

## Lesson III.

## PAUL A PRISONER—BEFORE FELIX

October 17, 1909

**BETWEEN THE LESSONS**—The Lesson follows immediately upon that for last Sabbath.**GOLDEN TEXT**—Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.—Acts 24: 16.Memorize vs. 25, 26. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Acts 24: 10-27. Study Acts 24.

10 <sup>1</sup> Then Paul, after that the governor had beckoned unto him to speak, <sup>2</sup> answered, Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation, I do <sup>3</sup> the more cheerfully answer for myself:

11 <sup>4</sup> Because that thou mayest understand, that there are yet but twelve days since I went up <sup>5</sup> to Jerusalem for to worship.

12 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with any man, neither raising up the people, neither in the synagogues, nor in the city:

13 Neither can they prove <sup>6</sup> the things whereof they now accuse me.

14 But this I confess unto thee, that after the <sup>7</sup> way which they call <sup>8</sup> heresy, so <sup>9</sup> worship I the God of <sup>10</sup> my fathers, believing all things which are <sup>11</sup> written in the law and in the prophets:

15 And have hope toward God, which <sup>12</sup> they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection <sup>13</sup> of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

16 <sup>14</sup> And herein do I exercise myself, to have <sup>15</sup> always a conscience void of offence toward God, and <sup>16</sup> toward men.

17 Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.

18 <sup>17</sup> Whereupon certain Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, <sup>18</sup> neither with multitude, nor with tumult.

19 Who ought to have been here before thee, and <sup>19</sup> object, if they had <sup>20</sup> ought against me.

**Revised Version**—<sup>1</sup> And when the governor; <sup>2</sup> Paul; <sup>3</sup> cheerfully make my defence; <sup>4</sup> seeing that thou canst take knowledge, that it is not more than twelve; <sup>5</sup> to worship at Jerusalem: and neither in the temple did they find me disputing with any man or stirring up a crowd, nor in the synagogues; <sup>6</sup> to thee; <sup>7</sup> Way (large W); <sup>8</sup> a sect; <sup>9</sup> serve; <sup>10</sup> our; <sup>11</sup> according to the law, and which are written in the prophets: having hope; <sup>12</sup> these also themselves look for; <sup>13</sup> Omit of the dead; <sup>14</sup> Herein do I also; <sup>15</sup> Omit always; <sup>16</sup> men alway; <sup>17</sup> Amidst which they found; <sup>18</sup> with no crowd, nor yet with tumult: but there were certain Jews from Asia—who ought; <sup>19</sup> to make accusation; <sup>20</sup> ought; <sup>21</sup> men themselves say what wrong-doing they found, when I stood; <sup>22</sup> before; <sup>23</sup> But Felix, having more exact knowledge concerning the Way; <sup>24</sup> saying; <sup>25</sup> determine your matter; <sup>26</sup> gave order to the centurion, that he should be kept in charge, and should have indulgence; and not to forbid any of his friends to minister unto him; <sup>27</sup> But; <sup>28</sup> Omit when; <sup>29</sup> and sent; <sup>30</sup> Jesus; <sup>31</sup> and; <sup>32</sup> the judgement; <sup>33</sup> was terrified; <sup>34</sup> thee unto me; <sup>35</sup> withal; <sup>36</sup> would be given; <sup>37</sup> Omit five words; <sup>38</sup> also; <sup>39</sup> when two years were fulfilled, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and desiring to gain favour with the Jews, Felix left Paul in bonds.

**Daily Readings**—(Courtney, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Paul before Felix, Acts 24: 1-16. T.—Paul before Felix, Acts 24: 17-27. W.—Reference to the journey, Rom. 15: 17-27. Th.—A good conscience, Heb. 13: 13-21. F.—“Void of offence”, 2 Cor. 4: 1-7. S.—Promise of help, Isa. 41: 8-14. 8.—A bold face, Isa. 50: 5-11.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Paul was charged before Felix with: (1) “sedition” (v. 5), that is, stirring up rebellion against the Roman Government; (2) “heresy” (v. 14), or opposition to the Jewish religion; (3) sacrilege (v. 6), in attempting to “profane the temple”, vs. 1-9.

**I. A COMPLETE DENIAL.**—10, 11. Then Paul . . . answered; the accusations of his enemies (see above). Many years a judge; about five years. Part of Felix' duties was to act as judge. This nation; the Jews. **Cheerfully make my defence** (Rev. Ver.); because Felix, from his long residence amongst the Jews, would fully understand the case. **Twelve days**; and Felix could



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easily find out all that Paul had been doing during that short time. **Worship** (Rev. Ver.). A complete answer to all three charges,—reverence, not rebellion; obedience to the laws of Moses, not heresy; worship, not profanity.

12, 13. **Neither in the temple** (Rev. Ver.). See ch. 21: 26. **Disputing**; arguing with the Jews. **Stirring up a crowd** (Rev. Ver.). It was the Jews themselves who had done this, ch. 21: 27. **Synagogues**; Jewish places of worship, of which there were great numbers in Jerusalem. **Neither can they prove, etc.** To fling about wild accusations is one thing; to back them up by solid