



**CHRISTIAN
ENDEAVOUR**
for Christ and the Church



Early Christians

Never alone!

Paul before Felix

Acts 24:1-27

Teaching Aim

To show that God will be with us in every situation.

Setting the scene

A group of Jews had plotted to kill Paul but his nephew learned of it and informed him. Paul had the message relayed to the commander who took immediate steps to have him transferred to Caesarea. When the soldiers who accompanied Paul arrived, they handed him over to the governor, Felix, with a letter outlining the reasons for sending him and stating that his accusers were to present their case against Paul to Felix. In the meantime, Paul was to remain under guard in Herod's palace. Let's find out what lay ahead for God's servant who had already suffered so much.

Charges brought

Read Acts 24:1-9. Five days later, the high priest, Ananias, a number of elders and a lawyer called Tertullus arrived to bring their charges against Paul. Tertullus was the spokesperson and started off with some flowery language, praising Felix for good reforms he had brought about and for the peace they had enjoyed under his rule.

Why do you think he said these nice things about Felix? - To gain favour with him.

What four things did he say Paul was guilty of? From what you have learned about Paul in previous lessons, do you think Tertullus was telling the truth? Tertullus left Felix to find out if the charges that were brought against Paul were true.

Defence made

Read Acts 24:10-21. Now it was Paul's turn to speak. He had no defence lawyer to plead his cause but was he all alone? No, he had an unseen helper, the Lord Jesus Christ. He acknowledged that Felix was the governor before whom he was willing to make his defence. Did he try to flatter him with fancy words to make him more sympathetic towards him? No, he went straight to the point by stating why he had gone up to Jerusalem twelve days earlier. He then began to defend himself against the accusations. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship God not to cause a riot or stir up the people. No-one had found him doing any of the things he was accused of. He did, however, agree with the third charge. He stood in front of these high ranking officials and boldly proclaimed that he was a Christian who worshipped the God of his fathers and believed everything that was written in the law and the prophets. At that time the term "the Way" referred to Christianity. If you're a Christian, do you tell others or do you keep quiet for fear of persecution? To show how ridiculous the charge of trying to

desecrate the temple was, Paul stated why he had to come back to Jerusalem. What were his reasons? He went on to point out that the only crime they could accuse him of when he faced the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem was the fact that he believed in the resurrection of the dead, so was this why he was on trial before Felix?

The verdict deferred

Read Acts 24:22-27. Felix obviously had a good knowledge of Christianity and, after listening to Paul's defence of it, he adjourned the proceedings. When would Paul know the verdict and what was to happen to him in the meantime? It's clear that Felix knew Paul was innocent of all charges. His role was to administer the law so he should have set Paul free. After a few days, Felix sent for Paul. What did Paul talk about and what effect did this have on Felix (see v25)? Felix sent for Paul quite often. What was he more interested in than becoming a Christian? Felix put off the decision to trust in Christ, saying he would wait for a more convenient time. There is no record that he ever asked God for forgiveness. Many people intend to become a Christian but put it off until it's too late. Have you put your trust in Christ. If not, now is the time to do so.

Summing up

When news leaked out that the Jews planned to kill Paul, he was transferred to stand trial before Felix, the governor of Caesarea. He maintained that he was innocent of the charges brought against him. He stated that he was a Christian and believed in the resurrection of the dead. Felix postponed a verdict and called Paul into his presence on various occasions. When Paul talked about faith and judgement to come, Felix was afraid and didn't want to hear any more for he knew he was a sinner. Have you put your trust in Christ?

Resources

Memory Verse

... "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:6

Activities

- Under 8s Activity Sheet "Paul before Felix - 1".
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "Paul before Felix - 2".

Prayer Points

Thank God that:

- If we are Christians, He will never leave us alone.
- People like Paul stood firm for their faith.

Pray for:

- People who are convicted of crimes they are not guilty of.
- Those who have not put their trust in Christ that they will do so.

Paul before Felix

True or False

Colour in **T** if true or **F** if false.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Paul was arrested in Jericho. | T | F |
| 2. Paul went to Jerusalem to worship. | T | F |
| 3. The Jews wanted to kill Paul because he believed in Jesus. | T | F |
| 4. The Jews accused Paul of causing a riot. | T | F |
| 5. Paul was taken as a prisoner to Jericho. | T | F |
| 6. Felix's wife was called Drusilla. | T | F |
| 7. Paul spoke to Felix about faith in Jesus Christ. | T | F |
| 8. Felix kept Paul in prison for he was hoping to receive money from him so that he could release him. | T | F |
| 9. The Jews wanted Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem. | T | F |
| 10. The Jews could not prove the charges that they brought against Paul. | T | F |

Memory Verse

Jig Saw Puzzle

Cut out the pieces below and piece them together to find the memory verse.

Hebrews 13:6

helper; I will

What can man

The Lord is my

not be afraid.
do to me?

Paul before Felix

Wordgrid

1. There were four of these brought against Paul.

2. Paul went to Jerusalem 12 days earlier to do this.

3. Paul was accused of stirring up these.

4. This means Paul had not done the things his accusers said.

5. Paul spoke to Felix about this in Christ.

6. Paul was accused of desecrating this.

7. Felix knew he was this sort of person

8. Describes how Felix felt when Paul spoke of righteousness, self-control etc.

9. Paul had been kept for 2 years here when Festus arrived.

10. Festus took over this role from Felix in Caesarea.

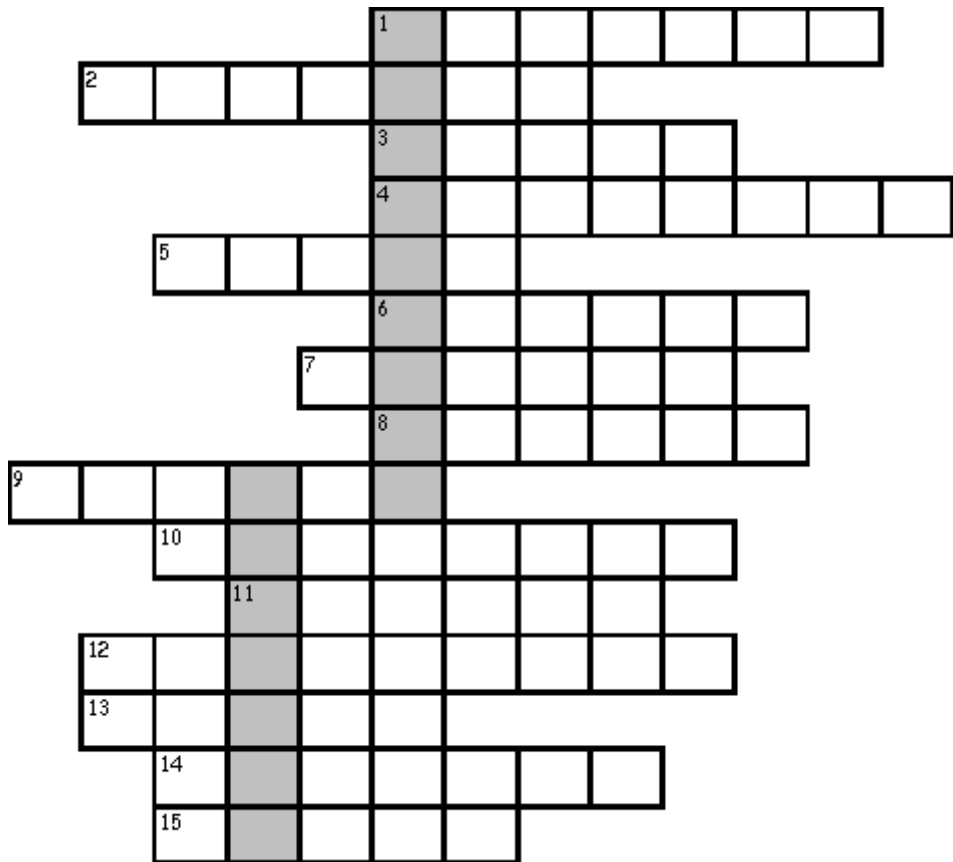
11. This was Tertullus' occupation.

12. What Paul told Felix was to come.

13. Felix hoped that Paul would offer him this.

14. Felix was praised for introducing these.

15. This took place before Felix.



The words in the shaded squares tell us what Paul was.
