

# Paul, His Life and Teachings

## Paul Before Governor Felix

### Lesson 26

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*How lovely is your dwelling place, Oh Lord  
of Hosts!*

*My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of  
the Lord;*

*my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living  
God.*

*Even the sparrow finds a home, and the  
swallow a nest for herself, where she may  
lay her young,  
at your altars, O Lord of Hosts, my King and  
my God.*

*Blessed are those who dwell in your house,  
ever singing your praise!*

*Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highway to Zion.*

*As they go through the Valley of Baca they  
make it a place of springs;*

*the early rain also covers it with pools.*

*They go from strength to strength; each  
one appears before Zion.*

*Lord God of Hosts, hear my prayer; give  
ear, O God of Jacob!*

*Behold our shield, O God; look on the face  
of your anointed!*

*For a day in your courts is better than a  
thousand elsewhere.*

*I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house  
of my God than dwell in the tents of  
wickedness.*

*For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the  
Lord bestows favor and honor.*

*No good thing does he withhold from those  
who walk uprightly.*

*O Lord of Hosts, blessed is the one who  
trusts in you!*



How lovely is your dwelling place



How lovely is your dwelling place

My soul longs for your courts

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How lovely is  
your dwelling  
place



My soul longs  
for the courts  
of the Lord



Better is one  
day here than a  
thousand  
elsewhere.



# That night in the Roman barracks, God comes to Paul



# That night in the Roman barracks, God comes to Paul



“The Lord stood by him and said, ‘Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.’”

While Paul slept, over 40 men vowed to kill  
him



Watch out for evil doers wearing  
cloaks of piety and devotion



Paul's nephew  
alerts him



Paul's nephew  
alerts him



# The Tribune sends Paul under guard to Caesarea



# The centurion gives the letter to Governor Felix





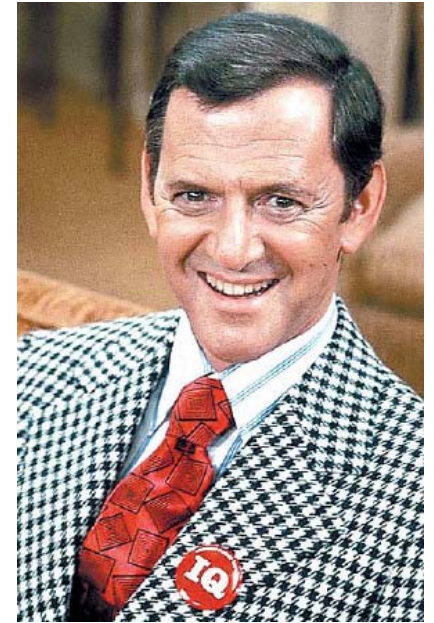


I will give you a hearing, Paul, but you will have to wait...

# Gov. Felix Curriculum Vitae

## Personal:

- “Felix” is Latin for cheerfulness
- Married to 3 women including the granddaughter of Antony and Cleopatra
- 3d wife a teenage Jewess named Drusilla
- A freedman in power thanks to his brother



# Gov. Felix Curriculum Vitae

## References:

- Tacitus – “Antonius Felix, practiced every kind of cruelty and lust, wielding the power of a king with all the instincts of a slave”
- Josephus – Felix was the cause of much bitterness and quick to use force against the Jewish people



5 days later, Felix calls the hearing to order  
- Lawyer Tertullus starts for the Jews



# First the schmoozing ...

“Since *through you* we enjoy much peace, and since *by your foresight, most excellent Felix,* reforms are made for this nation, in everyway and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude.”



# Then the charges...

1. Paul is a troublemaker!
2. Paul is a ringleader in a fringe religious group.
3. Paul is a temple desecrator.





Okay, Paul. It is your turn. What is your defense?

# No schmoozing, just a clever pun



“Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation, I *cheerfully* make my defense.”



# As to the charges...



1. Paul is a troublemaker!
2. Paul is a ringleader in a fringe religious group.
3. Paul is a temple desecrator.

# As to the charges...



1. Paul is a troublemaker!
2. Paul is a ringleader in a fringe religious group.
3. Paul is a temple desecrator.

If I am charged with being a worldwide trouble maker, where are the eye witnesses?

# As to the charges...



- ✘ Paul is a troublemaker!
- 2. Paul is a ringleader in a fringe religious group.
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If I am charged with being a worldwide trouble maker, where are the eye witnesses?

# As to the charges...



- ✘ Paul is a troublemaker!
- 2. Paul is a ringleader in a fringe religious group.
- 3. Paul is a temple desecrator.

I am not a ringleader in a fringe religious group, I follow the true fulfillment of the Law and Prophets.

# As to the charges...



- ✘ Paul is a troublemaker!
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I am not a ringleader in a fringe religious group, I follow the true fulfillment of the Law and Prophets.

# As to the charges...



- ✘ Paul is a troublemaker!
- ✘ Paul is a ringleader in a fringe religious group.
- 3. Paul is a temple desecrator.

And I never desecrated the temple, I went there to purify myself.

As to the charges...



- ~~1~~ ✘ Paul is a troublemaker!
- ~~2~~ ✘ Paul is a ringleader in a fringe religious group.
- ~~3~~ ✘ Paul is a temple desecrator.

And I never desecrated the temple, I went there to purify myself.

As to the charges...



- ✘ Paul is a troublemaker!
- ✘ Paul is a ringleader in a fringe religious group.
- ✘ Paul is a temple desecrator.

The worst thing I did was cry out about the resurrection.



As to the charges...



- ~~1~~ ✘ Paul is a troublemaker!
- ~~2~~ ✘ Paul is a troublemaker in a fringe group.
- ~~3~~ ✘ Paul is a temple desecrator.

The worst thing I did was cry out about the resurrection.



I will hold my ruling  
until I hear from the  
Tribune.



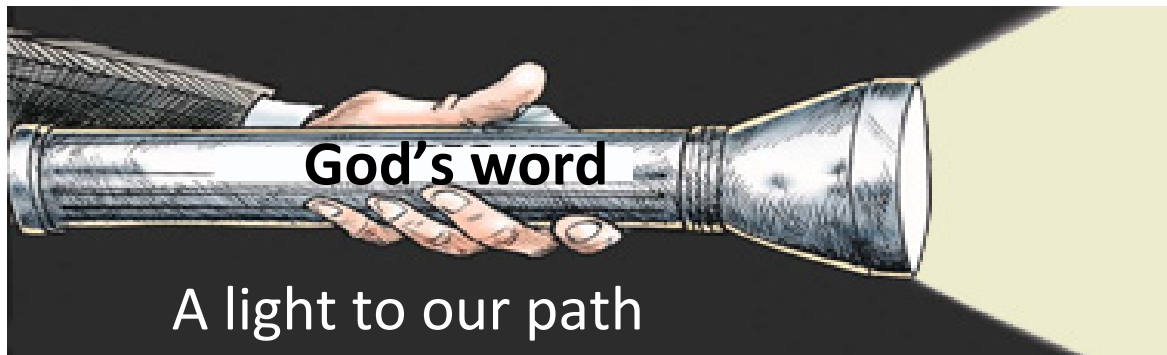
Paul has regular conversations with Felix and Drusilla (for as long as it took for Felix to get uncomfortable)

After two years, Felix leaves his position as Governor ... Next week his successor

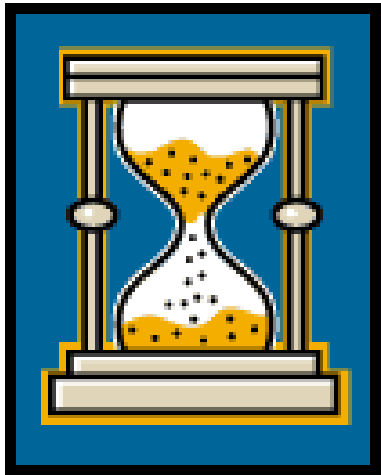


After two years, Felix leaves his position as Governor ... Next week his successor

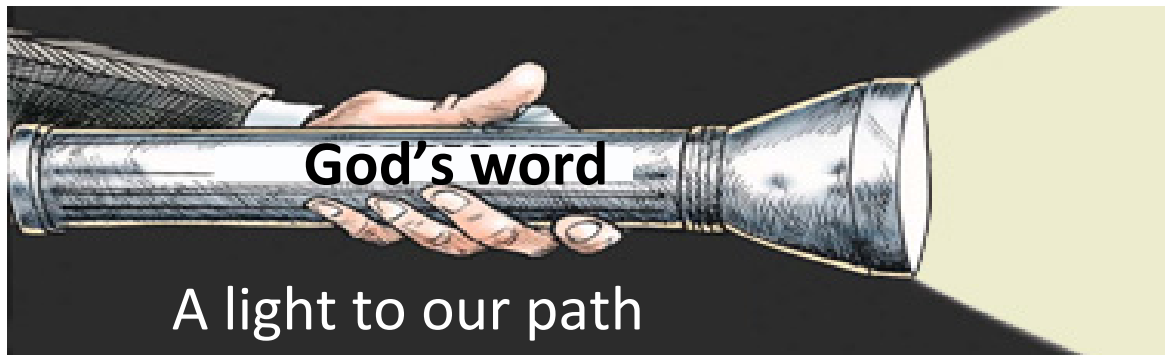




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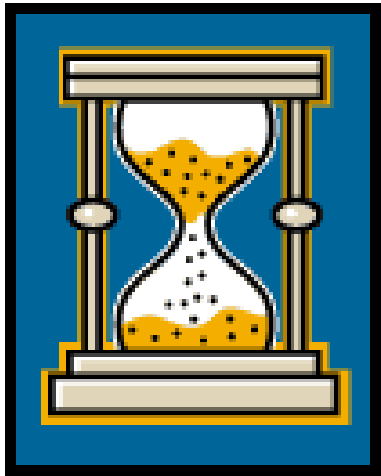


“I will give you a hearing when  
your accusers arrive” (Acts  
23:35)



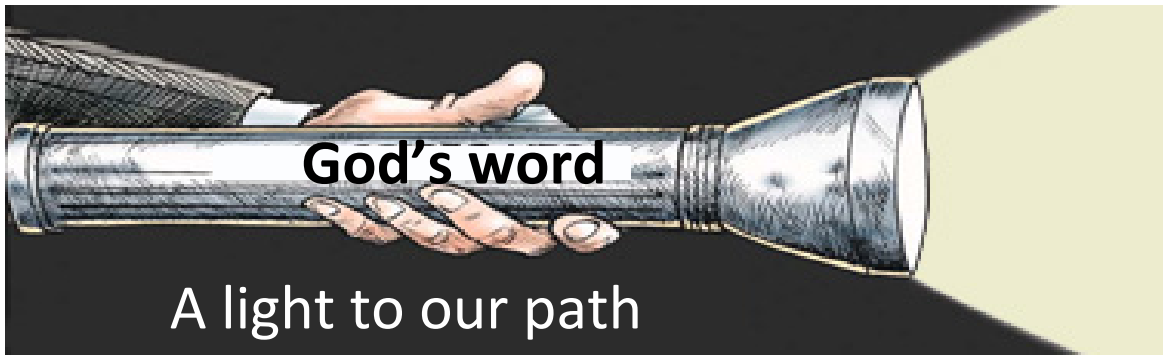
A light to our path

## Points for Home

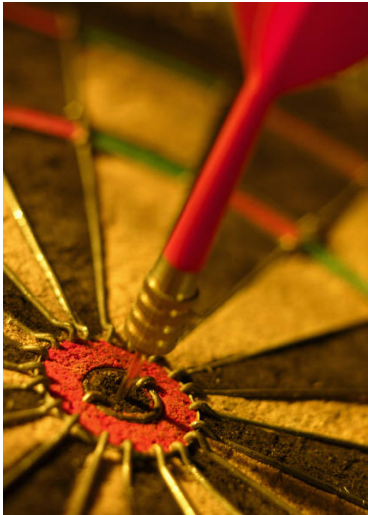


“I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive” (Acts 23:35)

Sometimes God says “Now!” Other times he says, “Wait!”

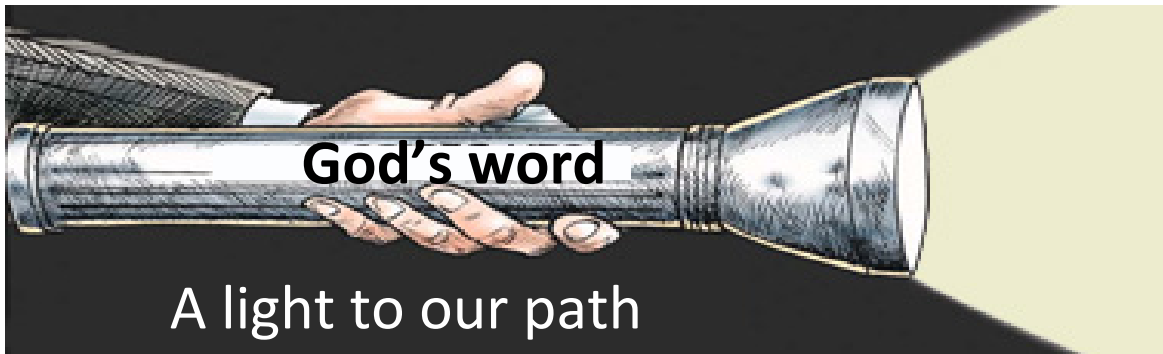


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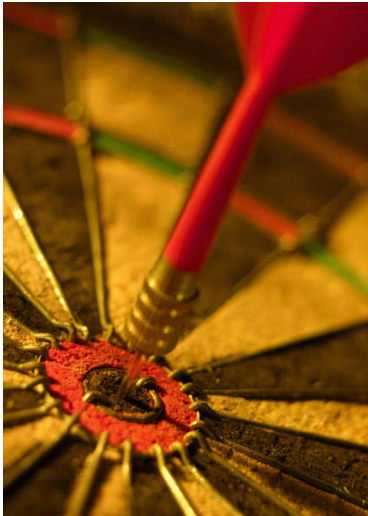


“And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied” (Acts 24:10)





## Points for Home

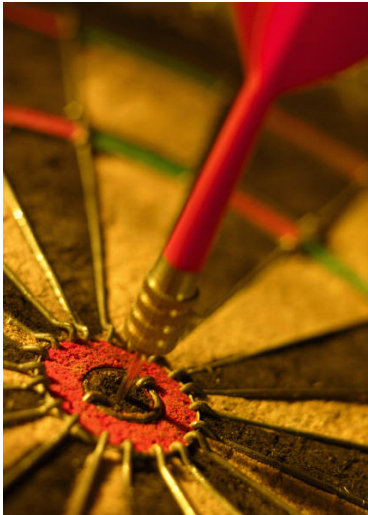


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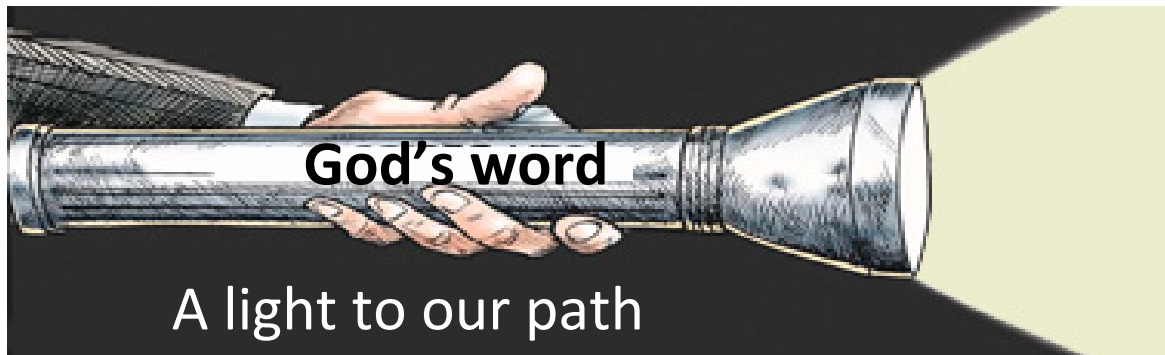
Meticulous honesty ... Nothing less



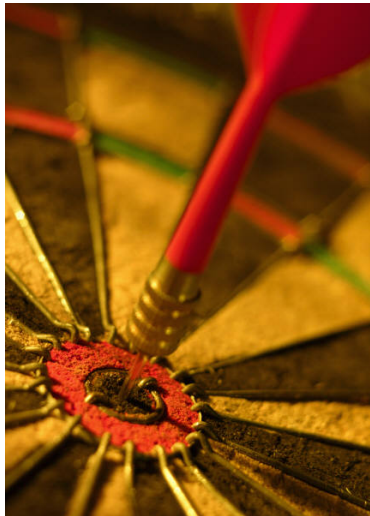
## Points for Home



“Felix was alarmed and said, “Go away for the present” (Acts 24:25)



## Points for Home



“Felix was alarmed and said, “Go away for the present” (Acts 24:25)

Never put off an opportunity to grow closer to the Lord!