

## Lesson III.

## PAUL A PRISONER—BEFORE FELIX

October 17, 1909

Acts 24 : 10-27. Study Acts 24—Memory Verses, 25, 26.

**Golden Text**—Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.—Acts 24 : 16.



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

11 Because that thou mayest understand, that there are yet but twelve days since I went up 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 the things whereof they now accuse me.

14 But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call here-y, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets :

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

16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

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

18 Whereupon certain Jews from A'sia found me purified in the temple, neither with multitude, nor with tumult.

19 Who ought to have been here before thee, and object, if they had ought against me.

20 Or else let these same here say, if they have found any evil doing in me, while I stood before the council,

21 Except it be for this one voice, that I cried standing among them, Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day,

22 And when Felix heard these things, having more perfect knowledge of that way, he deferred them, and said, When Lys'ias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter.

23 And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him.

24 And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time ; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

26 He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him : wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him.

27 But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room : and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

Five days after Paul arrived in Cæsarea, the high priest and some of the elders from the Council at Jerusalem also came, to accuse Paul before Felix. They brought with them a Roman lawyer, named Tertullus, to speak for them to the governor against Paul.

After Tertullus had finished speaking, Felix gave Paul permission to speak for himself, and Paul said, " It is only twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship, and neither in the temple nor in the city did they find me trying to stir up the people, neither can they prove the things they say against me. But this I will confess, that I worship God in a different way from theirs, although I believe everything that is written in the scriptures. And I expect the dead, both bad and good, to rise up at the last day, as

the Jews themselves say that they will ; and believing this, I try always to do nothing that my conscience says is wrong towards either God or man.

" Now, after being away from Jerusalem for many years, when I came back to bring an offering to God, and gifts to the poor, some Jews from Asia found me in the temple, yet not with a multitude nor causing any disturbance. These are the ones who should have been here to tell, if they had anything against me. Or, let the Jews who are here now, say if they found any evil in me, when I was brought before the Council, unless they will say that it was wrong for me to preach about the resurrection of the dead."

After Paul had spoken these things, Felix would hear no more, and sent the Jews away,