

How to Tell if Your Focus is on Righteousness or Ridicule Acts 24:22-27

Postponing Judgment

22 And when Felix heard these things, having more perfect knowledge of *that way*, he deferred them, and said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter. **23** And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let *him have liberty*, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him.

Expresses a Desire to Transfer Blame

- Acts 9:2 – And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Expresses a Desire to Trap Believers

- 2 Corinthians 3:17 – Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

Postponing Justification

24 And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. **25** And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

Expands Distance From the Passion of Christ

- Galatians 2:16 – Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but ^uby the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Expands Distance From the Pressure of Conviction

- 1 Corinthians 15:34 – Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak *this* to your shame.
- Romans 6:12 – Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.
- Hebrews 9:27 – And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
- Luke 13:25 – *When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:*

Postponing Justice

26 He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him. **27** But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.

Exposes Defilement by Coveting Wealth

- Luke 12:15 – And he said unto them, *Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*

- 1 Timothy 6:10 – For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
- James 5:3 – Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

Exposes Defilement by Catering to the Weak

- John 5:44 – *How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?*
- John 12:43 – For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.