

Acts 24 “No Decision”

Acts 24:1-27

May 17, 2026

Acts 24:1-9

1 Five days later Ananias the high priest came down with some elders and a lawyer named Tertullus. These men presented their case against Paul to the governor. 2 When Paul was called in, Tertullus began to accuse him and said, “We enjoy great peace because of you, and reforms are taking place for the benefit of this nation because of your foresight. 3 We acknowledge this in every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, with utmost gratitude. 4 But, so that I will not burden you any further, I request that you would be kind enough to give us a brief hearing. 5 For we have found this man to be a plague, an agitator among all the Jews throughout the Roman world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. 6 He even tried to desecrate the temple, and so we apprehended him. 8 By examining him yourself you will be able to discern the truth about these charges we are bringing against him.” 9 The Jews also joined in the attack, alleging that these things were true.

Three charges.

Acts 24-10-21

10 When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied, “Because I know you have been a judge of this nation for many years, I am glad to offer my defense in what concerns me. 11 You can verify for yourself that it is no more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem. 12 They didn’t find me arguing with anyone or causing a disturbance among the crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or anywhere in the city. 13 Neither can they prove the charges they are now making against me. 14 But I admit this to you: I worship the God of my ancestors according to the Way, which they call a sect, believing everything that is in accordance with the law and written in the prophets. 15 I have a hope in God, which these men themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection, both of the righteous and the unrighteous. 16 I always strive to have a clear conscience toward God and men. 17 After many years, I came to bring charitable gifts and offerings to my people. 18 While I was doing this, some Jews from Asia found me ritually purified in the temple, without a crowd and without any uproar. 19 It is they who ought to be here before you to bring charges, if they have anything against me. 20 Or let these men here state what wrongdoing they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin, 21 other than this one statement I shouted while standing among them, ‘Today I am on trial before you concerning the resurrection of the dead.’”

Paul’s defense.

Isaiah 49:22-23

22 Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth.

For I am God, and there is no other.

23 By myself I have sworn; truth has gone from my mouth, a word that will not be revoked: Every knee will bow to me, every tongue will swear allegiance.

Psalm 62:12

12 and faithful love belongs to you, Lord. For you repay each according to his works.

Acts 24:22-27

22 Since Felix was well informed about the Way, he adjourned the hearing, saying, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will decide your case." 23 He ordered that the centurion keep Paul under guard, though he could have some freedom, and that he should not prevent any of his friends from meeting his needs.

24 Several days later, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and listened to him on the subject of faith in Christ Jesus. 25 Now as he spoke about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became afraid and replied, "Leave for now, but when I have an opportunity I'll call for you." 26 At the same time he was also hoping that Paul would offer him money. So he sent for him quite often and conversed with him.

27 After two years had passed, Porcius Festus succeeded Felix, and because Felix wanted to do the Jews a favor, he left Paul in prison.

There will be a finally judgement.

2 Corinthians 5:10

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

Revelation 20:11-12

11 Then I saw a great white throne and one seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. 12 I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. 13 Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works. 14 Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Our deeds will either condemn or become confirmations of salvation.

A "no decision" decision.

Repentance is never convenient.

Gospel change lies not just in an awareness of sin and lack of righteousness but that Christ would stand in our place and give us His righteousness.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1.) What did God say to you through His Scripture during our Sunday gathering?

- 2.) Acts 24 highlights that the message from Paul to Felix was one about righteousness, self control and final judgement. Why those principles and beliefs? How would you work “self control” into a gospel presentation?
- 3.) How is having an understanding of a final judgement an important part of Biblical faith?
- 4.) Discuss the idea that repentance is never convenient. What do you risk by not turning from sin and to God when the Holy Spirit prompts?
- 5.) As Felix hopes for more money from Paul, he reveals all the false hopes we cling to apart from the gospel? What are the people around you hoping for that isn't as good as Jesus? What competes for Christ in your own heart?
- 6.) Maybe Felix believes becoming a Christian will cost too much. Can you remember what you were anxious about and what you thought you would lose by becoming a Christian? Has there been a gain in the very area that you believed was going to cost too much?
- 7.) Ultimately, Felix makes no decision about Paul or Christ. How would you encourage someone who was making a decision to not make a decision when it comes to the gospel?