

# PAULINE EPISTLES

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## **PORCIUS FESTUS RESUMES OFFICE**

- He was the successor of Governor Felix
- What we know about Porcius Festus is generally good compared to his predecessor Governor Felix
- Governor Festus inherited the problems of his predecessor in regards to Paul and many other issues.
- He died after less than two years he came into office and was replaced by governor Lucceius Albinus.
- After three days of taking over office as the governor, he traveled from Caesarea to Jerusalem. Acts 25:1
- After ten days with the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, he convened the court and ordered that Paul be brought to court

## GOVERNOR FESTUS VISITS JERUSALEM

- As a new governor, Festus needed to become familiar with the local authorities within his jurisdiction. So he went to Jerusalem to see the leaders.
- Remember he stayed only three days in office before leaving for Jerusalem. At such, prisoners would have been his last priority to consider as a new leader Acts 25:1
- Now in Jerusalem, he met with the Chief priest and the elders of the Jews in a town hall meeting and this certainly was a dangerous time for Apostle Paul Acts 26:14-15
- This meeting was where they welcomed him officially, pledged their support and presented their request.
- The Chief priest and elders “informed” him about Paul. Acts 26:15. By informing him about Paul, they would have painted Paul black and white before making their request. *...continued*

## PARTS OF THEIR PEACE DEAL REQUEST WAS:

### THEIR REQUEST :

- 1) Make judgment against Paul and kill him Acts 26:15-16

RESPONSE: “To whom I answered , it is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have license to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him”  
Acts 26:16

- 2) “Ok then, since you refused to have Judgment against him, do us this favor by sending him to Jerusalem to face his trial because he defiled the Temple” Acts 25:2-3

RESPONSE:

“ Let them therefore.....among you are able, go down with me, and accuse this man, if there be any wickedness in him” Acts 25:5

*...continued*

- Festus was ready to have judgment against Paul if they prove their charges Acts 26: 18

NOTE: They deemed this request “as a favor to them”

- Their intention was to ambush Paul on his way to Jerusalem and kill him. Act 25:3
- The above plan was the reason Paul appealed to Caesar in Rome because he knew he would never survive a trip to Jerusalem. Acts 25:10
- They know they can't stand Paul through the Roman legal process
- Hence the plot to kill him on his way to Jerusalem

*...continued*

- If their plan to kill him fails, they will try him for profaning the temple.
- As heaven will have it, he refused their request, and demanded them to continue their trial under his watch at Caesarea

## PAUL BEFORE GOVERNOR FESTUS

- Before bringing Paul to court, Governor Festus must have gone through Paul's case file to know how it all started.

### HOW IT ALL STARTED

- It started with a hearsay-caused tumult in the Temple
- Next was a riotous hearing before the Sanhedrin
- Plot to kill him by 40 zealots
- The case moved to Caesarea before Felix.
- The prosecution failed to prove anything against Him
- The waffling governor Felix could make no decision for or against Paul
- The case was adjourned to a later date by governor Felix

*...continued*

- The case was being reopened again before governor Festus
  - Present in court were the Jews from Jerusalem
  - We are not sure of the identity of this Jewish representatives compared to the information Dr. Luke gave us during his first hearing **COMPARE Acts 25:7 and Acts 24:1**
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- High Priest
  - Elders
  - Barrister Tertullus



## THE PROSECUTION TESTIMONY AGAINST PAUL

- ❖ The hearing resumed and according to Luke, they “laid many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove” Acts 25:7
- ❖ We are not sure if it was the same three count charges or an amended one. Whatever, Luke said they were unable to prove it

## PAUL'S DEFENSE

- ❖ Luke summarized Paul's defense in a sentence. “Neither against the law of the Jews, neither against the Temple, nor yet against Caesar, have I offended any thing at all” Acts 25:8

*...continued*

## NOTE:

Luke narrated Paul's defense omitting most of the details of the charges and Paul's defense. Well, we already know the case from the first hearing and also know that the prosecution has no real evidence, so we are confident that Paul will not be convicted.

- ❖ Governor Festus was puzzled at the turn out of event, the same position Paul placed his predecessor Felix.
- ❖ He didn't want to let Paul go free too because of the possible repercussion from the Jews.
- ❖ To exonerate himself from this dilemma, he turned to Paul and asked "wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me?" Acts 25:9

- ❖ Luke said he asked this question willing to do the Jews a favor. (Remember this was their first request)

## THE RISK OF GOING TO JERUSALEM

- He will be tried before the Sanhedrin(fresh fish pepper soup)
- They will amend the charges to a one count charge or Governor Festus will first discharge him of the political charges.
- He will then be left with the charge bordering around defiling the Temple.
- False witnesses will rise against him
- They will pass judgment against him to be executed.

*...continued*

- ❖ To Paul, going to Jerusalem was a lose-lose situation “ I APPEAL TO CAESAR” Acts 25:10-11 (**provocatio ad Caesarem** or appeal to the emperor for trial)
- ❖ By this appeal of Paul and as a Roman citizen who had no official charges proven against him, governor Festus can't turn him over to the Jews
- ❖ His duty as a Roman ruler was to protect Roman citizens from local injustice.

(PROVOCATIO AD CAESAREM OR APPEAL TO THE  
EMPEROR FOR TRIAL)



COURT RISE.....

## OFFICIAL DECLARATION TO SEND PAUL TO CAESAR

- Paul now officially invokes his right as a Roman citizen to have his trial before Caesar in Rome.
- After due consultation, Governor Festus realized that there is no way to get around Paul's right and still please the Jews. He then made the official declaration "Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? Unto Caesar shalt thou go" Acts 25:12
- Governor Festus was still confused of what charges to write concerning Paul.
- He then invited King Agrippa II to help him out.

**NEXT WEEK WE WILL SEE HOW THIS PLAYS OUT**

THANKS

AND

GOD BLESS US