

Innocent Yet Still Imprisoned Acts 25:13-26:32

Festus' motivation: clarity (What do I write?)

- Festus must report to Caesar, but he is clueless and knows it, 25:20,25-27.
- Festus takes the opportunity of King Agrippa's visit to get his input.

Agrippa's motivation: curiosity (What is going on?)

- King Agrippa had jurisdiction mainly in northern areas. His long reign (AD 50-100) was interrupted by the Jewish uprising in AD 66. He sided with Rome.
- Bernice and Agrippa's relationship sparks rumors, and her relationship later with Titus creates a scandal. This couple should hardly be judging Paul!
- Agrippa's curiosity may be partly because he appoints the high priest.

Paul's motivation: conversions (What I share can save you!)

- This is the third time Paul's testimony is recorded, see in 9:1-20, 22:1-21,
- Paul argues his teachings align with the historic Jewish faith (26:6,7,22-23), which Rome recognizes/allows, and thus his views should be allowed.
- Paul states the key issue is belief in the resurrection (26:6-8), which later causes Festus to explode (26:23,24), a bit similar to the response in 17:32
- Paul zeros in on Agrippa, who is put off by Paul now questioning him.
- Agrippa should put faith in Jesus (26:18) = repent/turn to God (26:20) but . . .
- Roman view = Paul is innocent, 26:31,32 (as in 18:14, 19:37, 23:29, 25:25).

