

A Governor's Fear

Acts 24:25

Introduction:

- A. Paul rescued from Jewish mob carried to Caesarea.
- B. Paul put on trial before Felix, Roman governor of Judea (53-60 A. D.)
 - 1. An unrighteous, licentious, and greedy governor.
 - 2. Drusilla, third wife, daughter of Herod Agrippa I.
 - 3. Held Paul prisoner in Caesarea for two years.
 - a. Played politics with Paul's case. (v. 22, 27)
 - b. Tried to get a bribe from Paul. (v. 26).
- C. Felix with Jewish wife hear Paul concerning his faith in Christ.
 - 1. Felix trembled (KJV) at the three-fold message of Paul.
 - 2. Three themes needed today:

Discussion:

I. He Reasoned about *Righteousness*.

- A. Unrighteous governor needed righteousness of God.
 - 1. Could be made righteous through gospel (Rom. 1:16, 17).
 - 2. Needed to obey God's commands. (cf. Psa. 119:172; Heb. 11:6; Acts 17:30; 1 Pet. 3:21).
- B. Righteousness is made up of two inseparable components:
 - 1. Love for God — spiritual righteousness. (Matt. 22:37; 1 John 5:3)
 - 2. Love for man — moral righteousness. (Matt. 22:39).

II. He Reasoned about *Self-control*.

- A. Self-indulgent governor needed self-control.
- B. Self-control distinguishes us from lower creatures. (cf. Jude 10).
- C. Self-control is often surrendered to other forces.
 - 1. Drugs. (cf. Eph. 5:18).
 - 2. Emotions—emotions are good servant but poor master.
 - a. Anger. (Eph. 4:26).
 - b. Anxiety. (Matt. 6:33,34).
 - c. Affections. (Cf. "Great is Diana"; "My parents did not believe that way").
 - d. Fear. (Rev. 21:8).
 - e. Desires. (1 John 2:15-17; cf. David).
 - 3. Life's external circumstances. (cf. Phil. 4:11-13).
 - 4. Provocations. (Moses—Psa. 106:32,33; Num. 20:7-12).
 - 5. Peer-pressure—not limited to youth. (Barnabas—Gal. 3:13).

III. He Reasoned about *The Judgment to Come*.

- A. Felix had reason to be afraid of judgment to come.
- B. Every sinner ought to be afraid of judgment to come.
 - 1. Will have to give an account:
 - a. For sinful words. (Matt. 12:36,37).
 - b. For sinful deeds. (2 Cor. 5:10).
 - c. For sinful neglect. (Matt. 25:40-46).
 - 2. Will be lost forever. (Matt. 25:32-41).

Conclusion:

- A. Felix was great at putting things off. (v.22, 24).
- B. Felix likely never saw a "convenient time."