

Acts 24:24-27

Felix was Afraid of God's Judgment - Refused to Repent

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All verses are from the New King James Version, 1985 Thomas Nelson

Acts 24:15 I have hope in God, which they [*unbelieving Jewish religious leaders*] themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for

Acts 24:16 This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men. 17 "Now after many years [*away from Jerusalem on the mission field*] I came [*to Jerusalem*] to bring alms and offerings to my nation, 18 in the midst of which some Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with a mob nor with tumult. 19 They ought to have been here before you to object if they had anything against me. 20 Or else let those who are here themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council, 21 unless it is for this one statement which I cried out, standing among them, 'Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day.'"

Acts 24:22 But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge **of the Way**, he adjourned the proceedings and said, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case." 23 So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him. 24 And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

JOSEPHUS While Felix was procurator of Judea, he saw this Drusilla, and fell in love with her; for she did indeed exceed all other women in beauty; and he sent to her a person whose name was Simon^[4] (Note: in some manuscripts, Atomos), a Jewish friend of his, by birth a Cypriot, who pretended to be a magician. Simon endeavored to persuade her to forsake her present husband, and marry Felix; and promised, that if she would not refuse Felix, he would make her a happy woman. Accordingly she acted unwisely and, because she longed to avoid her sister Berenice's envy (for Drusilla was very ill-treated by Berenice because of Drusilla's beauty) was prevailed upon to transgress the laws of her forefathers, and to marry Felix.^[5] Josephus, *Jewish Antiquities*, xx.7.2

1 Peter 3:3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward — arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel — **4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.**

Acts 24:25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Acts 24:26 Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him. 27 But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix [*about 58AD by decree of Nero*]; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor [*just like his wife's father, Agrippa I did when he arrested Peter*], left Paul bound.

GOTQUESTIONS.ORG - It could be that another reason Felix left Paul in jail was that he was reluctant to pronounce judgment on a man who was clearly innocent. Or possibly he did so to please Drusilla. A fear of political backlash from the Jews was also a factor ([Acts 24:27](#)). Upon his loss of the governorship, Felix was summoned to Rome where certain of his former Jewish subjects accused him of cruelty and corruption. Felix was found guilty but was spared the death penalty.

Why did Festus replace Felix? (Google result)

Felix had been such a cruel, corrupt ruler that he was recalled to Rome after many complaints from his people. That happened under the rule of the infamously depraved Nero. **Festus is reportedly a good ruler—fair and reasonable—and even destroyed the Sicarii assassins Felix had used to do his dirty work.**