

Acts – Birth of the Church *To Caesar You Will Go!*

Acts 25

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Bob Hightchew

Introduction:

- We are still in Paul's long journey to Rome.
 - During this journey there are moments of celebration ... and there are moments of hardship.
 - Does that sound familiar in your journey?
 - Paul had assurance that the Holy Spirit was with him the whole way – Do you have that assurance?
 - **Psalm 23:4**
 - **Psalm 27:1**
 - **Isaiah 41:10**
 - Festus replaced Felix in 59 A.D ... and died unexpectedly in 62 A.D.
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1. Trial Before Festus:

- a. **Acts 25:1-5**
- b. When Festus arrives in Jerusalem, he is approached by the Chief Priests, Elders, and the Sanhedrin.
- c. They willingly violate two of God's Commands:
 - i. **Exodus 20:13** –
 - ii. **Exodus 20:16** –
- d. The human spirit has not changed – Many “Christians” want the cultural narrative preached, not the Gospel Message.
 - i. **Judges 21:25**
 - ii. **Proverbs 14:12**
- e. **Matthew 10:28**
- f. **Acts 25:8**
- g. **Acts 25:10**
- h. **Acts 25:10-11**
- i. The right of a Roman Citizen to appeal had been in place since 509 B.C.
- j. **Acts 23:11**
- k. **Acts 25:12**

2. Festus Speaks with Agrippa:

- a. **Acts 25:18-21**
- b. King Agrippa II was the son of Agrippa I, and the grandson of Herod the Baby Killer. He was the brother to Bernice and Drucilla.
- c. He was the King during the siege of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. He tried to reason with the Jews to not rebel against Rome, but when they did not listen, he fought on the side of Rome. He was wounded in battle and returned to Rome.
- d. When he arrived in Rome, he was given the honors of being a Praetor, which is a Governor or a Judge. He died in 100 A.D.
- e. We are talking about an **Acts 17** world.
- f. **Acts 25:22**

3. Paul Before Agrippa:

- a. **Acts 25:24-27**
- b. Greek – **Phantasia** (*Fantasia*) ... English – **Pomp** ... “*Pageantry ... A cheap display of high status.*”
- c. Rome began in 753 B.C. and the Western Empire fell in 476 A.D. A total of 1,229 years.
- d. Rome believed it would rule the world forever.
- e. The glory of today, is gone tomorrow ... **BUT** ... Eternity never ends.
- f. So, why do we often get so caught up in our today, that we do not consider if we are ready for eternity?
- g. If today was your day – Are you ready to meet Jesus?