

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: To win, build and send Department of Defense leaders to live for Jesus Christ

28 April – 2 May 2003

ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

#16 – PAUL’S DEFENSE – FELIX, FESTUS, AND AGRIPPA

INTRODUCTION:

- Have you ever felt there was a period in your life that was “dead time” – time when nothing seemed to be happening at all? Why do you think God allows such times in our lives?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION:

Note: Two years have passed since Paul’s arrest in the temple in Jerusalem and his imprisonment. Hoping for a bribe from Paul and seeking to placate the Jews, Felix continually postponed making a decision in Paul’s case. Because Felix failed to deal with the riots between Jews and Gentiles in Caesarea, he was called back Rome. This left Paul’s case to Festus, the new governor, to decide. The Jewish leaders continued to demonstrate hatred of Paul by promptly appearing before Festus to press their charges against Paul.

Read Acts 24:1-9 & 22-27

- What was the outcome of Paul’s trial before Felix?
- Describe Felix’s response to Paul’s message.
- Why did Felix not acquit Paul?

Read Acts 25:1-12

- Why didn’t the opposition to Paul by the Jewish leaders dissipate during his imprisonment?
- What was Festus’ assessment of the Jewish leadership’s charges against Paul?
- How does Paul handle his defense before Festus? What happened?

Read Acts 26:1-32

- How did Paul begin his defense to Agrippa?
- What did Paul insist was the reason he was on trial? (6-8)
- How does Paul describe his experience to Agrippa? (11, 13, 14, 17, 18)
- How did Paul respond to Festus’ interruption? (24-26)
- How does Paul respond to Agrippa’s comments? (27-29)
- Would you describe Paul’s speech as legal defense or as a personal testimony? Explain.
- What can we learn from Paul’s presentation and his technique?

APPLICATION:

- When it appears that God is not active in our lives, what are some practical things we can do while we wait.
- Where will you start when called to defend your commitment to Jesus Christ?

But in your hearts set Christ apart as holy [and acknowledge Him] as Lord. Always be ready to give a logical defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you, but do it courteously and respectfully.”

1 Peter 3:15 (Amplified)