel on Trial – Part 1

- 1. The Accusation of those Opposed to the Gospel –
  Tertullus (Turtle Man that's what I call him)
  He was a High Powered / Extremely Expensive Lawyer to argue the case
  - His accusation had no weight or merit in Roman Law
    It was a dispute of opinion regarding Jesus of Nazareth
    Was He really the Messiah or not and is Paul starting a Cult
    Paul is a Plague, cause of mass dissensions (riots), profaned the Temple

The Common Thread of those that seek to Accuse Christians is NEVER about if Christians are doing illegal things, such as murder, theft, violence, etc. but it is always about those opposed of the Gospel being "personally" OFFENDED.

Jesus predicted this  $\rightarrow$  "And many will be OFFENDED, and will betray one another and will hate one another." Matt. 24:10

Their being OFFENDED would never make any sense, logically –

so, it is spiritually driven – demonic – from the devil.

### Acts 24:1–27 → Paul & The Gospel on Trial – Part 1

2. Paul's First Defense of his Actions to Felix (recorded in Acts 22-23) ...

Acts 24:10-21 From the time of Paul's Proclamation in the Temple (Acts 22) until that moment before Felix - only 12 days ... My Accusers have No Proof ... Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered: "Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself, <sup>11</sup> because you may ascertain (i.e.: verify) that it is no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship. 12 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone nor inciting the crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city. 13 Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me. 14 But this I confess to you, that according to the WAY which they call a sect, so I WORSHIP the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets. 15 I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. 16 This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

#### Acts 24:1-27 -> Paul & The Gospel on Trial - Part 1

2. Paul's First Defense of his Actions to Felix (recorded in Acts 22-23) ... Acts 24:10-21

<sup>17</sup> "Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation, <sup>18</sup> in the midst of which some Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with a mob nor with tumult. <sup>19</sup> They ought to have been here before you to object if they had anything against me. <sup>20</sup> Or else let those who are here themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council, <sup>21</sup> unless it is for this one statement which I cried out, standing among them, 'Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day."

Paul made sure that he presented his defense in such a way that it Promoted the Gospel of Jesus Christ (i.e. The WAY)

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1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

but in your hearts honor Christ the LORD as HOLY, always being PREPARED to make a DEFENSE to anyone who asks you for a REASON for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

Paul said that he was on trial for "the Hope" of Israel and of the "fathers", the hope of the Resurrection, etc.

That is the same for us, today. → How have your PREPARED or are Preparing? Are you training yourself, being Equipped, learning, studying?

"DEFENSE" → Apologetics – using Reason to Defend the Faith

But when Felix heard these things, having more ACCURATE knowledge of THE WAY, he adjourned the proceedings and said, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case." <sup>23</sup> So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him.

(Procrastination – and the Wrong Response to the Gospel ...)

<sup>24</sup> And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. <sup>25</sup> Now as Paul REASONED about RIGHTEOUSNESS, SELF-CONTROL, and THE JUDGMENT TO COME, Felix was AFRAID and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a CONVENIENT time I will call for you." <sup>26</sup> Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for Paul more often and conversed with him. (Felix → Corrupt (wanting a bribe), Unrepentant, Selfish - sinner)

Felix was Afraid because his sin was being exposed to God's Judgment

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Felix was Afraid because his sin was being exposed to God's Judgment The Gospel of Jesus Christ – our Message about Salvation in Jesus Christ MUST always include the LAW – about God's Righteousness His Righteous Standards, we must talk about SIN, our sinful depravity as humans because of Adam and Eve's sin, etc. We must talk about God's Ideals of Righteous Living for us (i.e. Self Control - instead of selfishness) and The Judgment to Come -The Just, Holy, Pure and Right WRATH of God upon Sinners. The LAW Exposes our SIN before a Righteous and Holy God of Wrath This will lead the sinner to The Good News Found in Jesus Christ's Salvation Fleeing to the Foot of the blood-stained Cross of Christ for Rescue from Wrath

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Jesus said → Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned ALREADY, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (John 3:18)

John 3:36 → He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

It is clear – that Jesus taught that all sinners are under the sentence of the Wrath of God – unto the Day of Judgment – unless they are in Christ. A person must repent of his/her sins and trust in Christ for one's Salvation, alone.

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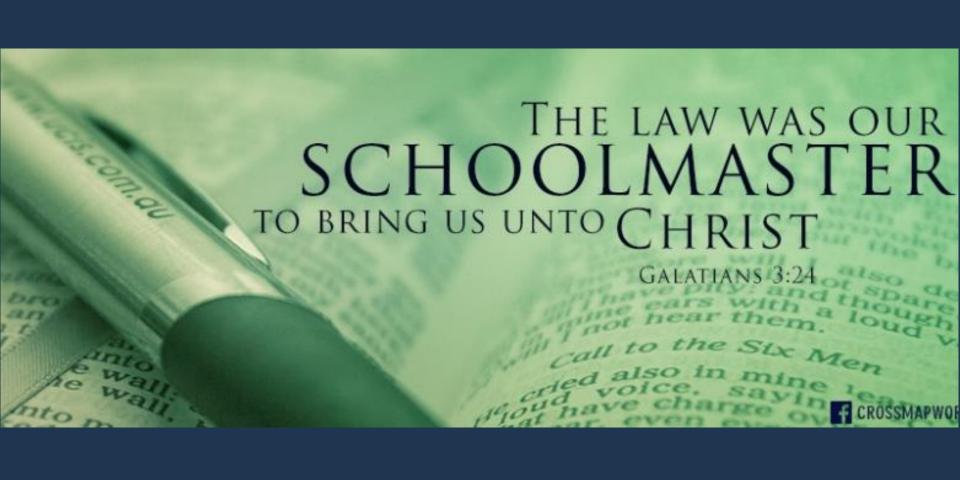
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Fleeing to the Foot of the blood-stained Cross of Christ for Rescue from Wrath
of God, the Judge to Come ...

We, as lost sinners, are Rescued from God's Wrath to Come – when we find Refuge from the Wrath in Christ – in the Messiah, in the Savior – Jesus Christ.

That was the Message Paul was sharing with Felix and Drusilla – and Paul had many occasions to do so. Is this the Message You are Sharing?

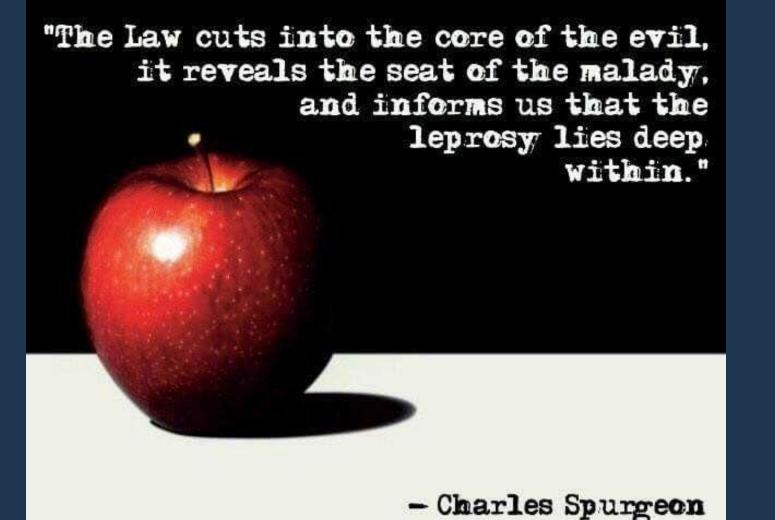
\*\*\* Notice Paul never led with "God Loves You..." from Acts 13 until 24 \*\*\*

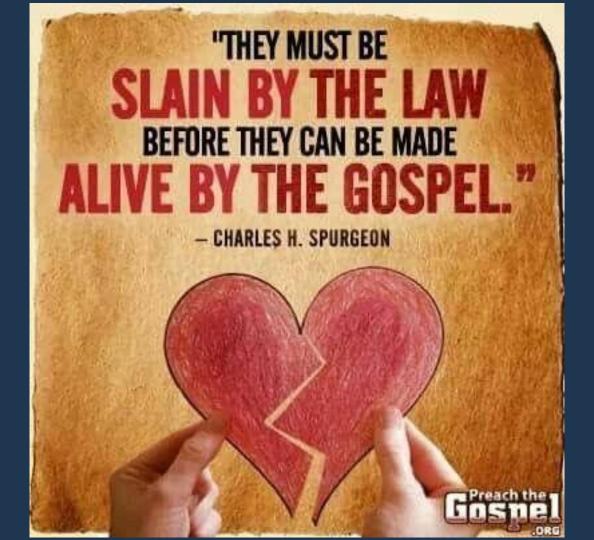
Maybe the Modern "Gospel" is creating FALSE Coversions & False "Brethren"



"IF THOU HAST NEVER FELT THYSELF A SINNER, NEVER TREMBLED UNDER THE LAW OF GOD, NEVER FELT THAT THOU HAST DESERVED TO BE CAST INTO HELL, I AM AFRAID THY FAITH IS A MERE PRESUMPTION, AND NOT THE FAITH THAT LOOKS TO CHRIST."

- Spurgeon





4. Paul's EXAMPLE - FELIX is succeeded by Porcius FESTUS – After 2 years

Acts 24:27 → But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix,

wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ was proclaimed faithfully by Paul – while he was in custody. He started out in custody – as one being rescued from a mob and from a conspiracy to kill him. Later – his custody transformed into one of political leverage and Paul, was becoming a "suspected criminal" in custody, in chains, etc. — Yet, Paul, no matter what, continued to be faithful, relying upon Christ for encouragement and to never give up!

After TWO Years → Would you have given up? Would you have been DISCOURAGED to the point of throwing in the towel and just go to a private Island to live out the remainder of your days on some seclude beach? We'll find out in the next few chapters Paul never gave up – always standing bold, strong, dignified, and respectful while proclaiming the Gospel – never compromising with the World or with "false brethren", etc.

As, Paul, is an example to us – what is God saying to you?