

## The Holy Spirit Acts 24

Pastor Ken

February 1, 2026

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While Paul was in Jerusalem, the Roman police interrogated Paul as to why the crowd was so angry at him and then shockingly, they find out to their surprise, **Paul is a not just a Jew, but also a Roman citizen.**

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5 days after Paul, who has been locked away under lock and key, Paul is brought out to meet his accusers. The high priest Ananias along with several handpicked Sanhedrin and a hired gun for an attorney are summoned by Felix the governor to make the case against Paul.

Roman government is run by the Caesar at the top. The nation of Israel has a king who is at the top of judicial law, the most famous was king Herod at the time of Jesus. And then there were governors, who administered Roman law over a region such as Caesarea.

The governor over Caesarea was Felix. Not Felix the cat. Not Felix Unger. Not Felix Hernandez.

His name was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife's name was Drusilla.

### **Who was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife Drusilla?**

He was born a slave and then freed years later. **Felix was the only person in Roman history to go from being a slave to a governor.** History tells us that Felix ruled Judea with unbelievable treachery killing many Jews. The Jews hated Felix. This is the same governorship that Pontus Pilate held 20 years before when Jesus was tried and executed.

His wife's name was Drusilla. She was a Jew. This was Felix's 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, and the relationship came about because of adultery.

**Drusilla was the Jewish great-granddaughter of Herod the Great, who gave orders to have all of the baby boys, two years and under, murdered at the birth of Jesus.**

Drusilla has a historical family tree. A very brutal blood thirsty lineage. Paul now stands before two of the most politically corrupt leaders in all of Israel. This is all a part of God's plan.

She is married to Felix. When Paul gets to Caesarea, he going to give his defense in front of a slave turned governor who hates Jews and has had many executed. And his wife who is the granddaughter of King Herod who it was said of him, he was so brutal that, "it is better to be Herod's swine than his family."

Now, the trial begins. The Sanhedrin's prosecuting attorney, and several elders put on their best judicial prosecution. The Jewish legal team was made up of a blowhard named Tertullus. Tertullus remarks were nothing but carefully crafted baloney and flattery that was designed to sway the case against Paul before he even got a chance to put on a defense.

Tertullus presented his case before Felix: <sup>2b</sup> *We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation.* <sup>3</sup> *Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. (Acts 24-NIV)*

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Today we bring an overwhelming amount of truthful evidence that this man, who has stated he is a Roman citizen, but he is really a Jew citizen first, should be immediately handed over to the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem so we can deal with his treasonous activity that is dividing our people.

And by calling the leader of his sect, Jesus the Messiah he is an insurrectionist worthy of death according to Jewish Law. **Return Paul to us**, since Rome has given the Jews, the freedom to govern their own people. Also, since Rome has given us the authority to bring charges, including the sentence of death against Jews, we will prove to you Felix, that Paul treasonous and blasphemous.

### **Paul is a world-renowned troublemaker.**

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**The personal charges**-as for Paul being a plague, a pest it all depends on one's point of view. The Jews wanted to hold on tightly at all costs to their ancient Jewish traditions and Paul was advocate for something new. New creation. 2 Cor 5:17, was Paul's mantra.

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Paul trouble as he went from city to city. From synagogue to synagogue announcing that the Messiah Jesus Christ has come to take away the sins of the world. We renounce such heresy!

The Jews could tell stories of trouble that Paul caused in places like Lystra, Corinth and Ephesus.

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**The political charges** were much more serious. No Roman official wanted to be guilty of allowing illegal activities to cause trouble or disturb the peace of Rome-Pax Romana.

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This was an exaggeration, just like many of the facts against Jesus were fabricated or exaggerated and how many court cases have been won based on stretching the truth.

The fact that Paul had preached that Jesus was their king and Lord placed Paul declaring a message that sounded like treason against Ceasar. If Paul was the ringleader of a sect of the Nazarenes, then Paul could easily have been found guilty.

**Paul even tried to profane our sacred Jewish temple.**

*<sup>6</sup> and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. (Acts 24-NIV)*

**The charge** was that Paul had profaned and polluted the temple. While Paul only honored God during all of his activities in the temple, the problem for the Sanhedrin was that they could not produce a single witness, so there was no evidence, so there could be no conviction.

Ok, let's go back to our text that we read earlier, and now we pick up the court proceedings in Acts 24:22-26.

*<sup>22</sup> Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case." <sup>23</sup> He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Paul was placed under house arrest; he was not placed in a jail cell. His friends would often come and bring him food, since Paul spent 2 years in Caesarea, he spent some of that time writing the NT letters of Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

*<sup>24</sup> Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Look carefully at the phrase spoke about faith in Jesus Christ. Paul's trial will span a couple of days. His imprisonment will last for over 2 years. During those years Felix will become interested in Paul's teachings about Jesus Christ. In fact, Paul will on one occasion preach a full-blown sermon to Felix and Drusilla.

In fact, in verse 25 we are given a peak at Paul's notes outline Paul used. **Paul gave his testimony in front of Felix and Drusilla.**

And notice Felix's reaction to Paul's message, he became afraid.

*<sup>25</sup> As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." (Acts 24-NIV)*

And like most Roman law, that could be bought, bartered or bantered with Felix was willing to take a bribe to influence his decision.

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Felix is into bribes, and he is hoping that Paul will offer money for his release. Now, let me show you what happens over the next 2 years. It is quite a glimpse into the Paul and Felix life together. A governor and a prisoner. A Christ follower and a Christ seeker. An investigator and an instigator. A lover of God and a lover of gold. A governor who had no sense of urgency, and a preacher who declared that the hour was urgent, **judgement is coming!**

*<sup>26</sup> At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.*

*<sup>27</sup> When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Everything stops for Paul; he is now in prison in Roman capital of Caesarea. Paul spends 2 years in Caesarea waiting for Roman justice.

This back and forth between Paul and Felix goes on for 2 years. Bribes. Sermons. Guests to take care of Paul. Changing of the guard. Paul witnessing to those who are on duty as soldiers protect and persecute. Paul prays. Paul preaches. Paul writes letters to believers scattered throughout the Roman world.

It seems that after Paul gives his defense that Felix and Drusilla want to hear more. And they specifically want to hear more about this testimony of faith in Christ.

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Paul is back in the courtroom, not present legal evidence of his innocence from the charges by the Jews, but in a much different environment where 2 seekers, 2 investigators, 2 Christ inquirers are sitting to Paul as he gives his testimony.

So, beyond the legal battle, Paul talks about everyone's battle with sin, self-control, and judgment to come. Paul focuses on 3 topics. Now, I can't help but wonder why Paul goes after these 3. First, Paul describes all our need to have sins forgiven. Second, Paul has the gift of prophecy and discernment, so he is aware these two have some horrible self-control issues to deal with. Finally, Paul does want them to miss what is going in here-we will all stand before God our Maker.

Paul talks about Felix and Drusilla **past** sins.

Paul talks about their **present** lack of self-control.

Paul talks about their **future** judgment.

So that is Paul's sermon in front of Felix and Drusilla. And it is a good sermon for anyone here today. For Frank and Dorothy. For Fred and Danice. Why these 3 topics. Well, let's go one by one and I think it will be clear.

Why does Paul talk about righteousness? To Felix and each of us. The answer is because God assesses the human condition as none of us are righteous. We are all sinners.

The human condition is that we are born into sin. None of us is right with God. And we can do nothing to improve an impossible status God calls sin.

In fact, Paul writes in Romans 3:10, there is none righteous, no not one. In fact, Isaiah the prophet puts in on the real. Sometimes we need just a good old spiritual gut punch. And Isaiah gives us one. Now, I am going to show you several translations. Here are the summary observations in the NLT, NIV, and NET translations.

*We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6a-NLT)*

*We are all like one who is unclean,  
all our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag in your sight.*

*We all wither like a leaf;  
our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

Now that is harsh. But it describes with utter clarity the reality your condition and mine before God.

Our righteousness is like menstrual clothes. We are not right at all. Menstrual clothes, how does make you feel? Is your self-esteem taking a shot? Please friend, do not sugar coat this. From time to time, it is good to have a spiritual slap in the face. A punch in the gut.

In order to soften the blow of the Hebrew text about our depravity in the English text, most translators use some like the NLT and NIV.

All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (Isaiah 64:6-NIV)

This is a reality check. Each of us needs to understand that the human condition is sinful. We are broken. We are messed up people. Every single one of us. Here is why it is important that Paul is preaching this to Felix, Drusilla, to you and me.

Because if we do not understand the depravity of our own souls, we will never under our need for a Savior. But even more, Jesus is the only answer. That is what got Paul here in the first place. Paul's brothers and sisters in Jewish faith, rejected this message.

The savior's name is Jesus. We have to hear the difficult diagnosis before we can get the wonderful cure. The cure is that God so loved us as depraved, sinful, and filthy rags, we matter to him.

All People Matte to God. John 3:16-17, <sup>16</sup>*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3-NIV)*

We all love this verse, but it is the next one that gives us as much hope!

<sup>17</sup>*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3-NIV)*

Jesus took our place on a Roman cross, so we can be reconciled to God. And on that Roman cross God poured out his write on Christ, so he would never pour it out on us.

Here is glimpse of those moments in Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

### **The hammer slings. The skin rips. The savior yells.**

For days, 5-inch nails sat in a storage bin. The cross beam had been leaning against a wall. A wooden sign positioned on a table would soon hang above the condemned. The end was near. It was Friday.

**A tool of torture became symbol of hope.**

Why is the cross the symbol of hope? To find the answer, look no further than the cross itself. The design could not be simpler.

**One beam horizontal. One beam vertical.**

One beam reaches out like God's love. The other beam reaches up-as does God's holiness.

One beam represents the width of his love. The other beam reflects the height of his holiness.

The cross is the place where God forgive, you and me, without lowering his standard of holiness.

You wonder, how did that happen? God placed our sin on his Son Jesus and punished it there. God is hanging on a cross.

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24-NIV)

Let me describe it this way. God is on his throne. You are on the earth. And between you and God, suspended between you and heaven, is Christ on the cross. Your sins were placed on Jesus. God, who punishes sin, releases his wrath and anger on your sins. The wrath and anger of God fall upon Jesus.

Jesus took the blow. Jesus took the 5-inch iron nails. Jesus endured the suffering and pain for 6 hours. Since Christ is between you and God, Jesus is punished, and you are pardoned.

Or another way to say it, **Jesus Christ hung crucified between you and God. Jesus is punished and you are pardoned.**

Jesus stretched out one hand to the right, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. Jesus stretched out the other hand to the left, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. **Jesus did this so you would know Jesus died loving you.**

*<sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. (John 12-NIV).*

**Growth in Christ takes off when we practice delayed gratification.**

Paul knew that Felix and Drusilla lived a life with little or no self-control. So, he calls them out. We don't have the details, but the guy who God would often use to reveal the human heart, did not miss an opportunity here. Let me suggest that you consider what the bible has to say about self-control. One of my favorite verses paints this picture:

*Like a city whose walls are broken through  
is a person who lacks self-control. (Prov 25:28-NIV)*

The bible is filled with the stories of people who possessed self-control and those who failed miserably. Just thinking about some make me laugh. Joseph said no to sexual temptation. David said yes!

Solomon had so many wives, we snicker every time we think about 700 weddings. A palace full of mothers-in-laws. And all of those kids running around in diapers.

Samson couldn't keep a secret about his supernatural strength and Jacob couldn't help himself in stealing his brother's birth right.

Daily you make 100's of choices that are filtered by self-control or lack of it. You will win with self-control, or you will live with an unrestrained appetite for the flesh.

The magna carta verse on self-control is found in the book of Galatians. Paul's letter to the Galatians is an invitation to Christ followers to drop their chains. And walk out of a prison of self-indulgence. You can be free from the tyranny that your cravings have over you. Not freedom from cravings, but freedom to make right choices about cravings. You do not have to be held captive to your abysmal efforts at self-control. Paul tells us we are no longer a slave to anything. If you read the book of Galatians, it takes about 10-15 minutes. Eventually you run into this profound truth.

*You are no longer a slave. (Galatians 4:7-NIV)*

Anybody looking for freedom? Anybody want to improve your capacity to activate self-control? I can't speak for you, but I need every verse, every argument, every illustration, and every word of encouragement that Paul offers to the Galatians, so I can be free.

Anybody else? Are you with me?

Now, what really shook-up Felix was when Paul starting to talk about God's coming judgement. Personal judgement and global at the end of the age. **Felix became afraid when he heard about God's judgment to come.**

*<sup>46</sup> Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.  
(Matthew 25-NIV)*

## **Jesus suggests that you do not have to be anxious about The End.**

In John 14, Jesus reminds his disciples that his end and their beginning is about to happen. Jesus had told his disciples he would die soon, in the previous chapter (13:3). This caused the disciples to become anxious. Jesus tells the disciples that when I leave, you cannot come with me. Upon hearing this the disciples melted down into panic. Thomas had a panic attack. Phillip became OCD. Peter became fearful. James and John, the sons of thunder became angry.

The disciples had trusted Jesus to put them in a boat of salvation, now they needed to trust him as the boat traveled through some storms and shakings. Every storm or shaking will cause us to throw up or throw in the towel or fill our sails with fresh faith for the journey. Jesus immediately, seeing their anxiety offers them a promise to anchor to. <sup>2</sup> *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?* <sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)*

Let's pause for a moment and move from Jesus promise of his return, to some facts about Jesus' return. These facts about **The End** perhaps, will lower your RPMs of anxiety about Jesus' return.

### **The return of Christ comes as a packaged deal: rapture and second coming!**

**Christ life>> Church Age>> Rapture>> Tribulation>> 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming!**

Whether a seasoned Christ follower or new to the faith, let go of your anxiety about what will happen at the end. The return of Christ is not formula to be figured out or a code to be broken, it is a day to be anticipated. God is doing some shakings. It is all a part of a Sovereign plan that has been in the making since the beginning of time. Looking closely at John 14, we can anchor to 3 solid truths about Jesus' return. The rapture. Give to Christ your anxieties (John 14:1)

### **Will you serve God with your whole heart, even if He rarely explains the 'Why'?**

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In fact, in verse 25 we are given a peak at Paul's notes outline Paul used. **Paul gave his testimony in front of Felix and Drusilla.**

And notice Felix's reaction to Paul's message, he became afraid.

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Felix is into bribes, and he is hoping that Paul will offer money for his release. Now, let me show you what happens over the next 2 years. It is quite a glimpse into the Paul and Felix life together. A governor and a prisoner. A Christ follower and a Christ seeker. An investigator and an instigator. A lover of God and a lover of gold. A governor who had no sense of urgency, and a preacher who declared that the hour was urgent, **judgement is coming!**

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Paul is back in the courtroom, not present legal evidence of his innocence from the charges by the Jews, but in a much different environment where 2 seekers, 2 investigators, 2 Christ inquirers are sitting to Paul as he gives his testimony.

So, beyond the legal battle, Paul talks about everyone's battle with sin, self-control, and judgment to come. Paul focuses on 3 topics. Now, I can't help but wonder why Paul goes after these 3. First, Paul describes all our need to have sins forgiven. Second, Paul has the gift of prophecy and discernment, so he is aware these two have some horrible self-control issues to deal with. Finally, Paul does want them to miss what is going in here-we will all stand before God our Maker.

Paul talks about Felix and Drusilla **past** sins.

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So that is Paul's sermon in front of Felix and Drusilla. And it is a good sermon for anyone here today. For Frank and Dorothy. For Fred and Danice. Why these 3 topics. Well, let's go one by one and I think it will be clear.

Why does Paul talk about righteousness? To Felix and each of us. The answer is because God assesses the human condition as none of us are righteous. We are all sinners.

The human condition is that we are born into sin. None of us is right with God. And we can do nothing to improve an impossible status God calls sin.

In fact, Paul writes in Romans 3:10, there is none righteous, no not one. In fact, Isaiah the prophet puts in on the real. Sometimes we need just a good old spiritual gut punch. And Isaiah gives us one. Now, I am going to show you several translations. Here are the summary observations in the NLT, NIV, and NET translations.

*We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6a-NLT)*

*We are all like one who is unclean,  
all our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag in your sight.*

*We all wither like a leaf;  
our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

Now that is harsh. But it describes with utter clarity the reality your condition and mine before God.

Our righteousness is like menstrual clothes. We are not right at all. Menstrual clothes, how does make you feel? Is your self-esteem taking a shot? Please friend, do not sugar coat this. From time to time, it is good to have a spiritual slap in the face. A punch in the gut.

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This is a reality check. Each of us needs to understand that the human condition is sinful. We are broken. We are messed up people. Every single one of us. Here is why it is important that Paul is preaching this to Felix, Drusilla, to you and me.

Because if we do not understand the depravity of our own souls, we will never under our need for a Savior. But even more, Jesus is the only answer. That is what got Paul here in the first place. Paul's brothers and sisters in Jewish faith, rejected this message.

The savior's name is Jesus. We have to hear the difficult diagnosis before we can get the wonderful cure. The cure is that God so loved us as depraved, sinful, and filthy rags, we matter to him.

All People Matte to God. John 3:16-17, <sup>16</sup>*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3-NIV)*

We all love this verse, but it is the next one that gives us as much hope!

<sup>17</sup>*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3-NIV)*

Jesus took our place on a Roman cross, so we can be reconciled to God. And on that Roman cross God poured out his write on Christ, so he would never pour it out on us.

Here is glimpse of those moments in Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

### **The hammer slings. The skin rips. The savior yells.**

For days, 5-inch nails sat in a storage bin. The cross beam had been leaning against a wall. A wooden sign positioned on a table would soon hang above the condemned. The end was near. It was Friday.

**A tool of torture became symbol of hope.**

Why is the cross the symbol of hope? To find the answer, look no further than the cross itself. The design could not be simpler.

**One beam horizontal. One beam vertical.**

One beam reaches out like God's love. The other beam reaches up-as does God's holiness.

One beam represents the width of his love. The other beam reflects the height of his holiness.

The cross is the place where God forgive, you and me, without lowering his standard of holiness.

You wonder, how did that happen? God placed our sin on his Son Jesus and punished it there. God is hanging on a cross.

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24-NIV)

Let me describe it this way. God is on his throne. You are on the earth. And between you and God, suspended between you and heaven, is Christ on the cross. Your sins were placed on Jesus. God, who punishes sin, releases his wrath and anger on your sins. The wrath and anger of God fall upon Jesus.

Jesus took the blow. Jesus took the 5-inch iron nails. Jesus endured the suffering and pain for 6 hours. Since Christ is between you and God, Jesus is punished, and you are pardoned.

Or another way to say it, **Jesus Christ hung crucified between you and God. Jesus is punished and you are pardoned.**

Jesus stretched out one hand to the right, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. Jesus stretched out the other hand to the left, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. **Jesus did this so you would know Jesus died loving you.**

*<sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. (John 12-NIV).*

**Growth in Christ takes off when we practice delayed gratification.**

Paul knew that Felix and Drusilla lived a life with little or no self-control. So, he calls them out. We don't have the details, but the guy who God would often use to reveal the human heart, did not miss an opportunity here. Let me suggest that you consider what the bible has to say about self-control. One of my favorite verses paints this picture:

*Like a city whose walls are broken through  
is a person who lacks self-control. (Prov 25:28-NIV)*

The bible is filled with the stories of people who possessed self-control and those who failed miserably. Just thinking about some make me laugh. Joseph said no to sexual temptation. David said yes!

Solomon had so many wives, we snicker every time we think about 700 weddings. A palace full of mothers-in-laws. And all of those kids running around in diapers.

Samson couldn't keep a secret about his supernatural strength and Jacob couldn't help himself in stealing his brother's birth right.

Daily you make 100's of choices that are filtered by self-control or lack of it. You will win with self-control, or you will live with an unrestrained appetite for the flesh.

The magna carta verse on self-control is found in the book of Galatians. Paul's letter to the Galatians is an invitation to Christ followers to drop their chains. And walk out of a prison of self-indulgence. You can be free from the tyranny that your cravings have over you. Not freedom from cravings, but freedom to make right choices about cravings. You do not have to be held captive to your abysmal efforts at self-control. Paul tells us we are no longer a slave to anything. If you read the book of Galatians, it takes about 10-15 minutes. Eventually you run into this profound truth.

*You are no longer a slave. (Galatians 4:7-NIV)*

Anybody looking for freedom? Anybody want to improve your capacity to activate self-control? I can't speak for you, but I need every verse, every argument, every illustration, and every word of encouragement that Paul offers to the Galatians, so I can be free.

Anybody else? Are you with me?

Now, what really shook-up Felix was when Paul starting to talk about God's coming judgement. Personal judgement and global at the end of the age. **Felix became afraid when he heard about God's judgment to come.**

*<sup>46</sup> Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.  
(Matthew 25-NIV)*

## **Jesus suggests that you do not have to be anxious about The End.**

In John 14, Jesus reminds his disciples that his end and their beginning is about to happen. Jesus had told his disciples he would die soon, in the previous chapter (13:3). This caused the disciples to become anxious. Jesus tells the disciples that when I leave, you cannot come with me. Upon hearing this the disciples melted down into panic. Thomas had a panic attack. Phillip became OCD. Peter became fearful. James and John, the sons of thunder became angry.

The disciples had trusted Jesus to put them in a boat of salvation, now they needed to trust him as the boat traveled through some storms and shakings. Every storm or shaking will cause us to throw up or throw in the towel or fill our sails with fresh faith for the journey. Jesus immediately, seeing their anxiety offers them a promise to anchor to. <sup>2</sup> *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?* <sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)*

Let's pause for a moment and move from Jesus promise of his return, to some facts about Jesus' return. These facts about **The End** perhaps, will lower your RPMs of anxiety about Jesus' return.

## **The return of Christ comes as a packaged deal: rapture and second coming!**

**Christ life>> Church Age>> Rapture>> Tribulation>> 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming!**

Whether a seasoned Christ follower or new to the faith, let go of your anxiety about what will happen at the end. The return of Christ is not formula to be figured out or a code to be broken, it is a day to be anticipated. God is doing some shakings. It is all a part of a Sovereign plan that has been in the making since the beginning of time. Looking closely at John 14, we can anchor to 3 solid truths about Jesus' return. The rapture. Give to Christ your anxieties (John 14:1)

## **Will you serve God with your whole heart, even if He rarely explains the 'Why'?**

## The Holy Spirit Acts 24

Pastor Ken

February 1, 2026

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The book of Acts is about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural transformations that go along with unlimited power.

One of the great contributions that Rome has made to the modern world is their system of laws and justice. In ancient times Rome considered it their responsibility to protect **every citizen** and to provide Roman **legal protection** for them.

While Paul was in Jerusalem, the Roman police interrogated Paul as to why the crowd was so angry at him and then shockingly, they find out to their surprise, **Paul is a not just a Jew, but also a Roman citizen.**

*<sup>24</sup> The commander ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and interrogated in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this.*

*<sup>25</sup> As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?" (Acts 22-NIV)*

After 20 years and 17,000 miles and several missionary journeys and adventures Paul's travels now come to a **screeching halt**. Paul puts the car in park in Jerusalem and raises the park break. Paul returns home to Jerusalem and runs into a buzzsaw of **Jewish Christians** who are bent on making their new faith in Christ work in concert with Moses and the law.

*<sup>20b</sup> Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law." (Acts 21-NIV)*

A marriage of the Messiah and Moses. A marriage of love for Jesus Our Lord and love for the Law, all 613 them.

After trying to appease the Jewish legalists, Paul stirs up trouble with the Jewish Supreme (Sanhedrin) court and Paul barely gets out of Jerusalem alive.

*23 Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, "Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. 24 Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix." (Acts 23-NIV)*

Paul is placed into the **witness protection program** and surrounded by over 470 soldiers and sharp shooters as he is escorted to the Roman capital in Israel-Caesarea.

An overnight escape from Jerusalem lands Paul 61 miles north to the Roman capital of Isreal-Caesarea.

5 days after Paul, who has been locked away under lock and key, Paul is brought out to meet his accusers. The high priest Ananias along with several handpicked Sanhedrin and a hired gun for an attorney are summoned by Felix the governor to make the case against Paul.

Roman government is run by the Caesar at the top. The nation of Israel has a king who is at the top of judicial law, the most famous was king Herod at the time of Jesus. And then there were governors, who administered Roman law over a region such as Caesarea.

The governor over Caesarea was Felix. Not Felix the cat. Not Felix Unger. Not Felix Hernandez.

His name was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife's name was Drusilla.

### **Who was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife Drusilla?**

He was born a slave and then freed years later. **Felix was the only person in Roman history to go from being a slave to a governor.** History tells us that Felix ruled Judea with unbelievable treachery killing many Jews. The Jews hated Felix. This is the same governorship that Pontus Pilate held 20 years before when Jesus was tried and executed.

His wife's name was Drusilla. She was a Jew. This was Felix's 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, and the relationship came about because of adultery.

**Drusilla was the Jewish great-granddaughter of Herod the Great, who gave orders to have all of the baby boys, two years and under, murdered at the birth of Jesus.**

Drusilla has a historical family tree. A very brutal blood thirsty lineage. Paul now stands before two of the most politically corrupt leaders in all of Israel. This is all a part of God's plan.

She is married to Felix. When Paul gets to Caesarea, he going to give his defense in front of a slave turned governor who hates Jews and has had many executed. And his wife who is the granddaughter of King Herod who it was said of him, he was so brutal that, "it is better to be Herod's swine than his family."

Now, the trial begins. The Sanhedrin's prosecuting attorney, and several elders put on their best judicial prosecution. The Jewish legal team was made up of a blowhard named Tertullus. Tertullus remarks were nothing but carefully crafted baloney and flattery that was designed to sway the case against Paul before he even got a chance to put on a defense.

Tertullus presented his case before Felix: <sup>2b</sup> *We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation.* <sup>3</sup> *Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. (Acts 24-NIV)*

The customary flattery, exaggeration and influence pedaling was a part of Roman law practice and legal hearings. After all, before you can win your case, you have to win the judge.

The professional baloney slicer-Tertullian put on quite a prosecution against Paul.

The prosecutions' accusations against the Apostle Paul were no more accurate and truer than the exaggerated flattery that was swallowed hook-line-and-sinker by Governor Felix.

The charges against Paul were **personal** (this man is a plague and pest to our religion), the charges were **political** (he is the leading religious leader of an unapproved religious faction called the Way. Apparently, their founder is a dead man named Jesus that Rome killed about 30 years ago for treason. Finally, the last charge is **profaning** the temple of Moses. Paul blasphemed our temple.

Today we bring an overwhelming amount of truthful evidence that this man, who has stated he is a Roman citizen, but he is really a Jew citizen first, should be immediately handed over to the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem so we can deal with his treasonous activity that is dividing our people.

And by calling the leader of his sect, Jesus the Messiah he is an insurrectionist worthy of death according to Jewish Law. **Return Paul to us**, since Rome has given the Jews, the freedom to govern their own people. Also, since Rome has given us the authority to bring charges, including the sentence of death against Jews, we will prove to you Felix, that Paul treasonous and blasphemous.

### **Paul is a world-renowned troublemaker.**

<sup>5a</sup> *We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. (Acts 24-NIV)*

**The personal charges**-as for Paul being a plague, a pest it all depends on one's point of view. The Jews wanted to hold on tightly at all costs to their ancient Jewish traditions and Paul was advocate for something new. New creation. 2 Cor 5:17, was Paul's mantra.

Paul's history of stirring up trouble was well documented from all corners of the Roman world. But it was not Paul who stirred up many of the previous riots, but the Jews who caused

Paul trouble as he went from city to city. From synagogue to synagogue announcing that the Messiah Jesus Christ has come to take away the sins of the world. We renounce such heresy!

The Jews could tell stories of trouble that Paul caused in places like Lystra, Corinth and Ephesus.

**Paul was the leader of a dangerous anti-Roman cult.**

*<sup>5b</sup> He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect. (Acts 24-NIV)*

**The political charges** were much more serious. No Roman official wanted to be guilty of allowing illegal activities to cause trouble or disturb the peace of Rome-Pax Romana.

When the court appointed attorney, working for the prosecution the Jews called Paul an instigator of insurrection amongst the Jews in the Roman empire, this immediately got Governor Felix's attention.

This was an exaggeration, just like many of the facts against Jesus were fabricated or exaggerated and how many court cases have been won based on stretching the truth.

The fact that Paul had preached that Jesus was their king and Lord placed Paul declaring a message that sounded like treason against Ceasar. If Paul was the ringleader of a sect of the Nazarenes, then Paul could easily have been found guilty.

**Paul even tried to profane our sacred Jewish temple.**

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Let me describe it this way. God is on his throne. You are on the earth. And between you and God, suspended between you and heaven, is Christ on the cross. Your sins were placed on Jesus. God, who punishes sin, releases his wrath and anger on your sins. The wrath and anger of God fall upon Jesus.

Jesus took the blow. Jesus took the 5-inch iron nails. Jesus endured the suffering and pain for 6 hours. Since Christ is between you and God, Jesus is punished, and you are pardoned.

Or another way to say it, **Jesus Christ hung crucified between you and God. Jesus is punished and you are pardoned.**

Jesus stretched out one hand to the right, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. Jesus stretched out the other hand to the left, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. **Jesus did this so you would know Jesus died loving you.**

*<sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. (John 12-NIV).*

**Growth in Christ takes off when we practice delayed gratification.**

Paul knew that Felix and Drusilla lived a life with little or no self-control. So, he calls them out. We don't have the details, but the guy who God would often use to reveal the human heart, did not miss an opportunity here. Let me suggest that you consider what the bible has to say about self-control. One of my favorite verses paints this picture:

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The bible is filled with the stories of people who possessed self-control and those who failed miserably. Just thinking about some make me laugh. Joseph said no to sexual temptation. David said yes!

Solomon had so many wives, we snicker every time we think about 700 weddings. A palace full of mothers-in-laws. And all of those kids running around in diapers.

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*You are no longer a slave. (Galatians 4:7-NIV)*

Anybody looking for freedom? Anybody want to improve your capacity to activate self-control? I can't speak for you, but I need every verse, every argument, every illustration, and every word of encouragement that Paul offers to the Galatians, so I can be free.

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## **Jesus suggests that you do not have to be anxious about The End.**

In John 14, Jesus reminds his disciples that his end and their beginning is about to happen. Jesus had told his disciples he would die soon, in the previous chapter (13:3). This caused the disciples to become anxious. Jesus tells the disciples that when I leave, you cannot come with me. Upon hearing this the disciples melted down into panic. Thomas had a panic attack. Phillip became OCD. Peter became fearful. James and John, the sons of thunder became angry.

The disciples had trusted Jesus to put them in a boat of salvation, now they needed to trust him as the boat traveled through some storms and shakings. Every storm or shaking will cause us to throw up or throw in the towel or fill our sails with fresh faith for the journey. Jesus immediately, seeing their anxiety offers them a promise to anchor to. <sup>2</sup> *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?* <sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)*

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### **The return of Christ comes as a packaged deal: rapture and second coming!**

**Christ life>> Church Age>> Rapture>> Tribulation>> 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming!**

Whether a seasoned Christ follower or new to the faith, let go of your anxiety about what will happen at the end. The return of Christ is not formula to be figured out or a code to be broken, it is a day to be anticipated. God is doing some shakings. It is all a part of a Sovereign plan that has been in the making since the beginning of time. Looking closely at John 14, we can anchor to 3 solid truths about Jesus' return. The rapture. Give to Christ your anxieties (John 14:1)

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## The Holy Spirit Acts 24

Pastor Ken

February 1, 2026

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The book of Acts is about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural transformations that go along with unlimited power.

One of the great contributions that Rome has made to the modern world is their system of laws and justice. In ancient times Rome considered it their responsibility to protect **every citizen** and to provide Roman **legal protection** for them.

While Paul was in Jerusalem, the Roman police interrogated Paul as to why the crowd was so angry at him and then shockingly, they find out to their surprise, **Paul is a not just a Jew, but also a Roman citizen.**

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After 20 years and 17,000 miles and several missionary journeys and adventures Paul's travels now come to a **screeching halt**. Paul puts the car in park in Jerusalem and raises the park break. Paul returns home to Jerusalem and runs into a buzzsaw of **Jewish Christians** who are bent on making their new faith in Christ work in concert with Moses and the law.

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5 days after Paul, who has been locked away under lock and key, Paul is brought out to meet his accusers. The high priest Ananias along with several handpicked Sanhedrin and a hired gun for an attorney are summoned by Felix the governor to make the case against Paul.

Roman government is run by the Caesar at the top. The nation of Israel has a king who is at the top of judicial law, the most famous was king Herod at the time of Jesus. And then there were governors, who administered Roman law over a region such as Caesarea.

The governor over Caesarea was Felix. Not Felix the cat. Not Felix Unger. Not Felix Hernandez.

His name was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife's name was Drusilla.

#### **Who was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife Drusilla?**

He was born a slave and then freed years later. **Felix was the only person in Roman history to go from being a slave to a governor.** History tells us that Felix ruled Judea with unbelievable treachery killing many Jews. The Jews hated Felix. This is the same governorship that Pontus Pilate held 20 years before when Jesus was tried and executed.

His wife's name was Drusilla. She was a Jew. This was Felix's 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, and the relationship came about because of adultery.

**Drusilla was the Jewish great-granddaughter of Herod the Great, who gave orders to have all of the baby boys, two years and under, murdered at the birth of Jesus.**

Drusilla has a historical family tree. A very brutal blood thirsty lineage. Paul now stands before two of the most politically corrupt leaders in all of Israel. This is all a part of God's plan.

She is married to Felix. When Paul gets to Caesarea, he going to give his defense in front of a slave turned governor who hates Jews and has had many executed. And his wife who is the granddaughter of King Herod who it was said of him, he was so brutal that, "it is better to be Herod's swine than his family."

Now, the trial begins. The Sanhedrin's prosecuting attorney, and several elders put on their best judicial prosecution. The Jewish legal team was made up of a blowhard named Tertullus. Tertullus remarks were nothing but carefully crafted baloney and flattery that was designed to sway the case against Paul before he even got a chance to put on a defense.

Tertullus presented his case before Felix: <sup>2b</sup> *We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation.* <sup>3</sup> *Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. (Acts 24-NIV)*

The customary flattery, exaggeration and influence pedaling was a part of Roman law practice and legal hearings. After all, before you can win your case, you have to win the judge.

The professional baloney slicer-Tertullian put on quite a prosecution against Paul.

The prosecutions' accusations against the Apostle Paul were no more accurate and truer than the exaggerated flattery that was swallowed hook-line-and-sinker by Governor Felix.

The charges against Paul were **personal** (this man is a plague and pest to our religion), the charges were **political** (he is the leading religious leader of an unapproved religious faction called the Way. Apparently, their founder is a dead man named Jesus that Rome killed about 30 years ago for treason. Finally, the last charge is **profaning** the temple of Moses. Paul blasphemed our temple.

Today we bring an overwhelming amount of truthful evidence that this man, who has stated he is a Roman citizen, but he is really a Jew citizen first, should be immediately handed over to the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem so we can deal with his treasonous activity that is dividing our people.

And by calling the leader of his sect, Jesus the Messiah he is an insurrectionist worthy of death according to Jewish Law. **Return Paul to us**, since Rome has given the Jews, the freedom to govern their own people. Also, since Rome has given us the authority to bring charges, including the sentence of death against Jews, we will prove to you Felix, that Paul treasonous and blasphemous.

### **Paul is a world-renowned troublemaker.**

<sup>5a</sup> *We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. (Acts 24-NIV)*

**The personal charges**-as for Paul being a plague, a pest it all depends on one's point of view. The Jews wanted to hold on tightly at all costs to their ancient Jewish traditions and Paul was advocate for something new. New creation. 2 Cor 5:17, was Paul's mantra.

Paul's history of stirring up trouble was well documented from all corners of the Roman world. But it was not Paul who stirred up many of the previous riots, but the Jews who caused

Paul trouble as he went from city to city. From synagogue to synagogue announcing that the Messiah Jesus Christ has come to take away the sins of the world. We renounce such heresy!

The Jews could tell stories of trouble that Paul caused in places like Lystra, Corinth and Ephesus.

**Paul was the leader of a dangerous anti-Roman cult.**

*<sup>5b</sup> He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect. (Acts 24-NIV)*

**The political charges** were much more serious. No Roman official wanted to be guilty of allowing illegal activities to cause trouble or disturb the peace of Rome-Pax Romana.

When the court appointed attorney, working for the prosecution the Jews called Paul an instigator of insurrection amongst the Jews in the Roman empire, this immediately got Governor Felix's attention.

This was an exaggeration, just like many of the facts against Jesus were fabricated or exaggerated and how many court cases have been won based on stretching the truth.

The fact that Paul had preached that Jesus was their king and Lord placed Paul declaring a message that sounded like treason against Ceasar. If Paul was the ringleader of a sect of the Nazarenes, then Paul could easily have been found guilty.

**Paul even tried to profane our sacred Jewish temple.**

*<sup>6</sup> and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. (Acts 24-NIV)*

**The charge** was that Paul had profaned and polluted the temple. While Paul only honored God during all of his activities in the temple, the problem for the Sanhedrin was that they could not produce a single witness, so there was no evidence, so there could be no conviction.

Ok, let's go back to our text that we read earlier, and now we pick up the court proceedings in Acts 24:22-26.

*<sup>22</sup> Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case." <sup>23</sup> He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Paul was placed under house arrest; he was not placed in a jail cell. His friends would often come and bring him food, since Paul spent 2 years in Caesarea, he spent some of that time writing the NT letters of Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

*<sup>24</sup> Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Look carefully at the phrase spoke about faith in Jesus Christ. Paul's trial will span a couple of days. His imprisonment will last for over 2 years. During those years Felix will become interested in Paul's teachings about Jesus Christ. In fact, Paul will on one occasion preach a full-blown sermon to Felix and Drusilla.

In fact, in verse 25 we are given a peak at Paul's notes outline Paul used. **Paul gave his testimony in front of Felix and Drusilla.**

And notice Felix's reaction to Paul's message, he became afraid.

*<sup>25</sup> As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." (Acts 24-NIV)*

And like most Roman law, that could be bought, bartered or bantered with Felix was willing to take a bribe to influence his decision.

*<sup>26</sup> At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Felix is into bribes, and he is hoping that Paul will offer money for his release. Now, let me show you what happens over the next 2 years. It is quite a glimpse into the Paul and Felix life together. A governor and a prisoner. A Christ follower and a Christ seeker. An investigator and an instigator. A lover of God and a lover of gold. A governor who had no sense of urgency, and a preacher who declared that the hour was urgent, **judgement is coming!**

*<sup>26</sup> At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.*

*<sup>27</sup> When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Everything stops for Paul; he is now in prison in Roman capital of Caesarea. Paul spends 2 years in Caesarea waiting for Roman justice.

This back and forth between Paul and Felix goes on for 2 years. Bribes. Sermons. Guests to take care of Paul. Changing of the guard. Paul witnessing to those who are on duty as soldiers protect and persecute. Paul prays. Paul preaches. Paul writes letters to believers scattered throughout the Roman world.

It seems that after Paul gives his defense that Felix and Drusilla want to hear more. And they specifically want to hear more about this testimony of faith in Christ.

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Paul is back in the courtroom, not present legal evidence of his innocence from the charges by the Jews, but in a much different environment where 2 seekers, 2 investigators, 2 Christ inquirers are sitting to Paul as he gives his testimony.

So, beyond the legal battle, Paul talks about everyone's battle with sin, self-control, and judgment to come. Paul focuses on 3 topics. Now, I can't help but wonder why Paul goes after these 3. First, Paul describes all our need to have sins forgiven. Second, Paul has the gift of prophecy and discernment, so he is aware these two have some horrible self-control issues to deal with. Finally, Paul does want them to miss what is going in here-we will all stand before God our Maker.

Paul talks about Felix and Drusilla **past** sins.

Paul talks about their **present** lack of self-control.

Paul talks about their **future** judgment.

So that is Paul's sermon in front of Felix and Drusilla. And it is a good sermon for anyone here today. For Frank and Dorothy. For Fred and Danice. Why these 3 topics. Well, let's go one by one and I think it will be clear.

Why does Paul talk about righteousness? To Felix and each of us. The answer is because God assesses the human condition as none of us are righteous. We are all sinners.

The human condition is that we are born into sin. None of us is right with God. And we can do nothing to improve an impossible status God calls sin.

In fact, Paul writes in Romans 3:10, there is none righteous, no not one. In fact, Isaiah the prophet puts in on the real. Sometimes we need just a good old spiritual gut punch. And Isaiah gives us one. Now, I am going to show you several translations. Here are the summary observations in the NLT, NIV, and NET translations.

*We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6a-NLT)*

*We are all like one who is unclean,  
all our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag in your sight.*

*We all wither like a leaf;  
our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

Now that is harsh. But it describes with utter clarity the reality your condition and mine before God.

Our righteousness is like menstrual clothes. We are not right at all. Menstrual clothes, how does make you feel? Is your self-esteem taking a shot? Please friend, do not sugar coat this. From time to time, it is good to have a spiritual slap in the face. A punch in the gut.

In order to soften the blow of the Hebrew text about our depravity in the English text, most translators use some like the NLT and NIV.

All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (Isaiah 64:6-NIV)

This is a reality check. Each of us needs to understand that the human condition is sinful. We are broken. We are messed up people. Every single one of us. Here is why it is important that Paul is preaching this to Felix, Drusilla, to you and me.

Because if we do not understand the depravity of our own souls, we will never under our need for a Savior. But even more, Jesus is the only answer. That is what got Paul here in the first place. Paul's brothers and sisters in Jewish faith, rejected this message.

The savior's name is Jesus. We have to hear the difficult diagnosis before we can get the wonderful cure. The cure is that God so loved us as depraved, sinful, and filthy rags, we matter to him.

All People Matte to God. John 3:16-17, <sup>16</sup>*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3-NIV)*

We all love this verse, but it is the next one that gives us as much hope!

<sup>17</sup>*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3-NIV)*

Jesus took our place on a Roman cross, so we can be reconciled to God. And on that Roman cross God poured out his write on Christ, so he would never pour it out on us.

Here is glimpse of those moments in Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

### **The hammer slings. The skin rips. The savior yells.**

For days, 5-inch nails sat in a storage bin. The cross beam had been leaning against a wall. A wooden sign positioned on a table would soon hang above the condemned. The end was near. It was Friday.

**A tool of torture became symbol of hope.**

Why is the cross the symbol of hope? To find the answer, look no further than the cross itself. The design could not be simpler.

**One beam horizontal. One beam vertical.**

One beam reaches out like God's love. The other beam reaches up-as does God's holiness.

One beam represents the width of his love. The other beam reflects the height of his holiness.

The cross is the place where God forgive, you and me, without lowering his standard of holiness.

You wonder, how did that happen? God placed our sin on his Son Jesus and punished it there. God is hanging on a cross.

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Roman government is run by the Caesar at the top. The nation of Israel has a king who is at the top of judicial law, the most famous was king Herod at the time of Jesus. And then there were governors, who administered Roman law over a region such as Caesarea.

The governor over Caesarea was Felix. Not Felix the cat. Not Felix Unger. Not Felix Hernandez.

His name was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife's name was Drusilla.

### **Who was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife Drusilla?**

He was born a slave and then freed years later. **Felix was the only person in Roman history to go from being a slave to a governor.** History tells us that Felix ruled Judea with unbelievable treachery killing many Jews. The Jews hated Felix. This is the same governorship that Pontus Pilate held 20 years before when Jesus was tried and executed.

His wife's name was Drusilla. She was a Jew. This was Felix's 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, and the relationship came about because of adultery.

**Drusilla was the Jewish great-granddaughter of Herod the Great, who gave orders to have all of the baby boys, two years and under, murdered at the birth of Jesus.**

Drusilla has a historical family tree. A very brutal blood thirsty lineage. Paul now stands before two of the most politically corrupt leaders in all of Israel. This is all a part of God's plan.

She is married to Felix. When Paul gets to Caesarea, he going to give his defense in front of a slave turned governor who hates Jews and has had many executed. And his wife who is the granddaughter of King Herod who it was said of him, he was so brutal that, "it is better to be Herod's swine than his family."

Now, the trial begins. The Sanhedrin's prosecuting attorney, and several elders put on their best judicial prosecution. The Jewish legal team was made up of a blowhard named Tertullus. Tertullus remarks were nothing but carefully crafted baloney and flattery that was designed to sway the case against Paul before he even got a chance to put on a defense.

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And by calling the leader of his sect, Jesus the Messiah he is an insurrectionist worthy of death according to Jewish Law. **Return Paul to us**, since Rome has given the Jews, the freedom to govern their own people. Also, since Rome has given us the authority to bring charges, including the sentence of death against Jews, we will prove to you Felix, that Paul treasonous and blasphemous.

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Paul trouble as he went from city to city. From synagogue to synagogue announcing that the Messiah Jesus Christ has come to take away the sins of the world. We renounce such heresy!

The Jews could tell stories of trouble that Paul caused in places like Lystra, Corinth and Ephesus.

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**Paul even tried to profane our sacred Jewish temple.**

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In fact, in verse 25 we are given a peak at Paul's notes outline Paul used. **Paul gave his testimony in front of Felix and Drusilla.**

And notice Felix's reaction to Paul's message, he became afraid.

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Felix is into bribes, and he is hoping that Paul will offer money for his release. Now, let me show you what happens over the next 2 years. It is quite a glimpse into the Paul and Felix life together. A governor and a prisoner. A Christ follower and a Christ seeker. An investigator and an instigator. A lover of God and a lover of gold. A governor who had no sense of urgency, and a preacher who declared that the hour was urgent, **judgement is coming!**

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Everything stops for Paul; he is now in prison in Roman capital of Caesarea. Paul spends 2 years in Caesarea waiting for Roman justice.

This back and forth between Paul and Felix goes on for 2 years. Bribes. Sermons. Guests to take care of Paul. Changing of the guard. Paul witnessing to those who are on duty as soldiers protect and persecute. Paul prays. Paul preaches. Paul writes letters to believers scattered throughout the Roman world.

It seems that after Paul gives his defense that Felix and Drusilla want to hear more. And they specifically want to hear more about this testimony of faith in Christ.

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Paul is back in the courtroom, not present legal evidence of his innocence from the charges by the Jews, but in a much different environment where 2 seekers, 2 investigators, 2 Christ inquirers are sitting to Paul as he gives his testimony.

So, beyond the legal battle, Paul talks about everyone's battle with sin, self-control, and judgment to come. Paul focuses on 3 topics. Now, I can't help but wonder why Paul goes after these 3. First, Paul describes all our need to have sins forgiven. Second, Paul has the gift of prophecy and discernment, so he is aware these two have some horrible self-control issues to deal with. Finally, Paul does want them to miss what is going in here-we will all stand before God our Maker.

Paul talks about Felix and Drusilla **past** sins.

Paul talks about their **present** lack of self-control.

Paul talks about their **future** judgment.

So that is Paul's sermon in front of Felix and Drusilla. And it is a good sermon for anyone here today. For Frank and Dorothy. For Fred and Danice. Why these 3 topics. Well, let's go one by one and I think it will be clear.

Why does Paul talk about righteousness? To Felix and each of us. The answer is because God assesses the human condition as none of us are righteous. We are all sinners.

The human condition is that we are born into sin. None of us is right with God. And we can do nothing to improve an impossible status God calls sin.

In fact, Paul writes in Romans 3:10, there is none righteous, no not one. In fact, Isaiah the prophet puts in on the real. Sometimes we need just a good old spiritual gut punch. And Isaiah gives us one. Now, I am going to show you several translations. Here are the summary observations in the NLT, NIV, and NET translations.

*We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6a-NLT)*

*We are all like one who is unclean,  
all our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag in your sight.*

*We all wither like a leaf;  
our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

Now that is harsh. But it describes with utter clarity the reality your condition and mine before God.

Our righteousness is like menstrual clothes. We are not right at all. Menstrual clothes, how does make you feel? Is your self-esteem taking a shot? Please friend, do not sugar coat this. From time to time, it is good to have a spiritual slap in the face. A punch in the gut.

In order to soften the blow of the Hebrew text about our depravity in the English text, most translators use some like the NLT and NIV.

All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (Isaiah 64:6-NIV)

This is a reality check. Each of us needs to understand that the human condition is sinful. We are broken. We are messed up people. Every single one of us. Here is why it is important that Paul is preaching this to Felix, Drusilla, to you and me.

Because if we do not understand the depravity of our own souls, we will never under our need for a Savior. But even more, Jesus is the only answer. That is what got Paul here in the first place. Paul's brothers and sisters in Jewish faith, rejected this message.

The savior's name is Jesus. We have to hear the difficult diagnosis before we can get the wonderful cure. The cure is that God so loved us as depraved, sinful, and filthy rags, we matter to him.

All People Matte to God. John 3:16-17, <sup>16</sup>*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3-NIV)*

We all love this verse, but it is the next one that gives us as much hope!

<sup>17</sup>*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3-NIV)*

Jesus took our place on a Roman cross, so we can be reconciled to God. And on that Roman cross God poured out his write on Christ, so he would never pour it out on us.

Here is glimpse of those moments in Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

### **The hammer slings. The skin rips. The savior yells.**

For days, 5-inch nails sat in a storage bin. The cross beam had been leaning against a wall. A wooden sign positioned on a table would soon hang above the condemned. The end was near. It was Friday.

**A tool of torture became symbol of hope.**

Why is the cross the symbol of hope? To find the answer, look no further than the cross itself. The design could not be simpler.

**One beam horizontal. One beam vertical.**

One beam reaches out like God's love. The other beam reaches up-as does God's holiness.

One beam represents the width of his love. The other beam reflects the height of his holiness.

The cross is the place where God forgive, you and me, without lowering his standard of holiness.

You wonder, how did that happen? God placed our sin on his Son Jesus and punished it there. God is hanging on a cross.

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24-NIV)

Let me describe it this way. God is on his throne. You are on the earth. And between you and God, suspended between you and heaven, is Christ on the cross. Your sins were placed on Jesus. God, who punishes sin, releases his wrath and anger on your sins. The wrath and anger of God fall upon Jesus.

Jesus took the blow. Jesus took the 5-inch iron nails. Jesus endured the suffering and pain for 6 hours. Since Christ is between you and God, Jesus is punished, and you are pardoned.

Or another way to say it, **Jesus Christ hung crucified between you and God. Jesus is punished and you are pardoned.**

Jesus stretched out one hand to the right, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. Jesus stretched out the other hand to the left, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. **Jesus did this so you would know Jesus died loving you.**

*<sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. (John 12-NIV).*

**Growth in Christ takes off when we practice delayed gratification.**

Paul knew that Felix and Drusilla lived a life with little or no self-control. So, he calls them out. We don't have the details, but the guy who God would often use to reveal the human heart, did not miss an opportunity here. Let me suggest that you consider what the bible has to say about self-control. One of my favorite verses paints this picture:

*Like a city whose walls are broken through  
is a person who lacks self-control. (Prov 25:28-NIV)*

The bible is filled with the stories of people who possessed self-control and those who failed miserably. Just thinking about some make me laugh. Joseph said no to sexual temptation. David said yes!

Solomon had so many wives, we snicker every time we think about 700 weddings. A palace full of mothers-in-laws. And all of those kids running around in diapers.

Samson couldn't keep a secret about his supernatural strength and Jacob couldn't help himself in stealing his brother's birth right.

Daily you make 100's of choices that are filtered by self-control or lack of it. You will win with self-control, or you will live with an unrestrained appetite for the flesh.

The magna carta verse on self-control is found in the book of Galatians. Paul's letter to the Galatians is an invitation to Christ followers to drop their chains. And walk out of a prison of self-indulgence. You can be free from the tyranny that your cravings have over you. Not freedom from cravings, but freedom to make right choices about cravings. You do not have to be held captive to your abysmal efforts at self-control. Paul tells us we are no longer a slave to anything. If you read the book of Galatians, it takes about 10-15 minutes. Eventually you run into this profound truth.

*You are no longer a slave. (Galatians 4:7-NIV)*

Anybody looking for freedom? Anybody want to improve your capacity to activate self-control? I can't speak for you, but I need every verse, every argument, every illustration, and every word of encouragement that Paul offers to the Galatians, so I can be free.

Anybody else? Are you with me?

Now, what really shook-up Felix was when Paul starting to talk about God's coming judgement. Personal judgement and global at the end of the age. **Felix became afraid when he heard about God's judgment to come.**

*<sup>46</sup> Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.  
(Matthew 25-NIV)*

## **Jesus suggests that you do not have to be anxious about The End.**

In John 14, Jesus reminds his disciples that his end and their beginning is about to happen. Jesus had told his disciples he would die soon, in the previous chapter (13:3). This caused the disciples to become anxious. Jesus tells the disciples that when I leave, you cannot come with me. Upon hearing this the disciples melted down into panic. Thomas had a panic attack. Phillip became OCD. Peter became fearful. James and John, the sons of thunder became angry.

The disciples had trusted Jesus to put them in a boat of salvation, now they needed to trust him as the boat traveled through some storms and shakings. Every storm or shaking will cause us to throw up or throw in the towel or fill our sails with fresh faith for the journey. Jesus immediately, seeing their anxiety offers them a promise to anchor to. <sup>2</sup> *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?* <sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)*

Let's pause for a moment and move from Jesus promise of his return, to some facts about Jesus' return. These facts about **The End** perhaps, will lower your RPMs of anxiety about Jesus' return.

### **The return of Christ comes as a packaged deal: rapture and second coming!**

**Christ life>> Church Age>> Rapture>> Tribulation>> 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming!**

Whether a seasoned Christ follower or new to the faith, let go of your anxiety about what will happen at the end. The return of Christ is not formula to be figured out or a code to be broken, it is a day to be anticipated. God is doing some shakings. It is all a part of a Sovereign plan that has been in the making since the beginning of time. Looking closely at John 14, we can anchor to 3 solid truths about Jesus' return. The rapture. Give to Christ your anxieties (John 14:1)

### **Will you serve God with your whole heart, even if He rarely explains the 'Why'?**

## The Holy Spirit Acts 24

Pastor Ken

February 1, 2026

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The book of Acts is about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural transformations that go along with unlimited power.

One of the great contributions that Rome has made to the modern world is their system of laws and justice. In ancient times Rome considered it their responsibility to protect **every citizen** and to provide Roman **legal protection** for them.

While Paul was in Jerusalem, the Roman police interrogated Paul as to why the crowd was so angry at him and then shockingly, they find out to their surprise, **Paul is a not just a Jew, but also a Roman citizen.**

*<sup>24</sup> The commander ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and interrogated in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this.*

*<sup>25</sup> As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?" (Acts 22-NIV)*

After 20 years and 17,000 miles and several missionary journeys and adventures Paul's travels now come to a **screeching halt**. Paul puts the car in park in Jerusalem and raises the park break. Paul returns home to Jerusalem and runs into a buzzsaw of **Jewish Christians** who are bent on making their new faith in Christ work in concert with Moses and the law.

*<sup>20b</sup> Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law." (Acts 21-NIV)*

A marriage of the Messiah and Moses. A marriage of love for Jesus Our Lord and love for the Law, all 613 them.

After trying to appease the Jewish legalists, Paul stirs up trouble with the Jewish Supreme (Sanhedrin) court and Paul barely gets out of Jerusalem alive.

*23 Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, "Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. 24 Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix." (Acts 23-NIV)*

Paul is placed into the **witness protection program** and surrounded by over 470 soldiers and sharp shooters as he is escorted to the Roman capital in Israel-Caesarea.

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It seems that after Paul gives his defense that Felix and Drusilla want to hear more. And they specifically want to hear more about this testimony of faith in Christ.

*<sup>24</sup> Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Paul is back in the courtroom, not present legal evidence of his innocence from the charges by the Jews, but in a much different environment where 2 seekers, 2 investigators, 2 Christ inquirers are sitting to Paul as he gives his testimony.

So, beyond the legal battle, Paul talks about everyone's battle with sin, self-control, and judgment to come. Paul focuses on 3 topics. Now, I can't help but wonder why Paul goes after these 3. First, Paul describes all our need to have sins forgiven. Second, Paul has the gift of prophecy and discernment, so he is aware these two have some horrible self-control issues to deal with. Finally, Paul does want them to miss what is going in here-we will all stand before God our Maker.

Paul talks about Felix and Drusilla **past** sins.

Paul talks about their **present** lack of self-control.

Paul talks about their **future** judgment.

So that is Paul's sermon in front of Felix and Drusilla. And it is a good sermon for anyone here today. For Frank and Dorothy. For Fred and Danice. Why these 3 topics. Well, let's go one by one and I think it will be clear.

Why does Paul talk about righteousness? To Felix and each of us. The answer is because God assesses the human condition as none of us are righteous. We are all sinners.

The human condition is that we are born into sin. None of us is right with God. And we can do nothing to improve an impossible status God calls sin.

In fact, Paul writes in Romans 3:10, there is none righteous, no not one. In fact, Isaiah the profit puts in on the real. Sometimes we need just a good old spiritual gut punch. And Isaiah gives us one. Now, I am going to show you several translations. Here are the summary observations in the NLT, NIV, and NET translations.

*We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6a-NLT)*

*We are all like one who is unclean,  
all our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag in your sight.*

*We all wither like a leaf;  
our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

Now that is harsh. But it describes with utter clarity the reality your condition and mine before God.

Our righteousness is like menstrual clothes. We are not right at all. Menstrual clothes, how does make you feel? Is your self-esteem taking a shot? Please friend, do not sugar coat this. From time to time, it is good to have a spiritual slap in the face. A punch in the gut.

In order to soften the blow of the Hebrew text about our depravity in the English text, most translators use some like the NLT and NIV.

All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (Isaiah 64:6-NIV)

This is a reality check. Each of us needs to understand that the human condition is sinful. We are broken. We are messed up people. Every single one of us. Here is why it is important that Paul is preaching this to Felix, Drusilla, to you and me.

Because if we do not understand the depravity of our own souls, we will never under our need for a Savior. But even more, Jesus is the only answer. That is what got Paul here in the first place. Paul's brothers and sisters in Jewish faith, rejected this message.

The savior's name is Jesus. We have to hear the difficult diagnosis before we can get the wonderful cure. The cure is that God so loved us as depraved, sinful, and filthy rags, we matter to him.

All People Matte to God. John 3:16-17, <sup>16</sup>*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3-NIV)*

We all love this verse, but it is the next one that gives us as much hope!

<sup>17</sup>*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3-NIV)*

Jesus took our place on a Roman cross, so we can be reconciled to God. And on that Roman cross God poured out his write on Christ, so he would never pour it out on us.

Here is glimpse of those moments in Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

### **The hammer slings. The skin rips. The savior yells.**

For days, 5-inch nails sat in a storage bin. The cross beam had been leaning against a wall. A wooden sign positioned on a table would soon hang above the condemned. The end was near. It was Friday.

**A tool of torture became symbol of hope.**

Why is the cross the symbol of hope? To find the answer, look no further than the cross itself. The design could not be simpler.

**One beam horizontal. One beam vertical.**

One beam reaches out like God's love. The other beam reaches up-as does God's holiness.

One beam represents the width of his love. The other beam reflects the height of his holiness.

The cross is the place where God forgive, you and me, without lowering his standard of holiness.

You wonder, how did that happen? God placed our sin on his Son Jesus and punished it there. God is hanging on a cross.

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24-NIV)

Let me describe it this way. God is on his throne. You are on the earth. And between you and God, suspended between you and heaven, is Christ on the cross. Your sins were placed on Jesus. God, who punishes sin, releases his wrath and anger on your sins. The wrath and anger of God fall upon Jesus.

Jesus took the blow. Jesus took the 5-inch iron nails. Jesus endured the suffering and pain for 6 hours. Since Christ is between you and God, Jesus is punished, and you are pardoned.

Or another way to say it, **Jesus Christ hung crucified between you and God. Jesus is punished and you are pardoned.**

Jesus stretched out one hand to the right, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. Jesus stretched out the other hand to the left, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. **Jesus did this so you would know Jesus died loving you.**

*<sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. (John 12-NIV).*

**Growth in Christ takes off when we practice delayed gratification.**

Paul knew that Felix and Drusilla lived a life with little or no self-control. So, he calls them out. We don't have the details, but the guy who God would often use to reveal the human heart, did not miss an opportunity here. Let me suggest that you consider what the bible has to say about self-control. One of my favorite verses paints this picture:

*Like a city whose walls are broken through  
is a person who lacks self-control. (Prov 25:28-NIV)*

The bible is filled with the stories of people who possessed self-control and those who failed miserably. Just thinking about some make me laugh. Joseph said no to sexual temptation. David said yes!

Solomon had so many wives, we snicker every time we think about 700 weddings. A palace full of mothers-in-laws. And all of those kids running around in diapers.

Samson couldn't keep a secret about his supernatural strength and Jacob couldn't help himself in stealing his brother's birth right.

Daily you make 100's of choices that are filtered by self-control or lack of it. You will win with self-control, or you will live with an unrestrained appetite for the flesh.

The magna carta verse on self-control is found in the book of Galatians. Paul's letter to the Galatians is an invitation to Christ followers to drop their chains. And walk out of a prison of self-indulgence. You can be free from the tyranny that your cravings have over you. Not freedom from cravings, but freedom to make right choices about cravings. You do not have to be held captive to your abysmal efforts at self-control. Paul tells us we are no longer a slave to anything. If you read the book of Galatians, it takes about 10-15 minutes. Eventually you run into this profound truth.

*You are no longer a slave. (Galatians 4:7-NIV)*

Anybody looking for freedom? Anybody want to improve your capacity to activate self-control? I can't speak for you, but I need every verse, every argument, every illustration, and every word of encouragement that Paul offers to the Galatians, so I can be free.

Anybody else? Are you with me?

Now, what really shook-up Felix was when Paul starting to talk about God's coming judgement. Personal judgement and global at the end of the age. **Felix became afraid when he heard about God's judgment to come.**

*<sup>46</sup> Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.  
(Matthew 25-NIV)*

## **Jesus suggests that you do not have to be anxious about The End.**

In John 14, Jesus reminds his disciples that his end and their beginning is about to happen. Jesus had told his disciples he would die soon, in the previous chapter (13:3). This caused the disciples to become anxious. Jesus tells the disciples that when I leave, you cannot come with me. Upon hearing this the disciples melted down into panic. Thomas had a panic attack. Phillip became OCD. Peter became fearful. James and John, the sons of thunder became angry.

The disciples had trusted Jesus to put them in a boat of salvation, now they needed to trust him as the boat traveled through some storms and shakings. Every storm or shaking will cause us to throw up or throw in the towel or fill our sails with fresh faith for the journey. Jesus immediately, seeing their anxiety offers them a promise to anchor to. <sup>2</sup> *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?* <sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)*

Let's pause for a moment and move from Jesus promise of his return, to some facts about Jesus' return. These facts about **The End** perhaps, will lower your RPMs of anxiety about Jesus' return.

### **The return of Christ comes as a packaged deal: rapture and second coming!**

**Christ life>> Church Age>> Rapture>> Tribulation>> 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming!**

Whether a seasoned Christ follower or new to the faith, let go of your anxiety about what will happen at the end. The return of Christ is not formula to be figured out or a code to be broken, it is a day to be anticipated. God is doing some shakings. It is all a part of a Sovereign plan that has been in the making since the beginning of time. Looking closely at John 14, we can anchor to 3 solid truths about Jesus' return. The rapture. Give to Christ your anxieties (John 14:1)

### **Will you serve God with your whole heart, even if He rarely explains the 'Why'?**

## The Holy Spirit Acts 24

Pastor Ken

February 1, 2026

*<sup>22</sup> Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case." <sup>23</sup> He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs.*

*<sup>24</sup> Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." <sup>26</sup> At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him. (Acts 24-NIV)*

The book of Acts is about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural transformations that go along with unlimited power.

One of the great contributions that Rome has made to the modern world is their system of laws and justice. In ancient times Rome considered it their responsibility to protect **every citizen** and to provide Roman **legal protection** for them.

While Paul was in Jerusalem, the Roman police interrogated Paul as to why the crowd was so angry at him and then shockingly, they find out to their surprise, **Paul is a not just a Jew, but also a Roman citizen.**

*<sup>24</sup> The commander ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and interrogated in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this.*

*<sup>25</sup> As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?" (Acts 22-NIV)*

After 20 years and 17,000 miles and several missionary journeys and adventures Paul's travels now come to a **screeching halt**. Paul puts the car in park in Jerusalem and raises the park break. Paul returns home to Jerusalem and runs into a buzzsaw of **Jewish Christians** who are bent on making their new faith in Christ work in concert with Moses and the law.

*<sup>20b</sup> Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law." (Acts 21-NIV)*

A marriage of the Messiah and Moses. A marriage of love for Jesus Our Lord and love for the Law, all 613 them.

After trying to appease the Jewish legalists, Paul stirs up trouble with the Jewish Supreme (Sanhedrin) court and Paul barely gets out of Jerusalem alive.

*23 Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, "Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. 24 Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix." (Acts 23-NIV)*

Paul is placed into the **witness protection program** and surrounded by over 470 soldiers and sharp shooters as he is escorted to the Roman capital in Israel-Caesarea.

An overnight escape from Jerusalem lands Paul 61 miles north to the Roman capital of Isreal-Caesarea.

5 days after Paul, who has been locked away under lock and key, Paul is brought out to meet his accusers. The high priest Ananias along with several handpicked Sanhedrin and a hired gun for an attorney are summoned by Felix the governor to make the case against Paul.

Roman government is run by the Caesar at the top. The nation of Israel has a king who is at the top of judicial law, the most famous was king Herod at the time of Jesus. And then there were governors, who administered Roman law over a region such as Caesarea.

The governor over Caesarea was Felix. Not Felix the cat. Not Felix Unger. Not Felix Hernandez.

His name was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife's name was Drusilla.

### **Who was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife Drusilla?**

He was born a slave and then freed years later. **Felix was the only person in Roman history to go from being a slave to a governor.** History tells us that Felix ruled Judea with unbelievable treachery killing many Jews. The Jews hated Felix. This is the same governorship that Pontus Pilate held 20 years before when Jesus was tried and executed.

His wife's name was Drusilla. She was a Jew. This was Felix's 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, and the relationship came about because of adultery.

**Drusilla was the Jewish great-granddaughter of Herod the Great, who gave orders to have all of the baby boys, two years and under, murdered at the birth of Jesus.**

Drusilla has a historical family tree. A very brutal blood thirsty lineage. Paul now stands before two of the most politically corrupt leaders in all of Israel. This is all a part of God's plan.

She is married to Felix. When Paul gets to Caesarea, he going to give his defense in front of a slave turned governor who hates Jews and has had many executed. And his wife who is the granddaughter of King Herod who it was said of him, he was so brutal that, "it is better to be Herod's swine than his family."

Now, the trial begins. The Sanhedrin's prosecuting attorney, and several elders put on their best judicial prosecution. The Jewish legal team was made up of a blowhard named Tertullus. Tertullus remarks were nothing but carefully crafted baloney and flattery that was designed to sway the case against Paul before he even got a chance to put on a defense.

Tertullus presented his case before Felix: <sup>2b</sup> *We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation.* <sup>3</sup> *Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. (Acts 24-NIV)*

The customary flattery, exaggeration and influence pedaling was a part of Roman law practice and legal hearings. After all, before you can win your case, you have to win the judge.

The professional baloney slicer-Tertullian put on quite a prosecution against Paul.

The prosecutions' accusations against the Apostle Paul were no more accurate and truer than the exaggerated flattery that was swallowed hook-line-and-sinker by Governor Felix.

The charges against Paul were **personal** (this man is a plague and pest to our religion), the charges were **political** (he is the leading religious leader of an unapproved religious faction called the Way. Apparently, their founder is a dead man named Jesus that Rome killed about 30 years ago for treason. Finally, the last charge is **profaning** the temple of Moses. Paul blasphemed our temple.

Today we bring an overwhelming amount of truthful evidence that this man, who has stated he is a Roman citizen, but he is really a Jew citizen first, should be immediately handed over to the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem so we can deal with his treasonous activity that is dividing our people.

And by calling the leader of his sect, Jesus the Messiah he is an insurrectionist worthy of death according to Jewish Law. **Return Paul to us**, since Rome has given the Jews, the freedom to govern their own people. Also, since Rome has given us the authority to bring charges, including the sentence of death against Jews, we will prove to you Felix, that Paul treasonous and blasphemous.

### **Paul is a world-renowned troublemaker.**

<sup>5a</sup> *We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. (Acts 24-NIV)*

**The personal charges**-as for Paul being a plague, a pest it all depends on one's point of view. The Jews wanted to hold on tightly at all costs to their ancient Jewish traditions and Paul was advocate for something new. New creation. 2 Cor 5:17, was Paul's mantra.

Paul's history of stirring up trouble was well documented from all corners of the Roman world. But it was not Paul who stirred up many of the previous riots, but the Jews who caused

Paul trouble as he went from city to city. From synagogue to synagogue announcing that the Messiah Jesus Christ has come to take away the sins of the world. We renounce such heresy!

The Jews could tell stories of trouble that Paul caused in places like Lystra, Corinth and Ephesus.

**Paul was the leader of a dangerous anti-Roman cult.**

*<sup>5b</sup> He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect. (Acts 24-NIV)*

**The political charges** were much more serious. No Roman official wanted to be guilty of allowing illegal activities to cause trouble or disturb the peace of Rome-Pax Romana.

When the court appointed attorney, working for the prosecution the Jews called Paul an instigator of insurrection amongst the Jews in the Roman empire, this immediately got Governor Felix's attention.

This was an exaggeration, just like many of the facts against Jesus were fabricated or exaggerated and how many court cases have been won based on stretching the truth.

The fact that Paul had preached that Jesus was their king and Lord placed Paul declaring a message that sounded like treason against Ceasar. If Paul was the ringleader of a sect of the Nazarenes, then Paul could easily have been found guilty.

**Paul even tried to profane our sacred Jewish temple.**

*<sup>6</sup> and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. (Acts 24-NIV)*

**The charge** was that Paul had profaned and polluted the temple. While Paul only honored God during all of his activities in the temple, the problem for the Sanhedrin was that they could not produce a single witness, so there was no evidence, so there could be no conviction.

Ok, let's go back to our text that we read earlier, and now we pick up the court proceedings in Acts 24:22-26.

*<sup>22</sup> Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case." <sup>23</sup> He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Paul was placed under house arrest; he was not placed in a jail cell. His friends would often come and bring him food, since Paul spent 2 years in Caesarea, he spent some of that time writing the NT letters of Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

*<sup>24</sup> Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Look carefully at the phrase spoke about faith in Jesus Christ. Paul's trial will span a couple of days. His imprisonment will last for over 2 years. During those years Felix will become interested in Paul's teachings about Jesus Christ. In fact, Paul will on one occasion preach a full-blown sermon to Felix and Drusilla.

In fact, in verse 25 we are given a peak at Paul's notes outline Paul used. **Paul gave his testimony in front of Felix and Drusilla.**

And notice Felix's reaction to Paul's message, he became afraid.

*<sup>25</sup> As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." (Acts 24-NIV)*

And like most Roman law, that could be bought, bartered or bantered with Felix was willing to take a bribe to influence his decision.

*<sup>26</sup> At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Felix is into bribes, and he is hoping that Paul will offer money for his release. Now, let me show you what happens over the next 2 years. It is quite a glimpse into the Paul and Felix life together. A governor and a prisoner. A Christ follower and a Christ seeker. An investigator and an instigator. A lover of God and a lover of gold. A governor who had no sense of urgency, and a preacher who declared that the hour was urgent, **judgement is coming!**

*<sup>26</sup> At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.*

*<sup>27</sup> When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison. (Acts 24-NIV)*

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*<sup>46</sup> Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.  
(Matthew 25-NIV)*

## **Jesus suggests that you do not have to be anxious about The End.**

In John 14, Jesus reminds his disciples that his end and their beginning is about to happen. Jesus had told his disciples he would die soon, in the previous chapter (13:3). This caused the disciples to become anxious. Jesus tells the disciples that when I leave, you cannot come with me. Upon hearing this the disciples melted down into panic. Thomas had a panic attack. Phillip became OCD. Peter became fearful. James and John, the sons of thunder became angry.

The disciples had trusted Jesus to put them in a boat of salvation, now they needed to trust him as the boat traveled through some storms and shakings. Every storm or shaking will cause us to throw up or throw in the towel or fill our sails with fresh faith for the journey. Jesus immediately, seeing their anxiety offers them a promise to anchor to. <sup>2</sup> *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?* <sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)*

Let's pause for a moment and move from Jesus promise of his return, to some facts about Jesus' return. These facts about **The End** perhaps, will lower your RPMs of anxiety about Jesus' return.

### **The return of Christ comes as a packaged deal: rapture and second coming!**

**Christ life>> Church Age>> Rapture>> Tribulation>> 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming!**

Whether a seasoned Christ follower or new to the faith, let go of your anxiety about what will happen at the end. The return of Christ is not formula to be figured out or a code to be broken, it is a day to be anticipated. God is doing some shakings. It is all a part of a Sovereign plan that has been in the making since the beginning of time. Looking closely at John 14, we can anchor to 3 solid truths about Jesus' return. The rapture. Give to Christ your anxieties (John 14:1)

### **Will you serve God with your whole heart, even if He rarely explains the 'Why'?**

## The Holy Spirit Acts 24

Pastor Ken

February 1, 2026

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The book of Acts is about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural transformations that go along with unlimited power.

One of the great contributions that Rome has made to the modern world is their system of laws and justice. In ancient times Rome considered it their responsibility to protect **every citizen** and to provide Roman **legal protection** for them.

While Paul was in Jerusalem, the Roman police interrogated Paul as to why the crowd was so angry at him and then shockingly, they find out to their surprise, **Paul is a not just a Jew, but also a Roman citizen.**

*<sup>24</sup> The commander ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and interrogated in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this.*

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After 20 years and 17,000 miles and several missionary journeys and adventures Paul's travels now come to a **screeching halt**. Paul puts the car in park in Jerusalem and raises the park break. Paul returns home to Jerusalem and runs into a buzzsaw of **Jewish Christians** who are bent on making their new faith in Christ work in concert with Moses and the law.

*<sup>20b</sup> Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law." (Acts 21-NIV)*

A marriage of the Messiah and Moses. A marriage of love for Jesus Our Lord and love for the Law, all 613 them.

After trying to appease the Jewish legalists, Paul stirs up trouble with the Jewish Supreme (Sanhedrin) court and Paul barely gets out of Jerusalem alive.

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5 days after Paul, who has been locked away under lock and key, Paul is brought out to meet his accusers. The high priest Ananias along with several handpicked Sanhedrin and a hired gun for an attorney are summoned by Felix the governor to make the case against Paul.

Roman government is run by the Caesar at the top. The nation of Israel has a king who is at the top of judicial law, the most famous was king Herod at the time of Jesus. And then there were governors, who administered Roman law over a region such as Caesarea.

The governor over Caesarea was Felix. Not Felix the cat. Not Felix Unger. Not Felix Hernandez.

His name was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife's name was Drusilla.

### **Who was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife Drusilla?**

He was born a slave and then freed years later. **Felix was the only person in Roman history to go from being a slave to a governor.** History tells us that Felix ruled Judea with unbelievable treachery killing many Jews. The Jews hated Felix. This is the same governorship that Pontus Pilate held 20 years before when Jesus was tried and executed.

His wife's name was Drusilla. She was a Jew. This was Felix's 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, and the relationship came about because of adultery.

**Drusilla was the Jewish great-granddaughter of Herod the Great, who gave orders to have all of the baby boys, two years and under, murdered at the birth of Jesus.**

Drusilla has a historical family tree. A very brutal blood thirsty lineage. Paul now stands before two of the most politically corrupt leaders in all of Israel. This is all a part of God's plan.

She is married to Felix. When Paul gets to Caesarea, he going to give his defense in front of a slave turned governor who hates Jews and has had many executed. And his wife who is the granddaughter of King Herod who it was said of him, he was so brutal that, "it is better to be Herod's swine than his family."

Now, the trial begins. The Sanhedrin's prosecuting attorney, and several elders put on their best judicial prosecution. The Jewish legal team was made up of a blowhard named Tertullus. Tertullus remarks were nothing but carefully crafted baloney and flattery that was designed to sway the case against Paul before he even got a chance to put on a defense.

Tertullus presented his case before Felix: <sup>2b</sup> *We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation.* <sup>3</sup> *Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. (Acts 24-NIV)*

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The charges against Paul were **personal** (this man is a plague and pest to our religion), the charges were **political** (he is the leading religious leader of an unapproved religious faction called the Way. Apparently, their founder is a dead man named Jesus that Rome killed about 30 years ago for treason. Finally, the last charge is **profaning** the temple of Moses. Paul blasphemed our temple.

Today we bring an overwhelming amount of truthful evidence that this man, who has stated he is a Roman citizen, but he is really a Jew citizen first, should be immediately handed over to the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem so we can deal with his treasonous activity that is dividing our people.

And by calling the leader of his sect, Jesus the Messiah he is an insurrectionist worthy of death according to Jewish Law. **Return Paul to us**, since Rome has given the Jews, the freedom to govern their own people. Also, since Rome has given us the authority to bring charges, including the sentence of death against Jews, we will prove to you Felix, that Paul treasonous and blasphemous.

### **Paul is a world-renowned troublemaker.**

<sup>5a</sup> *We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. (Acts 24-NIV)*

**The personal charges**-as for Paul being a plague, a pest it all depends on one's point of view. The Jews wanted to hold on tightly at all costs to their ancient Jewish traditions and Paul was advocate for something new. New creation. 2 Cor 5:17, was Paul's mantra.

Paul's history of stirring up trouble was well documented from all corners of the Roman world. But it was not Paul who stirred up many of the previous riots, but the Jews who caused

Paul trouble as he went from city to city. From synagogue to synagogue announcing that the Messiah Jesus Christ has come to take away the sins of the world. We renounce such heresy!

The Jews could tell stories of trouble that Paul caused in places like Lystra, Corinth and Ephesus.

**Paul was the leader of a dangerous anti-Roman cult.**

*<sup>5b</sup> He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect. (Acts 24-NIV)*

**The political charges** were much more serious. No Roman official wanted to be guilty of allowing illegal activities to cause trouble or disturb the peace of Rome-Pax Romana.

When the court appointed attorney, working for the prosecution the Jews called Paul an instigator of insurrection amongst the Jews in the Roman empire, this immediately got Governor Felix's attention.

This was an exaggeration, just like many of the facts against Jesus were fabricated or exaggerated and how many court cases have been won based on stretching the truth.

The fact that Paul had preached that Jesus was their king and Lord placed Paul declaring a message that sounded like treason against Ceasar. If Paul was the ringleader of a sect of the Nazarenes, then Paul could easily have been found guilty.

**Paul even tried to profane our sacred Jewish temple.**

*<sup>6</sup> and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. (Acts 24-NIV)*

**The charge** was that Paul had profaned and polluted the temple. While Paul only honored God during all of his activities in the temple, the problem for the Sanhedrin was that they could not produce a single witness, so there was no evidence, so there could be no conviction.

Ok, let's go back to our text that we read earlier, and now we pick up the court proceedings in Acts 24:22-26.

*<sup>22</sup> Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case." <sup>23</sup> He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Paul was placed under house arrest; he was not placed in a jail cell. His friends would often come and bring him food, since Paul spent 2 years in Caesarea, he spent some of that time writing the NT letters of Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

*<sup>24</sup> Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Look carefully at the phrase spoke about faith in Jesus Christ. Paul's trial will span a couple of days. His imprisonment will last for over 2 years. During those years Felix will become interested in Paul's teachings about Jesus Christ. In fact, Paul will on one occasion preach a full-blown sermon to Felix and Drusilla.

In fact, in verse 25 we are given a peak at Paul's notes outline Paul used. **Paul gave his testimony in front of Felix and Drusilla.**

And notice Felix's reaction to Paul's message, he became afraid.

*<sup>25</sup> As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." (Acts 24-NIV)*

And like most Roman law, that could be bought, bartered or bantered with Felix was willing to take a bribe to influence his decision.

*<sup>26</sup> At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Felix is into bribes, and he is hoping that Paul will offer money for his release. Now, let me show you what happens over the next 2 years. It is quite a glimpse into the Paul and Felix life together. A governor and a prisoner. A Christ follower and a Christ seeker. An investigator and an instigator. A lover of God and a lover of gold. A governor who had no sense of urgency, and a preacher who declared that the hour was urgent, **judgement is coming!**

*<sup>26</sup> At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.*

*<sup>27</sup> When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison. (Acts 24-NIV)*

Everything stops for Paul; he is now in prison in Roman capital of Caesarea. Paul spends 2 years in Caesarea waiting for Roman justice.

This back and forth between Paul and Felix goes on for 2 years. Bribes. Sermons. Guests to take care of Paul. Changing of the guard. Paul witnessing to those who are on duty as soldiers protect and persecute. Paul prays. Paul preaches. Paul writes letters to believers scattered throughout the Roman world.

It seems that after Paul gives his defense that Felix and Drusilla want to hear more. And they specifically want to hear more about this testimony of faith in Christ.

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Paul is back in the courtroom, not present legal evidence of his innocence from the charges by the Jews, but in a much different environment where 2 seekers, 2 investigators, 2 Christ inquirers are sitting to Paul as he gives his testimony.

So, beyond the legal battle, Paul talks about everyone's battle with sin, self-control, and judgment to come. Paul focuses on 3 topics. Now, I can't help but wonder why Paul goes after these 3. First, Paul describes all our need to have sins forgiven. Second, Paul has the gift of prophecy and discernment, so he is aware these two have some horrible self-control issues to deal with. Finally, Paul does want them to miss what is going in here-we will all stand before God our Maker.

Paul talks about Felix and Drusilla **past** sins.

Paul talks about their **present** lack of self-control.

Paul talks about their **future** judgment.

So that is Paul's sermon in front of Felix and Drusilla. And it is a good sermon for anyone here today. For Frank and Dorothy. For Fred and Danice. Why these 3 topics. Well, let's go one by one and I think it will be clear.

Why does Paul talk about righteousness? To Felix and each of us. The answer is because God assesses the human condition as none of us are righteous. We are all sinners.

The human condition is that we are born into sin. None of us is right with God. And we can do nothing to improve an impossible status God calls sin.

In fact, Paul writes in Romans 3:10, there is none righteous, no not one. In fact, Isaiah the prophet puts in on the real. Sometimes we need just a good old spiritual gut punch. And Isaiah gives us one. Now, I am going to show you several translations. Here are the summary observations in the NLT, NIV, and NET translations.

*We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6a-NLT)*

*We are all like one who is unclean,  
all our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag in your sight.*

*We all wither like a leaf;  
our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

Now that is harsh. But it describes with utter clarity the reality your condition and mine before God.

Our righteousness is like menstrual clothes. We are not right at all. Menstrual clothes, how does make you feel? Is your self-esteem taking a shot? Please friend, do not sugar coat this. From time to time, it is good to have a spiritual slap in the face. A punch in the gut.

In order to soften the blow of the Hebrew text about our depravity in the English text, most translators use some like the NLT and NIV.

All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (Isaiah 64:6-NIV)

This is a reality check. Each of us needs to understand that the human condition is sinful. We are broken. We are messed up people. Every single one of us. Here is why it is important that Paul is preaching this to Felix, Drusilla, to you and me.

Because if we do not understand the depravity of our own souls, we will never under our need for a Savior. But even more, Jesus is the only answer. That is what got Paul here in the first place. Paul's brothers and sisters in Jewish faith, rejected this message.

The savior's name is Jesus. We have to hear the difficult diagnosis before we can get the wonderful cure. The cure is that God so loved us as depraved, sinful, and filthy rags, we matter to him.

All People Matte to God. John 3:16-17, <sup>16</sup>*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3-NIV)*

We all love this verse, but it is the next one that gives us as much hope!

<sup>17</sup>*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3-NIV)*

Jesus took our place on a Roman cross, so we can be reconciled to God. And on that Roman cross God poured out his write on Christ, so he would never pour it out on us.

Here is glimpse of those moments in Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

### **The hammer slings. The skin rips. The savior yells.**

For days, 5-inch nails sat in a storage bin. The cross beam had been leaning against a wall. A wooden sign positioned on a table would soon hang above the condemned. The end was near. It was Friday.

**A tool of torture became symbol of hope.**

Why is the cross the symbol of hope? To find the answer, look no further than the cross itself. The design could not be simpler.

**One beam horizontal. One beam vertical.**

One beam reaches out like God's love. The other beam reaches up-as does God's holiness.

One beam represents the width of his love. The other beam reflects the height of his holiness.

The cross is the place where God forgive, you and me, without lowering his standard of holiness.

You wonder, how did that happen? God placed our sin on his Son Jesus and punished it there. God is hanging on a cross.

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24-NIV)

Let me describe it this way. God is on his throne. You are on the earth. And between you and God, suspended between you and heaven, is Christ on the cross. Your sins were placed on Jesus. God, who punishes sin, releases his wrath and anger on your sins. The wrath and anger of God fall upon Jesus.

Jesus took the blow. Jesus took the 5-inch iron nails. Jesus endured the suffering and pain for 6 hours. Since Christ is between you and God, Jesus is punished, and you are pardoned.

Or another way to say it, **Jesus Christ hung crucified between you and God. Jesus is punished and you are pardoned.**

Jesus stretched out one hand to the right, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. Jesus stretched out the other hand to the left, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. **Jesus did this so you would know Jesus died loving you.**

*<sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. (John 12-NIV).*

**Growth in Christ takes off when we practice delayed gratification.**

Paul knew that Felix and Drusilla lived a life with little or no self-control. So, he calls them out. We don't have the details, but the guy who God would often use to reveal the human heart, did not miss an opportunity here. Let me suggest that you consider what the bible has to say about self-control. One of my favorite verses paints this picture:

*Like a city whose walls are broken through  
is a person who lacks self-control. (Prov 25:28-NIV)*

The bible is filled with the stories of people who possessed self-control and those who failed miserably. Just thinking about some make me laugh. Joseph said no to sexual temptation. David said yes!

Solomon had so many wives, we snicker every time we think about 700 weddings. A palace full of mothers-in-laws. And all of those kids running around in diapers.

Samson couldn't keep a secret about his supernatural strength and Jacob couldn't help himself in stealing his brother's birth right.

Daily you make 100's of choices that are filtered by self-control or lack of it. You will win with self-control, or you will live with an unrestrained appetite for the flesh.

The magna carta verse on self-control is found in the book of Galatians. Paul's letter to the Galatians is an invitation to Christ followers to drop their chains. And walk out of a prison of self-indulgence. You can be free from the tyranny that your cravings have over you. Not freedom from cravings, but freedom to make right choices about cravings. You do not have to be held captive to your abysmal efforts at self-control. Paul tells us we are no longer a slave to anything. If you read the book of Galatians, it takes about 10-15 minutes. Eventually you run into this profound truth.

*You are no longer a slave. (Galatians 4:7-NIV)*

Anybody looking for freedom? Anybody want to improve your capacity to activate self-control? I can't speak for you, but I need every verse, every argument, every illustration, and every word of encouragement that Paul offers to the Galatians, so I can be free.

Anybody else? Are you with me?

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And by calling the leader of his sect, Jesus the Messiah he is an insurrectionist worthy of death according to Jewish Law. **Return Paul to us**, since Rome has given the Jews, the freedom to govern their own people. Also, since Rome has given us the authority to bring charges, including the sentence of death against Jews, we will prove to you Felix, that Paul treasonous and blasphemous.

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<sup>5a</sup> *We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. (Acts 24-NIV)*

**The personal charges**-as for Paul being a plague, a pest it all depends on one's point of view. The Jews wanted to hold on tightly at all costs to their ancient Jewish traditions and Paul was advocate for something new. New creation. 2 Cor 5:17, was Paul's mantra.

Paul's history of stirring up trouble was well documented from all corners of the Roman world. But it was not Paul who stirred up many of the previous riots, but the Jews who caused

Paul trouble as he went from city to city. From synagogue to synagogue announcing that the Messiah Jesus Christ has come to take away the sins of the world. We renounce such heresy!

The Jews could tell stories of trouble that Paul caused in places like Lystra, Corinth and Ephesus.

**Paul was the leader of a dangerous anti-Roman cult.**

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And notice Felix's reaction to Paul's message, he became afraid.

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Paul is back in the courtroom, not present legal evidence of his innocence from the charges by the Jews, but in a much different environment where 2 seekers, 2 investigators, 2 Christ inquirers are sitting to Paul as he gives his testimony.

So, beyond the legal battle, Paul talks about everyone's battle with sin, self-control, and judgment to come. Paul focuses on 3 topics. Now, I can't help but wonder why Paul goes after these 3. First, Paul describes all our need to have sins forgiven. Second, Paul has the gift of prophecy and discernment, so he is aware these two have some horrible self-control issues to deal with. Finally, Paul does want them to miss what is going in here-we will all stand before God our Maker.

Paul talks about Felix and Drusilla **past** sins.

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So that is Paul's sermon in front of Felix and Drusilla. And it is a good sermon for anyone here today. For Frank and Dorothy. For Fred and Danice. Why these 3 topics. Well, let's go one by one and I think it will be clear.

Why does Paul talk about righteousness? To Felix and each of us. The answer is because God assesses the human condition as none of us are righteous. We are all sinners.

The human condition is that we are born into sin. None of us is right with God. And we can do nothing to improve an impossible status God calls sin.

In fact, Paul writes in Romans 3:10, there is none righteous, no not one. In fact, Isaiah the prophet puts in on the real. Sometimes we need just a good old spiritual gut punch. And Isaiah gives us one. Now, I am going to show you several translations. Here are the summary observations in the NLT, NIV, and NET translations.

*We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6a-NLT)*

*We are all like one who is unclean,  
all our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag in your sight.*

*We all wither like a leaf;  
our sins carry us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6-NET)*

Now that is harsh. But it describes with utter clarity the reality your condition and mine before God.

Our righteousness is like menstrual clothes. We are not right at all. Menstrual clothes, how does make you feel? Is your self-esteem taking a shot? Please friend, do not sugar coat this. From time to time, it is good to have a spiritual slap in the face. A punch in the gut.

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All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (Isaiah 64:6-NIV)

This is a reality check. Each of us needs to understand that the human condition is sinful. We are broken. We are messed up people. Every single one of us. Here is why it is important that Paul is preaching this to Felix, Drusilla, to you and me.

Because if we do not understand the depravity of our own souls, we will never under our need for a Savior. But even more, Jesus is the only answer. That is what got Paul here in the first place. Paul's brothers and sisters in Jewish faith, rejected this message.

The savior's name is Jesus. We have to hear the difficult diagnosis before we can get the wonderful cure. The cure is that God so loved us as depraved, sinful, and filthy rags, we matter to him.

All People Matte to God. John 3:16-17, <sup>16</sup>*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3-NIV)*

We all love this verse, but it is the next one that gives us as much hope!

<sup>17</sup>*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3-NIV)*

Jesus took our place on a Roman cross, so we can be reconciled to God. And on that Roman cross God poured out his write on Christ, so he would never pour it out on us.

Here is glimpse of those moments in Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

### **The hammer slings. The skin rips. The savior yells.**

For days, 5-inch nails sat in a storage bin. The cross beam had been leaning against a wall. A wooden sign positioned on a table would soon hang above the condemned. The end was near. It was Friday.

**A tool of torture became symbol of hope.**

Why is the cross the symbol of hope? To find the answer, look no further than the cross itself. The design could not be simpler.

**One beam horizontal. One beam vertical.**

One beam reaches out like God's love. The other beam reaches up-as does God's holiness.

One beam represents the width of his love. The other beam reflects the height of his holiness.

The cross is the place where God forgive, you and me, without lowering his standard of holiness.

You wonder, how did that happen? God placed our sin on his Son Jesus and punished it there. God is hanging on a cross.

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24-NIV)

Let me describe it this way. God is on his throne. You are on the earth. And between you and God, suspended between you and heaven, is Christ on the cross. Your sins were placed on Jesus. God, who punishes sin, releases his wrath and anger on your sins. The wrath and anger of God fall upon Jesus.

Jesus took the blow. Jesus took the 5-inch iron nails. Jesus endured the suffering and pain for 6 hours. Since Christ is between you and God, Jesus is punished, and you are pardoned.

Or another way to say it, **Jesus Christ hung crucified between you and God. Jesus is punished and you are pardoned.**

Jesus stretched out one hand to the right, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. Jesus stretched out the other hand to the left, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. **Jesus did this so you would know Jesus died loving you.**

*<sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. (John 12-NIV).*

**Growth in Christ takes off when we practice delayed gratification.**

Paul knew that Felix and Drusilla lived a life with little or no self-control. So, he calls them out. We don't have the details, but the guy who God would often use to reveal the human heart, did not miss an opportunity here. Let me suggest that you consider what the bible has to say about self-control. One of my favorite verses paints this picture:

*Like a city whose walls are broken through  
is a person who lacks self-control. (Prov 25:28-NIV)*

The bible is filled with the stories of people who possessed self-control and those who failed miserably. Just thinking about some make me laugh. Joseph said no to sexual temptation. David said yes!

Solomon had so many wives, we snicker every time we think about 700 weddings. A palace full of mothers-in-laws. And all of those kids running around in diapers.

Samson couldn't keep a secret about his supernatural strength and Jacob couldn't help himself in stealing his brother's birth right.

Daily you make 100's of choices that are filtered by self-control or lack of it. You will win with self-control, or you will live with an unrestrained appetite for the flesh.

The magna carta verse on self-control is found in the book of Galatians. Paul's letter to the Galatians is an invitation to Christ followers to drop their chains. And walk out of a prison of self-indulgence. You can be free from the tyranny that your cravings have over you. Not freedom from cravings, but freedom to make right choices about cravings. You do not have to be held captive to your abysmal efforts at self-control. Paul tells us we are no longer a slave to anything. If you read the book of Galatians, it takes about 10-15 minutes. Eventually you run into this profound truth.

*You are no longer a slave. (Galatians 4:7-NIV)*

Anybody looking for freedom? Anybody want to improve your capacity to activate self-control? I can't speak for you, but I need every verse, every argument, every illustration, and every word of encouragement that Paul offers to the Galatians, so I can be free.

Anybody else? Are you with me?

Now, what really shook-up Felix was when Paul starting to talk about God's coming judgement. Personal judgement and global at the end of the age. **Felix became afraid when he heard about God's judgment to come.**

*<sup>46</sup> Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.  
(Matthew 25-NIV)*

## **Jesus suggests that you do not have to be anxious about The End.**

In John 14, Jesus reminds his disciples that his end and their beginning is about to happen. Jesus had told his disciples he would die soon, in the previous chapter (13:3). This caused the disciples to become anxious. Jesus tells the disciples that when I leave, you cannot come with me. Upon hearing this the disciples melted down into panic. Thomas had a panic attack. Phillip became OCD. Peter became fearful. James and John, the sons of thunder became angry.

The disciples had trusted Jesus to put them in a boat of salvation, now they needed to trust him as the boat traveled through some storms and shakings. Every storm or shaking will cause us to throw up or throw in the towel or fill our sails with fresh faith for the journey. Jesus immediately, seeing their anxiety offers them a promise to anchor to. <sup>2</sup> *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?* <sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)*

Let's pause for a moment and move from Jesus promise of his return, to some facts about Jesus' return. These facts about **The End** perhaps, will lower your RPMs of anxiety about Jesus' return.

### **The return of Christ comes as a packaged deal: rapture and second coming!**

**Christ life>> Church Age>> Rapture>> Tribulation>> 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming!**

Whether a seasoned Christ follower or new to the faith, let go of your anxiety about what will happen at the end. The return of Christ is not formula to be figured out or a code to be broken, it is a day to be anticipated. God is doing some shakings. It is all a part of a Sovereign plan that has been in the making since the beginning of time. Looking closely at John 14, we can anchor to 3 solid truths about Jesus' return. The rapture. Give to Christ your anxieties (John 14:1)

### **Will you serve God with your whole heart, even if He rarely explains the 'Why'?**

## The Holy Spirit Acts 24

Pastor Ken

February 1, 2026

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The book of Acts is about the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural transformations that go along with unlimited power.

One of the great contributions that Rome has made to the modern world is their system of laws and justice. In ancient times Rome considered it their responsibility to protect **every citizen** and to provide Roman **legal protection** for them.

While Paul was in Jerusalem, the Roman police interrogated Paul as to why the crowd was so angry at him and then shockingly, they find out to their surprise, **Paul is a not just a Jew, but also a Roman citizen.**

*<sup>24</sup> The commander ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and interrogated in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this.*

*<sup>25</sup> As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?" (Acts 22-NIV)*

After 20 years and 17,000 miles and several missionary journeys and adventures Paul's travels now come to a **screeching halt**. Paul puts the car in park in Jerusalem and raises the park break. Paul returns home to Jerusalem and runs into a buzzsaw of **Jewish Christians** who are bent on making their new faith in Christ work in concert with Moses and the law.

*<sup>20b</sup> Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law." (Acts 21-NIV)*

A marriage of the Messiah and Moses. A marriage of love for Jesus Our Lord and love for the Law, all 613 them.

After trying to appease the Jewish legalists, Paul stirs up trouble with the Jewish Supreme (Sanhedrin) court and Paul barely gets out of Jerusalem alive.

*23 Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, "Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. 24 Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix." (Acts 23-NIV)*

Paul is placed into the **witness protection program** and surrounded by over 470 soldiers and sharp shooters as he is escorted to the Roman capital in Israel-Caesarea.

An overnight escape from Jerusalem lands Paul 61 miles north to the Roman capital of Isreal-Caesarea.

5 days after Paul, who has been locked away under lock and key, Paul is brought out to meet his accusers. The high priest Ananias along with several handpicked Sanhedrin and a hired gun for an attorney are summoned by Felix the governor to make the case against Paul.

Roman government is run by the Caesar at the top. The nation of Israel has a king who is at the top of judicial law, the most famous was king Herod at the time of Jesus. And then there were governors, who administered Roman law over a region such as Caesarea.

The governor over Caesarea was Felix. Not Felix the cat. Not Felix Unger. Not Felix Hernandez.

His name was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife's name was Drusilla.

### **Who was Marcus Antonias Felix and his wife Drusilla?**

He was born a slave and then freed years later. **Felix was the only person in Roman history to go from being a slave to a governor.** History tells us that Felix ruled Judea with unbelievable treachery killing many Jews. The Jews hated Felix. This is the same governorship that Pontus Pilate held 20 years before when Jesus was tried and executed.

His wife's name was Drusilla. She was a Jew. This was Felix's 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, and the relationship came about because of adultery.

**Drusilla was the Jewish great-granddaughter of Herod the Great, who gave orders to have all of the baby boys, two years and under, murdered at the birth of Jesus.**

Drusilla has a historical family tree. A very brutal blood thirsty lineage. Paul now stands before two of the most politically corrupt leaders in all of Israel. This is all a part of God's plan.

She is married to Felix. When Paul gets to Caesarea, he going to give his defense in front of a slave turned governor who hates Jews and has had many executed. And his wife who is the granddaughter of King Herod who it was said of him, he was so brutal that, "it is better to be Herod's swine than his family."

Now, the trial begins. The Sanhedrin's prosecuting attorney, and several elders put on their best judicial prosecution. The Jewish legal team was made up of a blowhard named Tertullus. Tertullus remarks were nothing but carefully crafted baloney and flattery that was designed to sway the case against Paul before he even got a chance to put on a defense.

Tertullus presented his case before Felix: <sup>2b</sup> *We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation.* <sup>3</sup> *Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. (Acts 24-NIV)*

The customary flattery, exaggeration and influence pedaling was a part of Roman law practice and legal hearings. After all, before you can win your case, you have to win the judge.

The professional baloney slicer-Tertullian put on quite a prosecution against Paul.

The prosecutions' accusations against the Apostle Paul were no more accurate and truer than the exaggerated flattery that was swallowed hook-line-and-sinker by Governor Felix.

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In order to soften the blow of the Hebrew text about our depravity in the English text, most translators use some like the NLT and NIV.

All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (Isaiah 64:6-NIV)

This is a reality check. Each of us needs to understand that the human condition is sinful. We are broken. We are messed up people. Every single one of us. Here is why it is important that Paul is preaching this to Felix, Drusilla, to you and me.

Because if we do not understand the depravity of our own souls, we will never under our need for a Savior. But even more, Jesus is the only answer. That is what got Paul here in the first place. Paul's brothers and sisters in Jewish faith, rejected this message.

The savior's name is Jesus. We have to hear the difficult diagnosis before we can get the wonderful cure. The cure is that God so loved us as depraved, sinful, and filthy rags, we matter to him.

All People Matte to God. John 3:16-17, <sup>16</sup>*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3-NIV)*

We all love this verse, but it is the next one that gives us as much hope!

<sup>17</sup>*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3-NIV)*

Jesus took our place on a Roman cross, so we can be reconciled to God. And on that Roman cross God poured out his write on Christ, so he would never pour it out on us.

Here is glimpse of those moments in Jerusalem 2000 years ago.

### **The hammer slings. The skin rips. The savior yells.**

For days, 5-inch nails sat in a storage bin. The cross beam had been leaning against a wall. A wooden sign positioned on a table would soon hang above the condemned. The end was near. It was Friday.

**A tool of torture became symbol of hope.**

Why is the cross the symbol of hope? To find the answer, look no further than the cross itself. The design could not be simpler.

**One beam horizontal. One beam vertical.**

One beam reaches out like God's love. The other beam reaches up-as does God's holiness.

One beam represents the width of his love. The other beam reflects the height of his holiness.

The cross is the place where God forgive, you and me, without lowering his standard of holiness.

You wonder, how did that happen? God placed our sin on his Son Jesus and punished it there. God is hanging on a cross.

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24-NIV)

Let me describe it this way. God is on his throne. You are on the earth. And between you and God, suspended between you and heaven, is Christ on the cross. Your sins were placed on Jesus. God, who punishes sin, releases his wrath and anger on your sins. The wrath and anger of God fall upon Jesus.

Jesus took the blow. Jesus took the 5-inch iron nails. Jesus endured the suffering and pain for 6 hours. Since Christ is between you and God, Jesus is punished, and you are pardoned.

Or another way to say it, **Jesus Christ hung crucified between you and God. Jesus is punished and you are pardoned.**

Jesus stretched out one hand to the right, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. Jesus stretched out the other hand to the left, and a 5-inch iron nail went in. **Jesus did this so you would know Jesus died loving you.**

*<sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. (John 12-NIV).*

**Growth in Christ takes off when we practice delayed gratification.**

Paul knew that Felix and Drusilla lived a life with little or no self-control. So, he calls them out. We don't have the details, but the guy who God would often use to reveal the human heart, did not miss an opportunity here. Let me suggest that you consider what the bible has to say about self-control. One of my favorite verses paints this picture:

*Like a city whose walls are broken through  
is a person who lacks self-control. (Prov 25:28-NIV)*

The bible is filled with the stories of people who possessed self-control and those who failed miserably. Just thinking about some make me laugh. Joseph said no to sexual temptation. David said yes!

Solomon had so many wives, we snicker every time we think about 700 weddings. A palace full of mothers-in-laws. And all of those kids running around in diapers.

Samson couldn't keep a secret about his supernatural strength and Jacob couldn't help himself in stealing his brother's birth right.

Daily you make 100's of choices that are filtered by self-control or lack of it. You will win with self-control, or you will live with an unrestrained appetite for the flesh.

The magna carta verse on self-control is found in the book of Galatians. Paul's letter to the Galatians is an invitation to Christ followers to drop their chains. And walk out of a prison of self-indulgence. You can be free from the tyranny that your cravings have over you. Not freedom from cravings, but freedom to make right choices about cravings. You do not have to be held captive to your abysmal efforts at self-control. Paul tells us we are no longer a slave to anything. If you read the book of Galatians, it takes about 10-15 minutes. Eventually you run into this profound truth.

*You are no longer a slave. (Galatians 4:7-NIV)*

Anybody looking for freedom? Anybody want to improve your capacity to activate self-control? I can't speak for you, but I need every verse, every argument, every illustration, and every word of encouragement that Paul offers to the Galatians, so I can be free.

Anybody else? Are you with me?

Now, what really shook-up Felix was when Paul starting to talk about God's coming judgement. Personal judgement and global at the end of the age. **Felix became afraid when he heard about God's judgment to come.**

*<sup>46</sup> Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.  
(Matthew 25-NIV)*

## **Jesus suggests that you do not have to be anxious about The End.**

In John 14, Jesus reminds his disciples that his end and their beginning is about to happen. Jesus had told his disciples he would die soon, in the previous chapter (13:3). This caused the disciples to become anxious. Jesus tells the disciples that when I leave, you cannot come with me. Upon hearing this the disciples melted down into panic. Thomas had a panic attack. Phillip became OCD. Peter became fearful. James and John, the sons of thunder became angry.

The disciples had trusted Jesus to put them in a boat of salvation, now they needed to trust him as the boat traveled through some storms and shakings. Every storm or shaking will cause us to throw up or throw in the towel or fill our sails with fresh faith for the journey. Jesus immediately, seeing their anxiety offers them a promise to anchor to. <sup>2</sup> *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?* <sup>3</sup> *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)*

Let's pause for a moment and move from Jesus promise of his return, to some facts about Jesus' return. These facts about **The End** perhaps, will lower your RPMs of anxiety about Jesus' return.

### **The return of Christ comes as a packaged deal: rapture and second coming!**

**Christ life>> Church Age>> Rapture>> Tribulation>> 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming!**

Whether a seasoned Christ follower or new to the faith, let go of your anxiety about what will happen at the end. The return of Christ is not formula to be figured out or a code to be broken, it is a day to be anticipated. God is doing some shakings. It is all a part of a Sovereign plan that has been in the making since the beginning of time. Looking closely at John 14, we can anchor to 3 solid truths about Jesus' return. The rapture. Give to Christ your anxieties (John 14:1)

### **Will you serve God with your whole heart, even if He rarely explains the 'Why'?**