

Conclusion

- A. Christ and His Kingdom will not be stopped by the unjust actions and motives of human leaders—religious or political.
- B. The Gospel of the Kingdom will always confront a world living under another kingdom.
- C. Paul has given us an example of how to bear witness to Christ in a world that is moving in another direction.
- D. The Kingdom of God is being restored even when the Kingdoms of this world appear to be in charge.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- In Acts 24, are you left with the impression that this godless Roman leader is significantly more just than the religious leaders of Jerusalem? Explain.
- How might Paul feel when he learns they had a lawyer. How might he have prayed in response?
- Paul put forward his manner of life as a Christian as a benefit to Roman society in our text. Could your manner of life be put forth as testimony in a trial as benefiting to our society?
- Does your Christian faith have such an effect on your life that it could be a point of defense in your favor if falsely accused?
- Do the sin-ridden and self-centered decisions of Felix derail the plans of Christ and His Kingdom for Paul? What does that say to you and me?
- Do the happenings in political elections ever cause you to fear? How might Paul's experience in Acts 24 speak to this?
- What issues do we face today that might make you wonder if the kingdoms of this world have the upper hand on Christ?
- Are there people in power in your life that create anxiety for you? What can we learn from Paul from this text?

Kingdoms in Conflict

Jerry Cisar — February 1, 2015

Text: Acts 24

Introduction

- A. The Kingdoms of this World
- B. Politics and You
- C. The Advancing Kingdom of Christ
 - i. Opposition to the Kingdom
 - a) *Advancing through Hardships* (Acts 14:22)
 - b) Power-thirsty political leaders
 - ii. Can the sin-ridden, self-centered decisions of human leaders derail the plans of Christ and His Kingdom?

I. Tertullus' False Accusations (24:1-9)

- A. Felix & Tertullus
 - i. Luke 21:12-15
 - ii. *“they make a desert and call it peace”*

B. Two charges (5-9):

- i. Paul is a ***sedition plague*** as ringleader of the Nazarene sect.

- ii. *“He tried to desecrate the temple... which is why we seized him.”*

II. Paul's Defense & Witness (24:10-21)

A. Paul's opening, though respectful, contains no flattery.

- i. Romans 13:1-3

- ii. Paul's testimony is consistent with that letter.

B. Paul owns up to the one thing that helps his case.

- i. What the prosecution put forth as a liability to Roman peace, Paul puts forth as a benefit to Roman peace.

- ii. Because Paul is a follower of “the Way” he strives always to keep a good conscience before God and man.
 - a) How we live matters. (Eph. 4:1; Phil. 1:27)

 - b) 1 Peter 2:12

C. The Prosecutions Key Weakness

III. Felix's Greed and Ambition (24:22-27)

A. Felix and His Lack of Judgment

- i. Felix apparently knew enough about “the Way” to discount the account from the Jewish elders.

- ii. Felix and Drusilla

B. Felix's Dismissal