

*and converse with him. But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus; and wishing to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul imprisoned.” Acts 24:26-27 (NASB)*

## MAN’S FAVORITE EXCUSE

The Acts of the Apostles - Part 52

Acts 24:10-27

August 16, 2009

### Conclusion:

Two lessons to be learned:

1. Delay \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Delay \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.

### Three accusations against Paul:

1. He is a \_\_\_\_\_, a real \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. He even tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

### 1. He addresses \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

*“And after Paul had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying to the governor, ‘since we have through you attained much peace, and since by your providence reforms are being carried out for this nation, we acknowledge this in every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, with all thankfulness.’”*

Acts 24:2-3 (NASB)

*“And when the governor had nodded for him to speak, Paul responded: ‘Knowing that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, I cheerfully make my defense.’” Acts 24:10 (NASB)*

### 2. He answers the \_\_\_\_\_ about being a \_\_\_\_\_.

He says three things about that charge:

1. “I didn’t have \_\_\_\_\_.”

*“...since you can take not of the fact that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship.”*

Acts 24:11 (NASB)

2. “I really wasn’t \_\_\_\_\_ in doing that.”

*“And neither in the temple, nor in the synagogues, nor in the city itself did they find me carrying on a discussion with any one or causing a riot.” Acts 24:12 (NASB)*

3. “There really isn’t any \_\_\_\_\_ anyway!”

*“Nor can they prove to you the charges of which they now accuse me.” Acts 24:13 (NASB)*

**3. He answers the \_\_\_\_\_ about being the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_,**

Four levels of defense:

1. “I serve \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_.”

*“But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers...”*  
Acts 24:14a (NASB)

2. “I \_\_\_\_\_ is what \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_.”

*“...believing everything that is in accordance with the Law, and that is written in the Prophets...”* Acts 24:14b (NASB)

3. “I have a \_\_\_\_\_.”

*“...having a hope in God which these men cherish themselves, that shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.”* Acts 24:15 (NASB)

4. “I strive to be \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

*“In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men.”*  
Acts 24:16 (NASB)

**4. He answers the \_\_\_\_\_ that he \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and present offerings; in which they found me occupied in the temple, having been purified, without any crowd or uproar. But there were certain Jews from Asia—who ought to have been present before you, and to make accusation, if they should have anything against me. Or else let these men themselves tell what misdeed they found when I stood before the Council, other than for this one statement which I shouted out while standing among them, ‘For the resurrection of the dead I am on trial before you to-day.’”* Acts 24:17-21 (NASB)

**5. \_\_\_\_\_**

*“But Felix, having a more exact knowledge about the Way, put them off, saying, ‘When Lysias the commander comes down, I will decide your case.’”* Acts 24:22 (NASB)

*“And he gave orders to the centurion for him to be kept in custody and yet have some freedom, and not to prevent any of his friends from ministering to him.”* Acts 24:23 (NASB)

*“But some days later, Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul, and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus.”* Acts 24:24 (NASB)

*“And as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, ‘Go away for the present, and when I find time, I will summon you.’”*  
Acts 24:25 (NASB)

*“That’s enough for now. When I have time, I will send for you again.”* (The Voice)

*“At the same time too, he was hoping that money would be given him by Paul; therefore he also used to send for him quite often*