

# S.O.H.L.

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

November 3, 2014

# They know the truth

**Acts 24:24-25 NKJV** – (24) And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. (25) Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

Paul is transferred from Jerusalem to Caesarea by the Commander Claudia Lysias and his army to stand before Felix the Governor. The prisoner stands before Felix and now the proceedings begin. Ananias (High Priest) with Tertullus (*the Orator - a public speaker, especially one who is eloquent or skilled.*) speaking on behalf of the accusing Jews. Tertullus begins his presentation by brown nosing Felix of his personality and royalty. He then addresses the accusations that the Jews had against Paul. The following are the accusations. They accuse Paul of.....

- (1) Sedition - conduct or speech provoking people to rebel against the authority of a state or monarch. **ACTS 23:3-4**
- (2) That he was creator of rebellion. **ACTS 21**
- (3) That he was the ringleader of the sect of Nazarenes. (Christian)
- (4) That he attempted to profane the temple with irreverence or disrespect. (treat the temple unsacred). **ACTS 21:28-29**

Upon Tertullus's completion of his presentation, Felix looks at Paul and nods as to give Paul a chance to defend himself. Felix listened as Paul began to speak. Paul's defense can be read in **Acts 24:10-16**. But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of *the Way*, he adjourned the proceedings and said, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case." So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let *him* have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him. And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

To such a dissolute couple Paul preaches *faith in Christ [Messiah] Jesus*. Given Felix's and Drusilla's past, it is not surprising that Paul focuses on matters that are foundational to a call to repentance: *righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come* (**John 16:8-11**). The couple, indeed, needs to understand God's standard, their accountability and the reality of a final reckoning. In brief, they must face the bad news of their lost spiritual condition before they can grasp and embrace the good news.

Felix knows this message is for him. It fills him with fear. He is startled, terrified, at the prospect of the last day (**Luke 24:5, 37; Acts 10:4**). But this does not lead to humble faith. Felix uses procrastination to stay in control of his own destiny. He will determine when and to what extent these matters are considered in the future.

We all know what thus says God, but we procrastinate, ignore and we even try to disbelieve. We know the truth. Don't deceive yourself! Surrender to Him while the opportunity is there. Yes, surrender whole heartedly! He wants a yes from you. Not a temporary one, but your absolute "YES!"

**SCRIPTURE READING:** MATTHEW 10:33

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** "The worst thing you can do for love is deny it; so when you find that special someone, don't let anyone or anything to get in your way."

