

THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 24:14-27 | LESSON SUMMARY

The Way

ACTS 24:14, "But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets..." (ESV)

- Paul first addresses what facts can be confirmed/proven
 - Acts 24:11-12, "You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem, and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city." (ESV)
- Then he characterizes his religious beliefs.
 - As different as the Roman's religious beliefs may have been, this was not a subject they took lightly
- Governor Felix sees through the case made by Ananias and Tertullus
 - He avoids, however, making a legal decision

ACTS 24:23, "Then he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in custody but have some liberty, and that none of his friends should be prevented from attending to his needs." (ESV)

- Felix knows Paul is innocent, but doesn't want to seem sympathetic toward "The Way," so he acts as though he needs more evidence from the Commander Lysias



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ACTS 24:24, "After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus." (ESV)

- Drusilla
 - Daughter of Herod Agrippa I
 - Sister of Herod Agrippa II
 - Sister of Bernice (chapter 25)
 - Approximately 20 years old
 - Formerly married to King Azizus of Ernesa
 - Felix actually hired a Cyprian sorcerer to steal her away from King Azizus
 - She is Felix's third wife

ACTS 24:25, "...as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, 'Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you.'"

- Not a genuine inquiry—Felix is looking for a bribe
 - Instead, Paul gives him the Gospel
- Two years later, Paul is still in prison and Felix is replaced by Porcius Festus
 - Rather than releasing Paul, Felix does the Jews a favor and leaves him in prison

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Jeremy L. Williams, *Criminalization in Acts of the Apostles; Race, Rhetoric, and the Prosecution of an Early Christian Movement*, Kelly Leslie, *Philosophers, Jews and Christians in the Roman Empire: authority, text and tradition*, F.F. Bruce, *The Book of Acts*

