

Lesson VII.

PAUL BEFORE FELIX

May 17, 1903

Acts 24: 10-16, 24-26. Study vs. 10-27. Commit to memory vs. 14-16. Read Acts 24: 1-9.

10 ¹ Then Paul, after that the governor had beckoned unto him to speak, ² answered, Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation, I do ³ the more cheerfully ⁴ answer for myself:

11 ⁵ Because that thou mayest understand, that there are yet but twelve days since I went up to ⁶ Jerusalem for to worship.

12 And ⁷ they neither found me in the temple disputing with any man, ⁸ neither raising up the people, neither in the synagogues, nor in the city:

13 Neither can they prove ⁹ the things whereof they now accuse me.

14 But this I confess unto thee, that after the ¹⁰ way which they call ¹¹ heresy, so worship I the God of ¹² my fathers, believing all things which are ¹³ written in the law and ¹⁴ in the prophets:

15 ¹⁵ And have hope toward God, which ¹⁶ they

Revised Version—1 And when the governor; ² Paul; ³ Omit the more; ⁴ make my defence; ⁵ Seeing that thou canst take knowledge that it is not more than; ⁶ worship at Jerusalem; ⁷ neither in the temple did they find me; ⁸ nor stirring up a crowd, nor; ⁹ to thee; ¹⁰ Way; ¹¹ a sect so serve I; ¹² our; ¹³ according to; ¹⁴ which are written; ¹⁵ Having; ¹⁶ these also themselves look for; ¹⁷ Omit of the dead; ¹⁸ Herein do I also; ¹⁹ Omit always; ²⁰ But; ²¹ when; ²² and sent; ²³ Jesus; ²⁴ the; ²⁵ was terrified; ²⁶ thee unto me; ²⁷ withal; ²⁸ would be; ²⁹ Omit that he might loose him.

GOLDEN TEXT

Ps. 23: 4. I will fear no evil: for thou art with me.

DAILY READINGS

M. —Acts 24: 1-9.	The accusation.
T. —Acts 24: 10-16.	} Paul before Felix.
W. —Acts 24: 17-27.	
Th. —John 4: 19-24.	True worship.
F. —Job 19: 23-29.	Resurrection believed.
S. —Rom. 15: 25-33.	Reference to journey.
S. —Heb. 4: 6-13.	The searching Word.

CATECHISM

Q. 78. What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?
A. The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbour's good name.

TIME AND PLACE

May of 58 A.D. Caesarea, a town on the coast of Palestine, about 23 miles south of Mount Carmel. It was built by Herod the Great, and named by him after his patron, Augustus Caesar. It became the Roman capital of Palestine.

LESSON PLAN

- I. The Defence Offered, 10-16.
By Paul against the charges of the Jews.
- II. The Decision Postponed, 24-26.
By Felix in the hope of a bribe.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 276; 67 (Ps. Sel.); 260; 256; 533; 584.

EXPOSITION

Connecting Links—The chief captain, Lysias, sent Paul down to Caesarea for trial, ch. 23: 23-35. There, before Felix, the governor, the chief priests and elders brought their charges against him through Tertullus, a hired advocate, vs. 1-9. The lesson gives us Paul's reply and also an account of further appearances of Paul before the governor.

I. The Defence Offered, 10-16.

V. 10. *Then Paul.* He was beginning his third defence. The two former had been made before the Jews, ch. 21: 40 and ch. 22: 30. Now he stands before a heathen judge. *The governor; Felix,* ch. 23: 24. He had once been a slave in Rome, but liberated by Claudius, he rose to be governor of Judaea. *Beckoned unto him;* gave him a sign of permission to reply to Tertullus. *Many years;* six or seven years, a longer term of office than usual. *A judge.* A Roman governor was also a judge in his province. *I do*

cheerfully make my defence (Rev. Ver.). His long residence among the Jews would enable Felix to understand better than a stranger, Paul's statements relating to his presence in Jerusalem.

V. 11. *Seeing that thou canst take knowledge* (Rev. Ver.). The time was so short, that Felix could easily ascertain the events which had occurred. *That it is not more than twelve days* (Rev. Ver.). The days may be thus reckoned: the first day Paul arrived at Jerusalem (ch. 21: 15); the second he visited James and the elders (ch. 21: 18). He spent a part of seven days, say five, in the temple where the tumult took place, ch. 21: 27. The next day he was before the Jewish council (ch. 22: 30); on the following day, owing to the conspiracy, he was taken to Caesarea (ch. 23: 23), arriving on the tenth day. He appeared before Felix on the thirteenth day. The five days of ch. 24: 1 are reckoned from the day of the conspiracy.