



27

If God's Character Is Always True And Right,
Trusting God Should Not Be Difficult.



28

Acts 23:23-24:27



29

Control - vs. 23-35

Protection

- God continues to fulfill His promise

Acts 23:11

The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”



30

Control - vs. 23-35

Protection

- God continues to fulfill His promise - Acts 23:11
- Religious leadership on the warpath
- Conspiracy to kill Paul exposed and foiled
- No little departure –
 - Two hundred soldiers
 - Seventy horsemen
 - Two hundred spearmen
 - Horseback for Paul
 - Heading out around 9pm



31

Control - vs. 23-35

Protection

The Letter

- Stating the facts
- Religious leaders attempt to kill Paul, one of the key leaders of the church
- Falsely accused of stirring trouble in Jerusalem and defiling the temple
- Not a Rome issue, but Rome attempts to save Paul's life
- Request to hear the case



32

Control - vs. 23-35

Protection

The Letter

God's Protection

- Escape to Antipatris to Caesarea
- Granted a hearing before his accusers
- God demonstrates His sovereignty



33

**Do You Recognize God's
Sovereignty In Your Life?**



34

Clarification - vs. 1-21

Setting The Stage

- Five days to arrive
- The Jewish entourage
 - Ananias the high priest
 - Elders – other Jewish religious leaders
 - Tertullus – likely Gentile spokesman (Roman name not Jewish)
- Fetus
 - Governor of Judah
 - Historical shady character

Former slave to freedman, pandered his way to governorship, hated by Jews because of corruption, teenage wife stolen from another king, eventually removed by Nero for corruption



35

Clarification - vs. 1-21

Setting The Stage

Flattering

- An attempt to gain favor
- If history is correct, flattery was not honest
- False testimony against Paul
 - Stir up riots among the Jews/ the Jews stirred up riots against Paul
 - Ringleader of the Nazarenes/ Apostle called by God
 - Profane the temple/ submitted to a vow to demonstrate heritage
- Character shines to reveal the heart



36

Clarification - vs. 1-21

Setting The Stage

Flattering

Facts – Paul’s defense

- Keep to simple facts not options
- Acknowledge his trip to Jerusalem to worship not disputing
- Worshiper of the same God with the same roots
- Turn to his testimony of Christ
 - Worship God that brings resurrection for all
 - Attempt to live a life honoring to God before others
 - Brought an offering for the believers in Jerusalem
 - Went to the temple under a vow
 - Jews from Asia stirred the crowd
 - The resurrection of Jesus is why Paul is on trial



37

Character Shines From The Heart:

Philippians 3:8–11

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.



38

Curiosity - vs. 22-27

Interested Out Of Curiosity

- Felix had a basic knowledge of the Way
- Felix does not cave to the Jewish desire to turn Paul over to them
- Kept Paul in convenient custody with some freedom
- Paul could continue to be visited by friends to attend to any needs



39

Curiosity - vs. 22-27

Interested Out Of Curiosity

Boldness To Declare Christ

- Felix had the authority to end Paul's life or make him a prisoner
- Paul shared about faith in Jesus Christ; Paul did not plea his case
- Reasoned with Felix and his wife about:
 - Righteousness
 - Self-control
 - Coming judgment



40

Curiosity - vs. 22-27

Interested Out Of Curiosity

Boldness To Declare Christ

Curiosity Not Conversion

- Alarmed at Paul's teachings
- Brought Paul back for more conversations
- Desire to extort money from Paul for freedom
- Two years elapsed and no further trail
- No conviction or judgment against Paul
- Appeasing the Jews to hold Paul captive



41

**Postponing God Is Never Wise.
Salvation
Surrender**



42