

# ***PAUL IN THE PUBLIC EYE – PART 1***

## ***ACTS 24***

During Paul's day, ***ROMAN TRIALS*** were often considered entertainment and done publicly; in this case, in the ***THEATER IN CAESAREA MARITIMA***.

- The participants were often the best and brightest minds in the region—as well as the leading public figures—and best of all, the events were free.
- The next three chapters provide a look at an interesting trio of politicians: Felix, Festus, and Agrippa.



Bema or judgement seat at  
Caesarea Maritima

# ***THE TRIAL GETS UNDERWAY v. 1-6***

- The term translated “orator” is the Greek word ***RHETOROS***, which literally means “**public speaker.**” It came to have the more specialized meaning of “attorney,” or “advocate,” or “lawyer.”
- ***TERTULLUS*** is on the case and he gives everyone **THREE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST PAUL:**
  - 1.** He was a troublemaker.
  - 2.** He was the ringleader of a cult.
  - 3.** He had tried to desecrate the temple.

# ***THE TRUTH ALWAYS COMES OUT!* v. 7-13**

- Tertullus' accusations seemed compelling, his case against Paul appeared to be airtight—but he is lying.
- Paul had never disturbed the peace . . . his enemies had, everywhere he went.
- And Paul had never even spoken ill of the temple, much less attempted to desecrate it!
- Paul's truthful statement of *easily provable* or *not provable evidence* made a strong case. The truth wins; the “heretic” or “sectarian” label won't stick with an argument as strong as this one.

# **GOOD WORDS AND GOOD WORKS v. 15-23**

Paul moved on to some important specific parts of his beliefs, again presenting his case in the most general terms possible—but he links his words and his works.

- Paul stated the main purpose of his Jerusalem trip: to bring his people gifts for the poor and to present offerings. The good Word got out through good works.
- Through those words and works, Governor Felix was “**quite familiar**” with Christianity. Knowing about something, however, is not the same as embracing it.

# ***NEVER STOP TALKING ABOUT JESUS v. 23-27***

After an unnamed period of time, Felix and his wife Drusilla sent for Paul and heard him speak concerning faith in Christ.

- A discourse on self-control would likely not have been something a perverted man like Felix would have enjoyed hearing, but Paul would not quit!
- Two years went by this way—two full years—while Felix toyed with the apostle, or so he thought!

***I THINK PAUL WAS SMILING THE WHOLE TIME!***