

Paul in Legal Limbo **Acts 24-25:12**

No justice from Felix keeps Paul stuck in prison. 24

- ❖ Felix (AD 52-59) was a cruel and disliked governor, whom Nero had to replace.
- ❖ The actual bad guy isn't Paul but is . . .
 - Felix: cruel, crooked with marriage issues and a judge in search of a bribe.
 - Tertullus: full of phony flattery and exaggeration—calling Paul lit. a *plague*.
 - Jewish leadership: violent phonies who put forth trumped up charges.
- ❖ Paul's appeal for accusers to be present in 24:18,19 is correct, see 25:16
- ❖ Felix's wife is Drusilla, who has a family history of conflict with God's people.
- ❖ Paul is left stuck in prison as a *favor to the Jews*, 24:27.

No justice from Festus leads Paul to appeal to Rome. 25:1-12

- ❖ Festus (AD 59-61) is appointed to replace Felix and right off is in over his head and between a rock and a hard place, prompting a request to Agrippa in 25:20.
- ❖ Another attempt to *do the Jews a favor* (25:9) by moving the trial to Jerusalem is wisely protested by Paul, thus foiling yet another assassination plot, 25:3.
- ❖ Festus is no doubt relieved Paul appeals to Caesar, since he's clueless, 25:20.
- ❖ It is worth comparing Paul's trial to Jesus' trial, see Lk. 23:14,15, 24:4-6, Matt. 26:31, 60-62.

Jesus not only foresaw that Paul and many more Christians would be arrested and forced to stand trial, but he also spoke about the support we could expect from the Holy Spirit, Lk. 12:11,12, Matt. 10:16-20

Can you see why it is good to support Christian groups who protect our rights in a society that is so rapidly becoming more secular?

