

Executive Pastor Stephen Chang

Series: *The Word of God Continues to Spread and Flourish*

Sermon Title: *Convicted but Not Converted – Acts 24*

Big Idea: You can be deeply stirred by the truth of God — even convicted by it — and still walk away unchanged.

Fall Term – Week 9 of 12



Opening Prayer & Icebreaker: What's something you tend to "put off" or delay? (e.g., chores, exercise, difficult conversations) How do you usually feel afterward?

Read and Reflect on Acts 24:1-27

¹ Five days later the high priest Ananias went down to Caesarea with some of the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and they brought their charges against Paul before the governor. ² When Paul was called in, Tertullus presented his case before Felix: "We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation. ³ Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. ⁴ But in order not to weary you further, I would request that you be kind enough to hear us briefly.

⁵ "We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect ⁶ and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. [⁷] ⁸ By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him."

⁹ The other Jews joined in the accusation, asserting that these things were true.

¹⁰ When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied: "I know that for a number of years you have been a judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense. ¹¹ You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. ¹² My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. ¹³ And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me. ¹⁴ However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, ¹⁵ and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. ¹⁶ So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

¹⁷ "After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings. ¹⁸ I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple courts doing this. There was no crowd with me, nor was I involved in any disturbance. ¹⁹ But there are some Jews from the province of Asia, who ought to be here before you and bring charges if they have anything against me. ²⁰ Or these who are here should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin— ²¹ unless it was this one thing I shouted as I stood in their presence: 'It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.'"

²² Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. "When Lysias the commander comes," he said, "I will decide your case." ²³ 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.

²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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." ²⁶ At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.

²⁷ 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.

Sermon and Scripture Application Discussion:

Convicted but Not Converted (Acts 24:1-27)

1. Read **Acts 24:1-27**. Why do you think people can be moved by God's truth and yet remain unchanged?

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Different Circumstances, Same Passion.

2. What stands out to you about Paul's attitude during his imprisonment and trial?
3. How does his response show that his calling didn't change even when his circumstances did?

Three Truths that Paul Preached

4. Read **Romans 3:10** and **Isaiah 64:6**. Why is understanding our own sin and God's holiness essential to understanding the gospel?
5. Read **Proverbs 25:28**. Why do you think Paul emphasized self-control to Felix and Drusilla? In what ways does a lack of self-control show up in our lives today?
6. Read **Hebrews 9:27** and **Romans 14:10**. How does knowing that Jesus will judge both the living and the dead motivate you to live differently today?

In Conclusion

7. Read **Romans 8:1**. How does this motivate you to righteousness, self-control and joyful living?

Closing Prayer:

"Lord, we don't want to be like Felix—afraid but unchanged. When your Spirit convicts us, help us respond in faith, not delay. Make us righteous in Christ, disciplined by your Spirit, and ready for your coming judgment. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Faith in Action:

- Welcome Christina Faust, Student Ministry Associate! Contact Christina christinaf@coswayne.org to welcome her and serve individually or as a Community Group in Student Min to help disciple our students.
- November 11, 12 PM, Adult Fellowship Luncheon, Gym
- November 15, 12 PM, College Friendsgiving, Parsonage
- November 16, 11:45 AM, Concert of Prayer for India, Gym