

Real Worship Shows Up in the Darkness
Acts 24:1-21

Charges will be Perverted

1 And after five days Ananias the high priest descended with the elders, and *with* a certain orator *named* Tertullus, who informed the governor against Paul. **2** And when he was called forth, Tertullus began to accuse *him*, saying, *Seeing that by thee we enjoy great quietness, and that very worthy deeds are done unto this nation by thy providence,* **3** We accept *it* always, and in all places, *most noble Felix*, with all thankfulness. **4** Notwithstanding, that I be not further tedious unto thee, *I pray thee that thou wouldest hear us of thy clemency a few words.* **5** For we have found this man *a pestilent fellow*, and *a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world*, and *a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes*: **6** *Who also hath gone about to profane the temple*: whom we took, and would have judged according to our law. **7** But *the chief captain Lysias came upon us, and with great violence took him away out of our hands,* **8** *Commanding his accusers to come unto thee: by examining of whom thyself mayest take knowledge of all these things, whereof we accuse him.* **9** And the Jews also assented, saying that these things were so.

Flattery to Impress

Falsification to Converse

- Romans 8:31 – What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?
- 1 John 4:4 – Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Fall Guy to Suppress

- Colossians 2:6 – As ye have therefore ^treceived Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in him:
- 1 John 2:7 – Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

Correction should be Pleasant

10 Then Paul, after that the governor had beckoned unto him to speak, answered, *Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself:* **11** Because that thou mayest understand, that there are yet but twelve days since *I went up to Jerusalem for to worship.* **12** And *they neither found me in the temple disputing with any man, neither raising up the people, neither in the synagogues, nor in the city:* **13** *Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me.*

Intentional in Address

Intimate in Adoration

- Ephesians 4:22 – That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Innocence in Action

- Proverbs 12:19 – The lip of truth shall be established for ever: But a lying tongue *is* but for a moment.
- Proverbs 23:23 – Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *Also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

Confession should be Pure

14 But this I confess unto thee, that after *the way* which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, *believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets*: **15** And *have hope toward God*, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. **16** And *herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men*. **17** Now after many years *I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings*. **18** Whereupon certain Jews from Asia found me purified *in the temple*, neither with multitude, nor with tumult. **19** Who ought to have been here before thee, and object, if they had ought against me. **20** Or else let these same *here* say, if they have found any evil doing in me, while I stood before the council, **21** *Except it be for this one voice, that I cried standing among them, Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day*.

The Word of God

- Hold to the Word
 - o Matthew 24:35 – *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*
 - o 2 Timothy 3:16 – All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
 - o 1 Peter 1:25 – But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.
- Hope in the Word
 - o 2 Corinthians 4:14 – Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.
 - o 1 Thessalonians 4:16 – For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
- Honest toward the Word
 - o 1 Peter 3:16 – Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

The Work of God

- Generous
- Guiltless
 - o 1 Peter 2:20 – For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God.
- Gospel-Oriented
 - o Matthew 28:18-20 – **18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth*. **19** *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost*: **20** *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world*. Amen.