

Acts 24:17 Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.

<u>18</u> Whereupon certain Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with multitude, nor with tumult.

- <u>19</u> Who ought to have been here before thee, and object, if they had ought against me.
- <u>20</u> Or else let these same *here* say, if they have found any evil doing in me, while I stood before the council,
- 21 Except it be for this one voice, that I cried standing among them, Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day.
- <u>22</u> And when Felix heard these things, having more perfect knowledge of *that* way, he deferred them, and said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter.
- 23 And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him.

<u>24</u> And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. 26 He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him.

<u>27</u> But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.

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(4) Paul's Contention, 24:17-19

(a) Why He Was in the Capital, 24:17

Acts 24:17 Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.

(b) Why He Was in Custody, 24:18-19

Acts 24:18 Whereupon certain Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with multitude, nor with tumult. <u>19</u> Who ought to have been here before thee, and object, if they had ought against me.

(5) Paul's Conscience, 24:20-21

Acts 24:20 Or else let these same here say, if they have found any evil doing in me, while I stood before the council, 21 Except it be for this one voice, that I cried standing among them, Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day.

c. How the Charge Was Manipulated, 24:22-27

(1) Paul's Fresh Imprisonment, 24:22-23

(a) The Case Was Deferred When It Should Have Been Dismissed, 24:22

<u>Acts 24:22</u> And when Felix heard these things, having more perfect knowledge of *that* way, he deferred them, and said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter. (b) The Captive Was Given Leniency When He Should Have Been Given Liberty, 24:23

<u>Acts 24:23</u> And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let *him* have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him.

(2) Paul's Further Interrogation, 24:24-25

(a) The Reason for It, 24:24

<u>Acts 24:24</u> And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. (b) The Reproof of It, 24:25a "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come..."

Original Word: διαλέγομαι Transliteration: dialegomai Definition: to discuss, to address, to preach Usage: I converse, address, preach, lecture; I argue, reason.

dialégomai – properly, "getting a *conclusion across*" by exchanging thoughts (logic) – "mingling thought with thought, to ponder (*revolve in the mind*)" (J. Thayer).

dialégomai ("getting a conclusion across") occurs 13 times in the NT, usually of believers exercising "dialectical reasoning." This is the process of *giving and receiving* information with someone to *reach deeper understanding* – a "going back-and-forth" of thoughts and ideas so people can better know the Lord (His word, will). Doing this is perhaps the most telling characteristic of the growing Christian!

[(*dialégomai*) is the root of the English term, "dialogue."] <u>https://biblehub.com/greek/1256.htm</u>

Jn. 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;
10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

RIGHTEOUSNESS = The challenge of God's standard of holiness.

TEMPERANCE = The challenge of self-control unto God's standard of holiness.

JUDGMENT = The challenge of accountability for responsibility in meeting God's standard of holiness. (c) The Reaction to It, 24:25b "...Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."

This is an example of witnessing by Paul, manly Christianity at its finest!

Felix was facing a spirit-filled man of God, and his reaction is evidence of the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

Original Word: ἕμφοβος Transliteration: emphobos Definition: terrible, in fear (used of godly fear) Usage: full of fear, terrified. https://biblehub.com/greek/1719.htm Felix was rejecting the truth by postponing a decision, which is, in essence, a decision in itself.

(3) Paul's Flawless Integrity, 24:26

<u>Acts 24:26</u> He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him.

Motive revealed = love of money.

<u>Mt. 7:13</u> Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: <u>14</u> Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

(4) Paul's Further Incarceration, 24:27

<u>Acts 24:27</u> But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.

Conclusion

<u>2 Cor. 6:1</u> We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

<u>2</u> (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

<u>3</u> Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:

<u>4</u> "But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God..."

<u>1 Cor. 4:1</u> Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. <u>2</u> Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.