

“Paul Uses His Roman Citizenship To Appeal Directly To Caesar!”

Acts 25:6-12

After He (Festus) Stayed Among Them (Sanhedrin Council) not more than Eight or Ten Days, (then) He went down (back) to Caesarea (Maritima). And the next day, sitting on the Judgment Seat, He (Festus) Commanded Paul to be brought. When He (Governor) had come, the Jews (Inner Circle of the Sanhedrin Council) Who had come down from Jerusalem stood about and Laid Many Serious Complaints against Paul, which They Could Not Prove, while He (Paul) answered for Himself, “Neither Against the Law of the Jews, ^{1a} Nor Against the Temple, ^{1b} Nor Against Caesar ^{1c} Have I Offended in Anything at All.”¹ But Festus, ‘Wanting To Do the Jews a (Personal) Favor’, answered Paul and said, “Are You willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be Judged Before Me (As Governor) Concerning These Things?” So, Paul said, “I Stand at Caesar's Judgment Seat, where I Ought To Be Judged. To the Jews I Have Done No Wrong,¹ as You very well know. For If I Am An Offender,¹ Or Have Committed Anything Deserving of Death,^{1a-1c} I Do Not Object to Dying; But If There Is Nothing in These Things Of Which These Men Accuse Me, No One Can Deliver Me (Lawfully Over) To Them. (Therefore), I (Paul - Make My Citizen's Privilege To) Appeal (Directly) to Caesar (Himself)!” Then Festus (As Roman Governor), When He ‘Had Conferred With’ the Council (Inner Circle of the Sanhedrin), answered, “You (Paul - As A Roman Citizen) Have (Directly) Appealed to Caesar (Himself)? (Therefore), To Caesar You Shall Go!”

Acts 25:6-12 (NKJV)

REVIEW

This Is Now The Third Time Paul Is Put On Trial:

- 1) The Roman Commander /Tribune In Jerusalem (**Acts 22:30 – 23:10**)
- 2) Roman Governor Felix & Sanhedrin Inner Council (**Acts 23:35 – 24:22**)
- 3) Roman Governor Festus & Sanhedrin Inner Council (**Acts 24:27 – 25:12**)

The Third Trial's Setting

After He (Festus) Stayed Among Them (Sanhedrin Council) not more than Eight or Ten Days, (then) He went down (back) to Caesarea (Maritima). And the next day, sitting on the Judgment Seat, He (Festus) Commanded Paul to be brought. When He (Governor) had come, the Jews (Inner Circle of the Sanhedrin Council) Who had come down from Jerusalem stood about and Laid Many Serious Complaints against Paul, which They Could Not Prove, ... **Acts 25:6-7**

CQ?

**“What Charges / Complaints Did The Inner Council of the Sanhedrin Bring Against Paul
In This 3rd Trial Before The Roman Governor, Festus?”**

CA

The Same Three Charges / Complaints Brought By
The Sanhedrin's Inner Council Orator, Praeco, & Procurator - Tertullus,
In Paul's 2nd Trial Before The Roman Governor Felix
Let's Look At The Original Three Charges / Complaints
From The 2nd Trial & Compare Them To Paul's Defense / Rebuttal
In Both The 2nd Trial & The 3rd Trial

(Continued Over)

Tertullus' Original Accusations / Charges In Paul's 2nd Trail

"For We Have Found this Man (Paul) ² To Be: a Plague, ^{2a} a Creator of Dissension among All the Jews throughout the World, ^{2b} and a Ringleader of the Sect of the Nazarenes. ^{2c} He (Paul) even tried to Profane the Temple, ³ and We (Jewish Authorities) Seized Him, ^{3a} and Wanted to Judge Him ^{3b} According to Our (Jewish) Law. ^{3c} By Examining Him (Paul) Yourself (Felix), You (Governor) May Ascertain All These Things of Which We (Jewish Authorities) Accuse Him." And the Jews (Inner Circle of the Sanhedrin Council) also Assented, Maintaining that These Things (Accusations) Were (Indeed) So. Acts 24:5-9

Paul's Original Defense / Rebuttal In The 2nd Trail

"And They Neither Found Me (Paul) ² in the Temple Disputing with Anyone ^{2a} Nor Inciting the Crowd, ^{2b} either in the Synagogues or in the City. Nor Can They Prove the Things of Which They Now Accuse Me. But this I (Paul) Confess to You (Felix), that According to the 'Way' Which They Call (Judge) a Sect, ^{2c} So, I Worship the God of My Fathers, Believing 'All Things' Which are Written in the Law and in the Prophets. ^{2d} I Have Hope in God, Which They Themselves Also Accept, That There Will Be A 'Resurrection of the Dead', Both of the 'Just and the Unjust'. This Being So (An Established Fact), 'I (Paul) Myself Always Strive To Have A Conscience Without Offense Toward God and Men.' Now After Many Years (Almost Five), I Came to Bring Alms and Offerings to My Nation, in the Midst of Which Some Jews from Asia Found Me (Paul) Purified in the Temple, Neither With a Mob ^{2a} Nor With Tumult. ^{2d} They Ought To Have Been Here Before You (Governor) To Object If They Had Anything Against Me. ² Or Else Let Those Who Are Here Themselves (Inner Circle of the Sanhedrin) Say If They Found Any Wrongdoing In Me ^{2a / 2b} While I Stood Before The Council (of the Sanhedrin), Unless It Is For This One Statement Which I (Paul) Cried Out (Testified To), Standing Among Them, 'Concerning the Resurrection of the Dead' I Am Being Judged By You (Governor) This Day!" ^{2c} Acts 24:12-21

Paul's Defense / Rebuttal In The 3rd Trail

While He (Paul) answered for Himself, "Neither Against the Law of the Jews, ^{1a} Nor Against the Temple, ^{1b} Nor Against Caesar ^{1c} Have I Offended in Anything at All." ¹ But Festus, 'Wanting To Do the Jews a (Personal) Favor', answered Paul and said, "Are You willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be Judged Before Me (As Governor) Concerning These Things? So, Paul said, "I Stand at Caesar's Judgment Seat, where I Ought To Be Judged. To the Jews I Have Done No Wrong, ¹ as You very well know. For If I Am An Offender, ¹ Or Have Committed Anything Deserving of Death, ^{1a-1c} I Do Not Object to Dying; But If There Is Nothing in These Things Which These Men Accuse Me, No One Can Deliver Me (Lawfully Over) To Them." Acts 25:8-11d

Paul's Solution To All These False Accusations

Is To Use His Roman Citizenship's Right To Appeal – "Prouocatio"

... "(Therefore), I (Paul - Make My Citizen's Privilege To) Appeal (Directly) to Caesar (Himself)."...

Acts 25:11e

This Roman Citizenship Right Dates Back To The Beginning of Rome In 509 B.C.

This Rite To Appeal Had Been Guaranteed & Protected All The Way

To This Very Day In Paul's Life In 59 A.D.

This Protected Right Still Persists,

Even Under The Current Roman Emperor Nero

FQ1

“But Is Paul Crazy ... ‘Appeal’ To Emperor Nero?”

Let’s Look Back At Why Paul Felt He Could

‘Appeal’ to the Roman Emperor Nero,

By Making A Careful Look Into **Nero’s Reign: 54 - 68 A.D.**

1st Part of His Rule

Considered The **“Flourishing of the Arts”**

Tempered By His Life Long Mentor

Seneca: Great Stoic Philosopher

54 - 59 A.D.

2nd Part of His Rule

Considered The **“Miniature Golden Age of the Empire”**

Prefect of Nero’s Praetorian Guard – Afranius Burrus

Early 60 – Early 64 A.D.

3rd Part of His Rule

Considered The **“Abomination of Desolation”**

By All The **Christian Theologians** of the Day

Mid 64 – 68 A.D.

NOTICE

Paul Is Making ‘His Appeal’ In Mid 59 A.D.

So As Far As He Knew – He Had Nothing To Fear!

... **“(Therefore), I (Paul - Make My Citizen’s Privilege To) ‘Appeal’ (Directly) to Caesar (Himself)!”**

Historical Precedence

Lesser Tribunal Courts – Roman Governor Of Judea – Porcius Festus,

Always Had To Hols Sway To The Highest Court In The Empire – Caesar

According To All Roman Laws & Protocols

Therefore, **Porcius Festus Governor** Relinquishes Control Of **Paul To Nero Caesar**

Then **Festus** (As **Roman Governor**), When He ‘Had Conferred With’ the **Council (Inner Circle of the Sanhedrin)**, answered, **“You (Paul - As A Roman Citizen) Have (Directly) Appealed to Caesar (Himself)? (Therefore), To Caesar You Shall Go!”**

Acts 25:12

FACT

Appealing To Man & Government Is Always Tricky & Unreliable!

FQ2

“So, Should Christians Ever Appeal To Government For Justice In This World?”

FA1

Appealing To The Government Worked For Paul In One Sense:

1) He Was Eventually Released & Went Back To His Mission!

2) However, He Ended Up Being Under House Arrest For About 4 ½ Years

Late 57 - Early 62 A.D.

FA2

3) Paul’s Last Arrest Will Be Against His Will & He Will Be Martyred By Emperor Nero in 68 A.D.

FA3

Modern Examples Of Appealing To The Courts Abound,

Including The Cake Designer From Colorado – **Jack Phillips**

Who Has Been On Trial Over & Over Again From 2012 – 2023

Jack Phillips’ “7” Cases

1st Criminal Case For Refusing To Bake A Cake For A Same Sex Gay Marriage – **Ruled Against**

2nd Appellate Court Case On Colorado District – **Ruled Against**

3rd Civil Court Case For Same Offense – **Ruled Against**

4th Supreme Court Case – Ruled In Favor

5th Criminal Case For Refusing To Bake A Cake For A Transgender Marriage – Ruled Against

6th Appellate Court Case On Colorado District – Ruled Against

7th Civil Court Case For Same Offense – Pending Soon

Let Us As God's People Today,

Remember **Paul's Admonition & Warning To Timothy**

Concerning **'Living Godly Lives' Amid End Times Persecution**

*"But know this, that in the **Last Days Perilous Times Will Come**: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **Having a form of godliness but denying its power**. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the Truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was. But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra, **what persecutions I endured**. **And out of them all the Lord delivered me**. **Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution**. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. **But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of**, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the **Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you Wise for Salvation Through Faith which is in Christ Jesus**. **All Scripture is given by Inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the Man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work**. 2nd Timothy 3:1-17*

*"Let Us As True Christians, Make Our **Testimony** & **Witness***

To The Gospel of Jesus Christ To All, Not Counting The Cost In This Life!

*Let Us As True Christians, Offer As Our **Worship***

As Proof To All Of The Sincerity Of Our: Convictions, Faith, & Obedience To God!

*And Let Us Make Our **Appeal** To Christ Alone*

Now & At The Hour Of Final Judgment!"