

Acts 24: Accusations and Defense

I. The Jews' Accusations (vv. 1–9)

- A. Accusation is the work of Satan
- B. The spirit of accusation is behind the scenes (people and things)
 - 1. The high priest: Traditions, formalities, and rituals — the reality of words
 - 2. The elders: Representative of experience and wisdom — all of a person
 - 3. The attorney: Eloquence and persuasive arguments
- C. Baseless accusations
 - 1. Flattering words
 - 2. Description concerning Paul
 - a) a pest, stirring up dissension
 - b) a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes
 - c) tried to desecrate the temple

II. Paul's Defense (vv. 10–22)

- A. Stating the facts — no proof of the charges
- B. Admitted to one thing only
 - 1. Serving God according to the Way
 - 2. Believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets
 - 3. A hope in the resurrection
- C. A blameless conscience — nothing of which the enemy can accuse

III. Paul's Discourse Before Felix — a Person Bound by Wealth and Fame (vv. 12–22)

- A. Felix was well-acquainted with the Way
- B. He sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus
- C. Paul spoke powerfully about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come
- D. Felix at the same time hoped that Paul would offer him a bribe
- E. He did the Jews a favor by leaving Paul imprisoned

Note: Spiritually speaking, judgment is a demand of God

God's ultimate demand is His demand of His servants rather than the work by His servants. From this point on, God wants His contentment to be in His servant (Paul), not in his work.