

Acts # 94 “An Honest Defense Before a Dishonest Judge” Acts 24

Does anyone remember the key verse in Acts?

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”

Under the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Luke proclaims God's sovereignty behind the scenes as he painstakingly goes into careful detail to show that the young church of Jesus Christ isn't just another humanly inspired religious uprising; No, this is the real deal orchestrated and empowered by God Who works through His appointed apostles to spread His precious Gospel message throughout the entire world.

Just five days after Paul's arrival in Caesarea, the Jews arrive after solidifying their case him and hiring a Roman lawyer; no doubt, a slick seasoned Gentile attorney to argue their case before Governor Felix but all that measly Paul has is God the Holy Spirit and the biblical truth he's accumulated as a Church Age believer in Jesus Christ, so let's see how it goes.

And Paul, a relatively minor player in the eyes of Rome is now defending himself before such aristocracy as Felix and later Festus; Who would have known?

Paul and Ananias knew because our Lord prophesied of such events in Acts 9:15 and 23:11.

And although Acts chapters 24-26 chronicle Paul's trials before three prominent judges; actually the judges are on trial before God, not Paul before the judges!

During the next two years while Paul is imprisoned in Caesarea, he'll be heard by three judges in three separate courtrooms and as these judges try their cases, they will be on trial.

In each case, the apostle Paul will present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them making clear the weightier issues of eternal life, so what is really being determined in these three trials is what will happen to the judges in eternity.

Paul is appealing to the standard of Roman law in seeking a fair hearing for his defense and being familiar with Roman law, he'll remain not only logical but also impersonal by avoiding flattery, yet not neglecting courtesy.

Paul will therefore deny the charges and demand proof of guilt, distinguishing between accusation and proof of that accusation.

And then by the power of God the Holy Spirit, Paul will follow up by presenting his defense in pointing out the religious issue at hand which must remain separate from the state issue and he will indict Jewish religion by outlining its failure to reach a logical conclusion in recognizing the evidence of its prophetically identified Messiah.

Paul had not interrupted anyone's business in the temple but the Jews interrupted Paul's life and ministry for their Messiah; he didn't interfere with their procedure, they interfered with his.

If Paul was a riotous revolt leading insurrectionist, he would be known as such in synagogues in other cities.

Paul's accusers couldn't offer one scintilla of evidence to show that he had profaned the temple or even spoke against Rome in any synagogue in Judea or incited the riot in question.

They have no evidence and also the original accusers who were Asian Jews who brought these bogus

charges against Paul were nowhere to be found in this Roman court because they knew of the punishment for perjury.

Paul's conscience is filled with God's standards which whole-heartedly agree with the Old Testament.

A believer's clear conscience is the result of his quick recovery from sin by acknowledging it, forgetting it and then moving on from it.

Paul admits he's guilty of two things: he believes in the resurrection and is a follower of Jesus, a follower of the Way.

God could have protected Paul with miracles but the way

He works to protect us most of the time is through normal events in life.

So, no matter what persecution or suffering we face, we know that of God is for us no one can be against us and He will protect us!