



Bound By Belief

Introduction: Paul is on trial before the governor, Felix. The Jewish leaders hired a lawyer to bring accusations and prosecute Paul. His charges are filled with lies and attacks. Paul defends his case and boldly stands for his faith. Felix delays the verdict and spends two years hearing from Paul. Paul does not waiver in his faith and never compromises the message. Felix is replaced as governor and leaves Paul in prison.

Text: Acts24

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: There is much talk in the world about “fake” news. This has been a reality since the fall of man. When have you been accused of something you didn’t do? When has your name or character been attacked by others? How did you feel about the lies and how did you handle the situation (or how would you feel or handle the situation)?
2. What were the lies that Tertullus told on Paul? What does it mean to say that someone is a “plague?” How does the world attempt to paint Christianity as a “plague” on society? What are some differences in the secular world view as compared to a Biblical world view? Why do people tend to attack the Biblical world view?
3. Paul was accused of stirring up riots. The fact was that the Jewish leaders were the ones who stirred the crowds. How do you see this same hypocrisy in our day?
4. How did Paul defend himself? What did he deny and what did he confess?
5. It has been stated by a well known pastor in America that Christians need to unhitch from the Old Testament. How would Paul respond to that suggestion?
6. How do we know that the early church believed in the testimony and the witness of the Old Testament? Look through the book of Acts and make notes of how Peter and Paul used the OT in their ministry.
7. How would you tell someone how they can have faith in Christ?
8. Paul did not shy away from the immoral behavior and lifestyle of Felix. He discussed with him about righteousness, self control, and the coming judgment. Why is it important for people to realize their sin and their accountability before a holy God?
9. Look up the following verses and discuss or write your thoughts: Romans 3:24, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9,13, 5:1, 8:1, 38-39 Titus 2:11-14, 1 Thes. 5:8, 2 Tim. 2:22, 1 Cor. 4:5, 2 Cor. 5:10
10. Where will you be 150 years from now?

Think About it:

Jonathan Edwards was a man greatly used by God. He wrote several resolutions for his life with the first two being: I will live for God. If no one else does, I still will. These two resolutions reflect the heart of Paul and the early church in the book of Acts. They were bound by a belief that transformed their life, the culture, and the world. What does your faith mean to you? Does what you believe impact how you live your life?

Moving Forward:

Sate Edward’s resolution every morning: I will live for God. If no one else does, I still will. Live with that attitude and focus your day with God at the forefront. Allow Jesus to lead and guide your life and be a bold witness for the gospel. Read your Bible daily, pray, and obey His voice!