

# sermon notes

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February 8, 2025 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church  
No Other Name | “When a Believer is Surrounded by Scoundrels” | **Acts 24:1–27**

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- 1) When \_\_\_\_\_, stick to the truth and stick to the gospel (24:1–9)
  
- 2) When \_\_\_\_\_, stick to the truth and stick to the gospel (24:10–21)
  
- 3) When \_\_\_\_\_, stick to the truth and stick to the gospel (24:22–27)

## Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

### GO DEEPER

Read Acts 24:1–21. How did Tertullus bend the truth with his accusations against Paul? How did Paul respond? How did Paul stick to the truth and to the gospel in this passage? Do you think Felix was persuaded by Tertullus, by Paul, or perhaps by neither?

Read Acts 24:22–27. Why did Felix keep meeting with Paul? What makes Paul’s discussion of “righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment” noteworthy? Would you describe this as a seeker-sensitive approach to evangelism? Why do you think Felix became alarmed by Paul’s statements? Why didn’t Paul fear for his life?

### GET PERSONAL

Felix and Drusilla missed their opportunity to respond to the gospel. Why did they reject Paul’s message? Have you had similar experiences where people have rejected your message or testimony? Is that discouraging? Do you think God was honored by your actions anyway?

Explain some of the damaging effects of false accusations. How do we respond to these as Christians? What steps can Christians take to eliminate sins of speech in their own lives (e.g., false accusations, gossip, slander, deceit, dishonesty)? Why should we guard against these sins? What are some passages in the Bible that speak about the misuse of the tongue?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Take a moment to define the word *integrity* (look it up in a few dictionaries to help you). Was integrity something displayed in your family growing up? What are the challenges for living a life of integrity as a Christian today? In what ways do we see Paul display integrity in Acts 24:1–27? How was he faithful to the truth? How was he faithful to the gospel? How do his actions compare with those of Ananias, Tertullus, Felix, and Drusilla?

### ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

Are there ever instances where deceit and dishonesty are acceptable before the Lord? Consider the case of the Hebrew midwives in Egypt (Exod 1:15–22) and Rahab’s actions in Jericho (Josh 2:1–14). Are there instances where “the lesser of two evils” is the right course of action for Christians? Why or why not?

What is significant about Paul’s statement that “there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust” in Acts 24:15? Are there any other passages in the Bible that mention this twofold resurrection? Are there any other Pauline passages that mention this twofold judgment?