

Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you. (Acts 22:1)

I. Someone is Lying (24:1-9)

- a. False accusation will not stand against simple truth. Tertullus, an orator, is retained to present lies to Felix.
- b. The adversaries of Christ assert nothing, but they question everything. They will not define their opinions. Everything is accusation.
- c. In contrast, the witnesses of Jesus Christ do not speculate, but they affirm certain facts about their personal revelation from God and stand on it.
- d. Tertullus begins his testimony with a "buttery lie" filled with false flattery (v.2-3)
 1. "we have found the man a plague" "a mover of sedition" "a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes"
- e. Paul presents his defense to Felix as simple truth. (24:10-21)
 1. How could he organize a revolt, he had only been in Jerusalem for 12 days?
 2. The accusers had no witnesses, no facts to support their accusations.
 3. The Jews had no evidence that Paul was working against the Roman government.
- f. Paul speaks to Felix a second time. Drusilla is present. Paul preached a three part sermon (v. 25):
 1. Righteousness -
 2. Self-control -
 3. The coming judgement -
- g. Felix is "afraid" after hearing the gospel and leaves Paul in jail for two years as a political pawn.
 1. The truth can always be verified (vv.17-21)

II. Let the Truth Be Told

- a. Remember that the apostles were charged to declare and defend the truth concerning resurrection of Christ. He lives therefore we shall also live beyond the grave.
- b. This same truth is what the Sanhedrin and other Jewish scoffers attempted to silence. (v. 21)
- c. The truth can always be verified, but will they listen

III. Examples of Foolish Attitudes That Reject Christ

- a. The "Truth Deniers" – Tertullus
- b. The "Postponers" – Felix was convicted of the truth, but refused to obey
- c. The "Don't Want to Changers" – Drusilla, young, enjoyed position and prestige
- d. The truth about Jesus Christ must be presented even in spiritual difficult and hostile environments (Psalm 14:1).

IV. Thoughts and Actions For Consideration

- a. One of the terrible realities of our day is that many still do not know Jesus. He was the most extraordinary life that every passed before mortal eyes, and yet not many took notice.
- b. This is why we should keep on teaching and preaching Jesus Christ, because He is still unknown to many.
- c. We need to be sure that every congregation in our places of worship know Jesus.
- d. We call ourselves a Christian nation and most believe that Fayetteville is a Christian community, but do we really know Jesus.