



The CHURCH Series

Part 19 – The TRIALS

Introduction...

- As we come to our penultimate lesson in the Book of Acts, we also begin the final season of Paul's ministry.
- In our last lesson, we reflected on Paul's journey to Jerusalem, his arrest and his bold Testimony.
- This session covers Chapters 24 to 26 as Paul stands trial before Governor Felix, his successor Festus and King Agrippa.
- These chapters highlight key themes of justice, perseverance, integrity, and the power of the gospel.



Introduction...

- One of the keyways to reflect on these final chapters of Acts is to imagine yourself in the story.
- The shining beacon and model for us all as we read these passages is 'PAUL'S ATTITUDE'
- Considering the fact that Paul is in the Will of God and sharing the Gospel – all the troubles he has to face, the false accusations and tedious grind of the trials.
- What would your emotions, attitude and state of mind be?



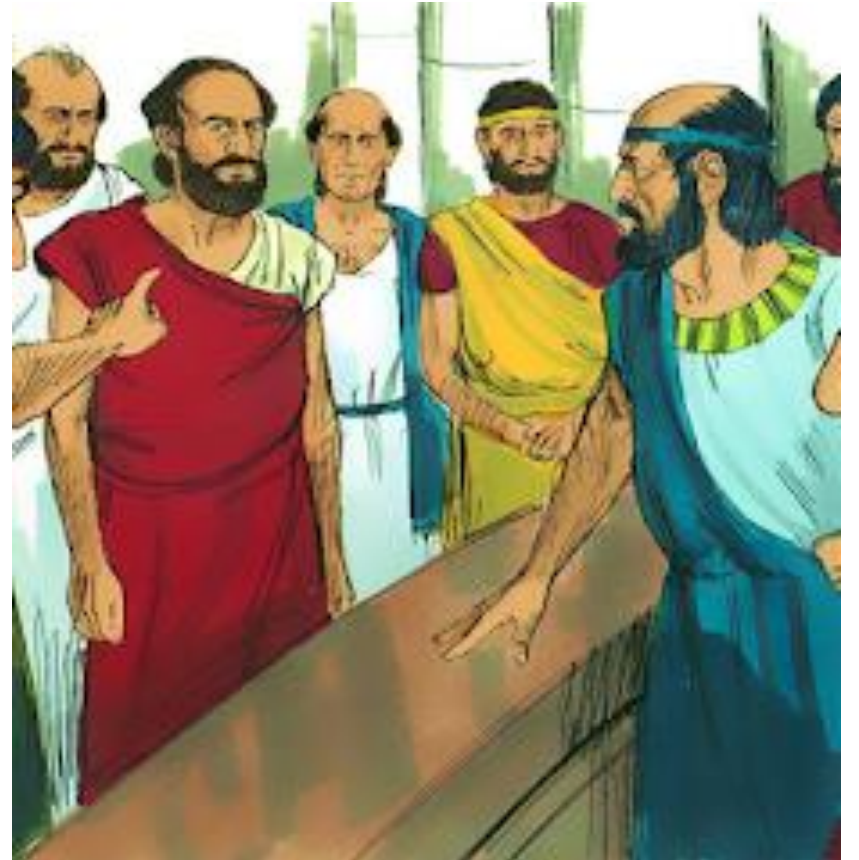
The Prosecutor...

- 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.
- ² And when he was called upon, Tertullus began his accusation, saying:
- “Seeing that through you we enjoy great peace, and prosperity is being brought to this nation by your foresight,



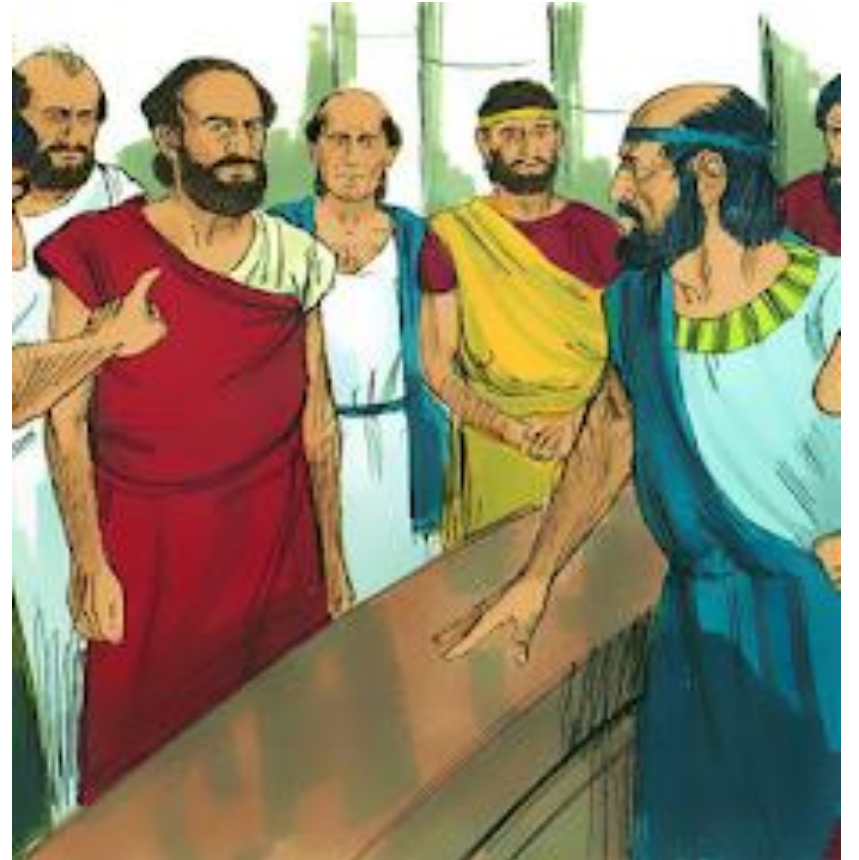
Tertullus...

- Tertullus was a lawyer or orator with ability and skill.
- He was hired by the Jewish leaders to present their case against the Paul before the Roman governor Felix.
- Tertullus was responsible for making the accusations and trying to convince Felix of Paul's guilt.
- Tertullus begins his speech by flattering Felix, referring to his administration as one that brought peace and reforms to the Jewish people



Tertullus...

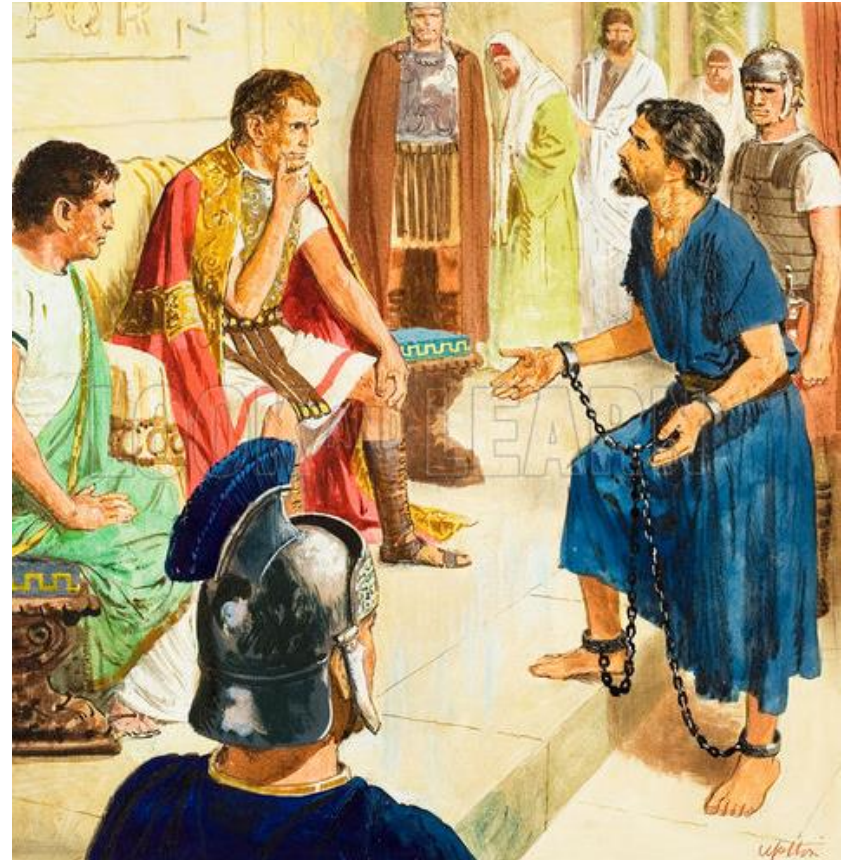
- Then, he brings the following charges against Paul:
- **Inciting riots:** He accuses Paul of stirring up trouble among the Jews, not only in Jerusalem but throughout the Roman Empire.
- **Being a ringleader of the Nazarene sect:** This refers to the early Christian movement, which was seen as a heretical group by the Jewish authorities.
- **Profaning the temple:** He accuses Paul of violating the sanctity of the temple in Jerusalem, implying that Paul had defiled a sacred space.



The Defendant...

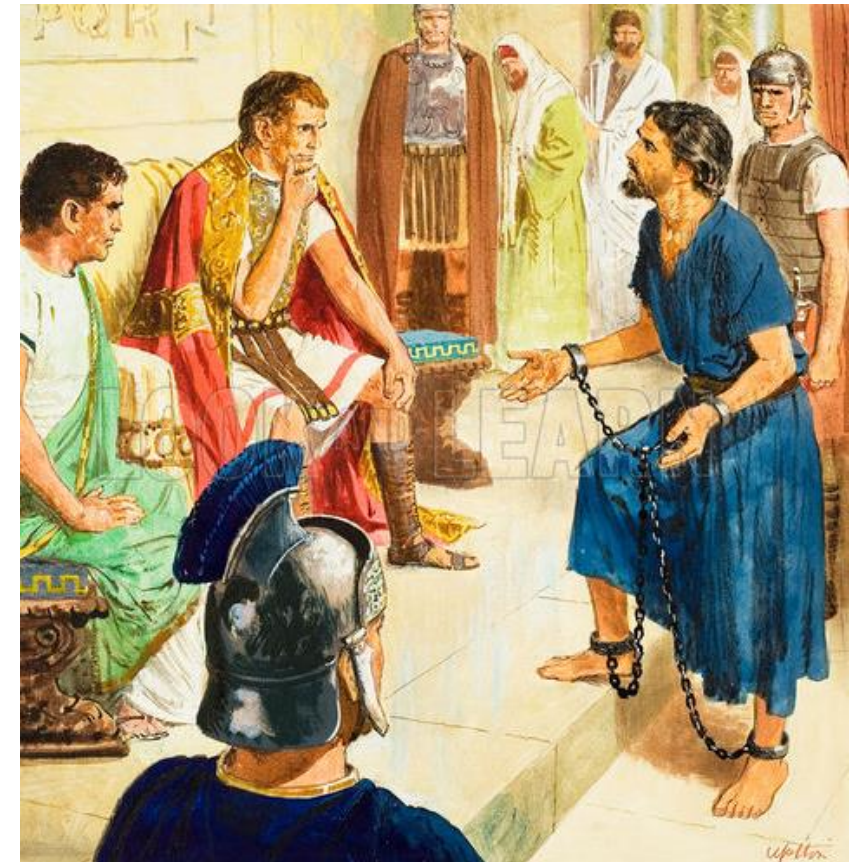
- *¹⁰ Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered:*
- *“Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself,*
- *¹¹ because you may ascertain that it is no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to 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.*

Acts 24:10-13



The Defendant...

- Tertullus's speech is a strategic effort to convince Felix that Paul is a dangerous troublemaker
- who poses a threat to peace and order.
- However, his accusations were based on falsehoods and exaggerated claims.
- Paul, in his defense, refutes these charges and explains his position clearly, denying any wrongdoing.
- Paul's defense was rooted in truth, and he used his opportunity to declare his faith in the resurrection.
- This teaches us that when we are accused or persecuted, we must stand firm in our convictions and not shy away from sharing the gospel.



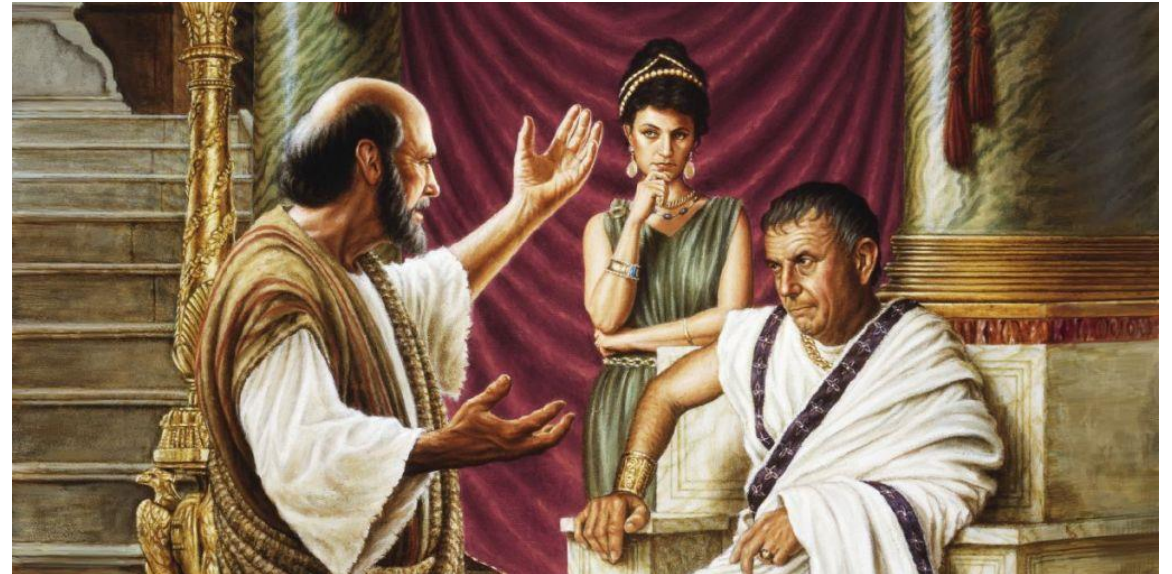
Lessons

- Let us look at a number of points and lessons we can take from Chapters 24 - 26 which basically cover Paul's court cases before he is referred to Caesar and the journey to Rome.
- There is something very strategic seen here by the Will of God.
- The Gospel is now being presented to the Rulers and Kings in these later chapters.
- This shows us that God wants the WORD declared to all levels of society.



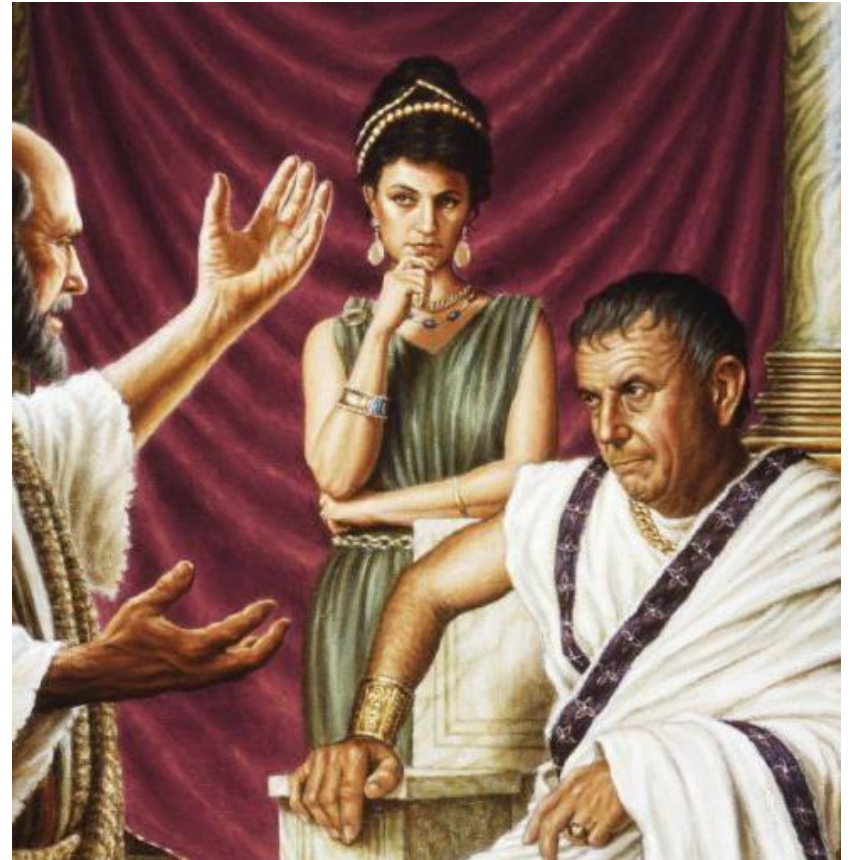
Defend the Faith...

- Paul defended the Faith with Courage and Integrity...Acts 24:10-21
- Paul is brought before Governor Felix after being accused by the Jewish leaders of causing unrest.
- He defends himself by calmly stating the facts and affirming his innocence.
- He asserts that the charges against him are based on religious disagreements, particularly about the resurrection, not criminal acts.
- In facing opposition or accusations, we are called to remain truthful and courageous.



The Gospel Has Power...

- The Gospel Has the Power to Convict and Convince. Acts 24:24-27
- After hearing Paul's defence, Felix is uneasy and disturbed, especially when Paul speaks about righteousness, self-control, and judgment.
- However, Felix does not take immediate action. Instead, he hopes for a bribe to be offered and leaves Paul in prison.
- The gospel can bring conviction, even in those who may not respond positively.
- The message of Jesus Christ challenges the comfortable, exposes sin, and calls for change.
- However, some may still reject or delay responding to its truth.



Clear Conscience

- Live with a Clear Conscience Acts 24:16
- Paul says, "I always strive to keep my conscience clear before God and man."
- Despite facing persecution and false accusations:
- Paul maintains a clear conscience, knowing he is acting according to God's will.
- A clear conscience is essential for a righteous life.
- It is a result of living in alignment with God's will and being honest with oneself and others.
- Even in difficult circumstances, we are called to maintain integrity and act justly.



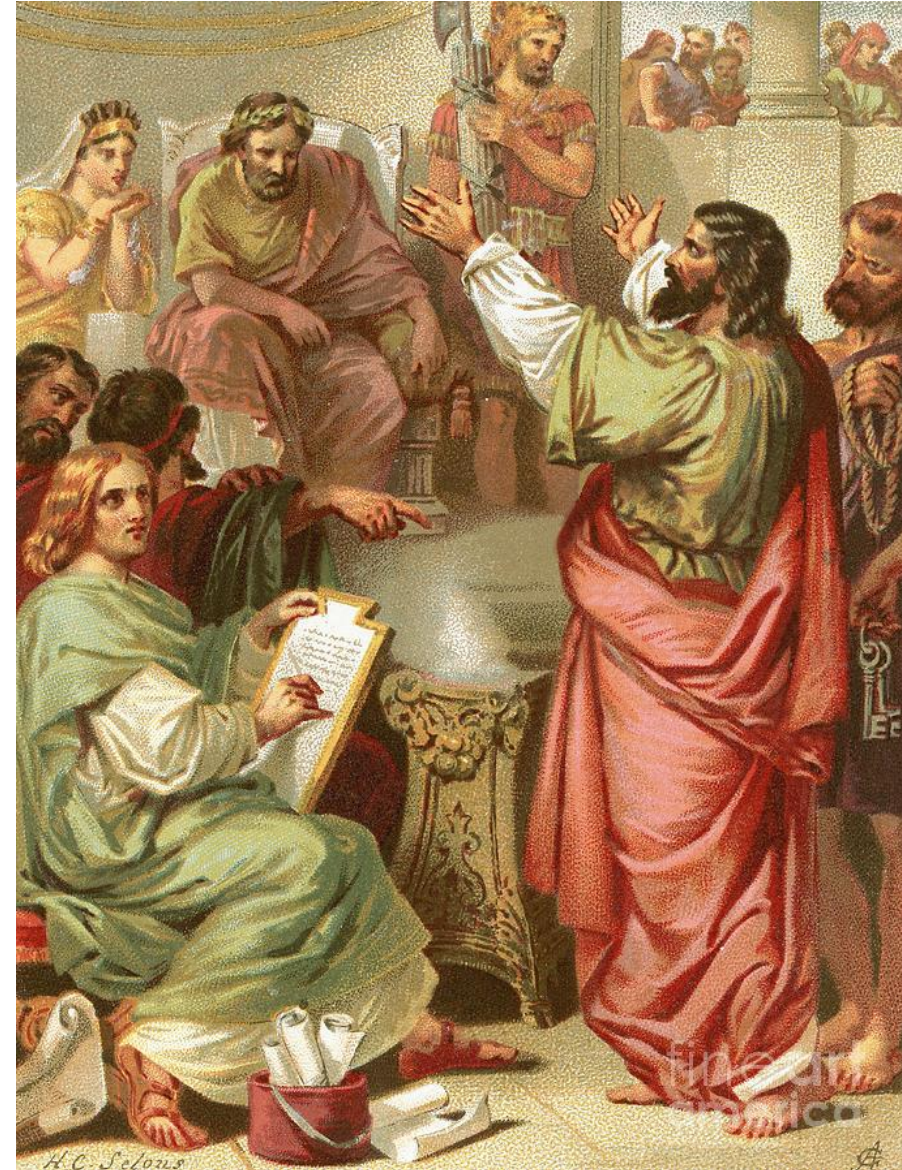
Perseverance...

- Persevere in Faith Despite Delay (Acts 25:1-12)
- Chapter 24 ends with “after 2years....”
- Court cases and legal matters take time and can wear the best of us out!
- Paul is now in a war of legal attrition which needs a lot of patience.
- This lock down is not a put down for Paul who begins to write to all the churches.
- It is within these periods that Paul begins to communicate by letters to the Churches and Saints.



Boldness....

- Boldness in Speaking the Truth to Power (Acts 25:23-26:32)
- Before King Agrippa, Paul shares his testimony and speaks boldly about the gospel, despite the presence of powerful leaders.
- He tells Agrippa of his conversion and the message of repentance, forgiveness, and salvation through Jesus Christ.
- Paul shows us that we are called to speak truth to those in power, not fearing their status or authority.
- Whether in a position of power or humility, everyone needs to hear the gospel.
- Paul's boldness to proclaim Jesus, even to the king, teaches us the importance of sharing the gospel with all people, regardless of their position.



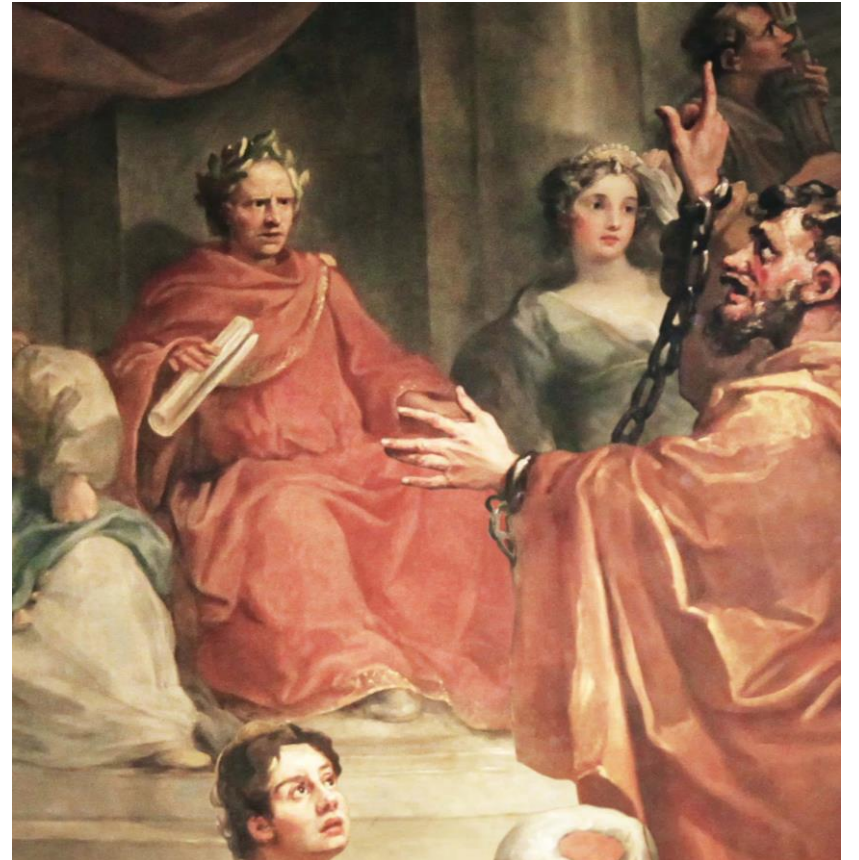
Gospel Appeals to All

- The Gospel Can Appeal to a Wide Audience (Acts 26:24-32)
- When Paul speaks to King Agrippa, Festus interrupts, suggesting that Paul is mad.
- Paul responds, explaining that his words are true and reasonable.
- Agrippa himself is almost persuaded, but Paul expresses his hope that not only Agrippa but all who hear him might become Christians.
- The gospel has the power to appeal to all kinds of people, regardless of their background, status, or personal beliefs.
- Paul's appeal to Agrippa shows that the message of Christ is for everyone.
- Even when others seem resistant, we are to remain faithful in sharing the message.



All Things Work Together...

- God's Sovereignty Over Circumstances (Acts 26:30-32)
- After Paul's defense, Agrippa and Festus agree that Paul has done nothing deserving of death and should be set free.
- However, because Paul had appealed to Caesar, he would still be sent to Rome.
- Even though Paul's imprisonment and trials are unjust, God is sovereign over the situation.
- God's plan for Paul was not thwarted by human decisions, and His will for Paul to testify in Rome would be fulfilled.
- This assures us that God is in control, even when circumstances appear difficult or unclear.



Faithful Witness...

- Paul is Faithful Witnessing in Every Situation Throughout the chapters.
- He uses every opportunity to share his testimony and the Gospel.
- Through these trials and defenses, Paul uses each moment to witness about Christ—whether in court, before kings, or in prison.
- His ultimate goal is to present the gospel, knowing that God is using him to spread the message of salvation.
- We need to learn from this and despite challenging circumstances, remain consistent in our witnessing,



Conclusion...

- In conclusion, Acts 24-26 teaches us many valuable lessons,
- including the importance of integrity, boldness, perseverance, and faithfulness in sharing the gospel.
- It shows that God's plan often unfolds through difficult circumstances, and that we are called to testify to the truth of Jesus Christ in every situation.
- Paul's attitude never changes throughout all these imprisonments and injustices.



Family Time...

- ¹⁶ Lesson For Today – Let your testimony and Light shine everywhere you go.
- Paul maintained his posture and attitude of sharing the Gospel to everyone before whom he stood trial.
- At work, in school, in public, we should not be afraid to share Jesus.
- *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*
Matthew 5:16
- Hillsong Children's Song – Let Your Light Shine
- https://youtu.be/3gXjbPl_89E?si=F-SDi_7sap4Jtt0d

