

## **Study #9 Bible Reading: Acts 23:11, 24:1-27**

23:11 That night the Lord stood near him [Paul] and said, “Keep up your courage! As you have told the truth about Me in Jerusalem, so you must tell it in Rome.”

24:1 Five days later the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and Tertullus, an attorney, and they reported to the governor what they had against Paul.

2 When Paul had been called, Tertullus started to accuse him, saying, “Excellent Felix, you have brought us much peace, and your foresight has given these people reforms 3 in every way and in every place. We appreciate them and thank you very much. 4 Not to keep you too long – I ask you to listen in your kindly way to what we briefly have to say. 5 We have found this man a pest who starts quarrels among all the Jews in the world, and he is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. 6 He even tried to pollute the temple, and so we arrested him. When you examine him yourself, you will be able to find out from him everything of which we accuse him.” 9 The Jews supported his attack by declaring these things were so.

10 The governor nodded to Paul to speak, and he answered, “For many years you have been a judge of this nation. Knowing that, I’m glad to defend myself. 11 Only eleven days ago, as you can find out for yourself, I went up to Jerusalem to worship. 12 They didn’t find me arguing with anyone in the temple or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or in the city; 13 and they can’t prove to you the things they’re now accusing me of. 14 But I confess to you that according to the Christian religion, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers. I believe everything written in the Law and the prophets 15 and trust God for the same thing they’re looking for, that the dead will rise, the righteous and the wicked. 16 That’s why I’m doing my best always to have a clear conscience before God and men. 17 After some years I came to my people to bring gifts for the poor and offerings. 18 They found me busy with these and purified in the temple, but there was no crowd or noisy mob. 19 There were some Jews from the province of Asia, who should be here before you to accuse me if they have anything against me. 20 Or these men should tell what wrong they found in me as I stood before their council, 21 unless it’s the one thing I shouted when I stood among them: ‘I’m on trial before you today in regard to the resurrection of the dead.’”

22 But Felix, who knew the Christian religion rather well, told them to wait for a decision. “When Tribune Lysias comes down,” he said, “I will decide your case.” 23 He ordered the captain to guard him but to let him have some liberty and not keep any of his friends from helping him. 24 Some days later Felix came again. His wife Drusilla, who was a Jew, was with him. He sent for Paul and heard him tell about faith in Christ Jesus. 25 As he spoke of righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix was frightened and answered, “Go now. When I get a chance, I’ll send for you.” 26 At the same time he expected Paul to give him money. And so he used to send for him often and talk with him. 27 Two whole years passed. Then Porcius Festus succeeded Felix. Since Felix wanted to do the Jews a favor, he left Paul in prison.