



“A Strong Defense”

Acts 24-26

Pastor Ken Brummel

Southern Lakes Church

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Paul was on trial before Felix (Ch. 24), Festus (Ch. 25), and Agrippa (Ch. 26), and did a masterful job of giving a strong defense.

*“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and **always be ready to give a defense** to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” I Peter 3:15*

- Three things Paul did, that we also can do, to give a strong defense...

1. He told the _____: (Acts 24:1-21)

- Paul was moved from Jerusalem to Caesarea. Acts 23:25-33.
- Paul testified before Felix:
 - Tertullus didn't tell the truth. He used _____ and _____ the truth.
 - The truth? Felix (Governor of Judea from A.D. 52-59) was a violent man who slaughtered many Jews.
 - Tertullus accused Paul of four things: (1) Being a Plague. (2) Causing _____. (3) Being a ringleader of the Nazarenes. (4) Trying to _____ the temple.
 - The truth? All these charges were false.
 - Paul simply _____.
- Paul was incredibly _____. Be humble, Listen, Love.

Application: Have you ever told a lie? A strong defense requires living and telling the truth.

2. He _____ in God: (Acts 24:22-27)

- Felix placed Paul on House Arrest. (v. 22-23)
- Paul gave a strong defense of the gospel. (v. 24-25)
- What did Felix do? (v. 26-27)
 - He _____.
 - He let his greed get in the way.
 - He kept Paul _____ for two years.
- It would have been easy for Paul to question God and become impatient, but instead he _____ in God. (Acts 23:11)
 - Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 11:33-34; II Cor. 12:9

Application: Do you ever struggle with trusting God? Remember, He has a purpose and trusting Him will give you a strong defense.

3. He shared his _____: (Acts 25-26)

- Why did Paul appeal to Caesar?
- What was Festus' dilemma?
- Paul defended himself by sharing his story: (Acts 26:4-23)
 - V. 4-11 = His life before conversion
 - V. 12-18 = His conversion and call
 - V. 19-23 = His life after conversion
- _____ is powerful!
 - Three parts = Before; How; Now.
 - Three basic rules = Keep it short; Give God the glory; Make sure the gospel is clear.
- What was Agrippa's response? (v. 24-28)

Application: Are you ready to share your story?

Your faith is on trial every day. Are you ready to give a strong defense for the hope that you have in Jesus?

YOUR NEXT STEPS?