When I Have A CONVENIENT

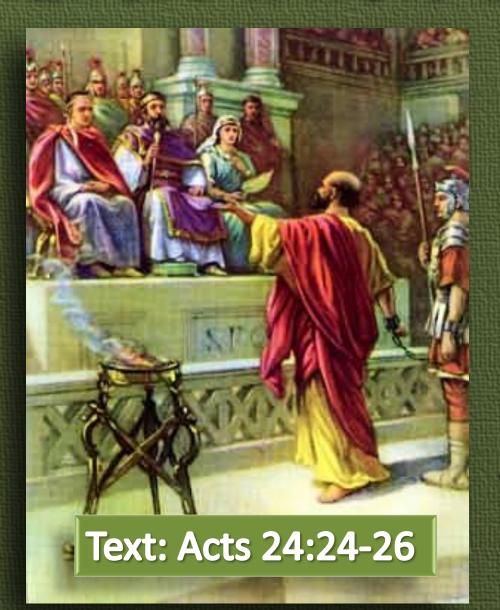
A TIME
THAT WILL
NEVER
COME?

IME

Text: Acts 24:24-26

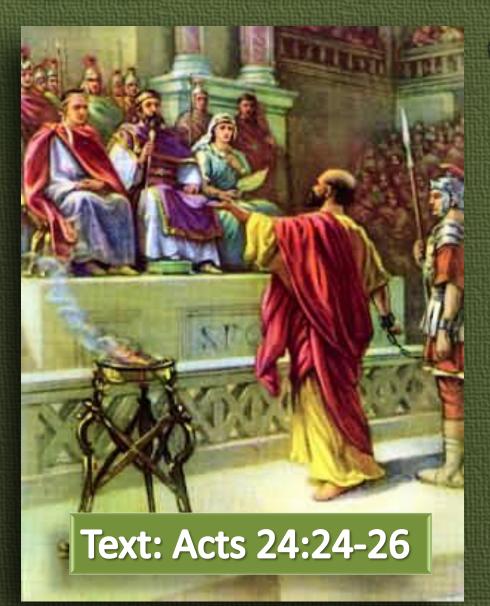
Acts 24:24-26 (NKJV)

²⁴ And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. 25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." ²⁶ Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him.



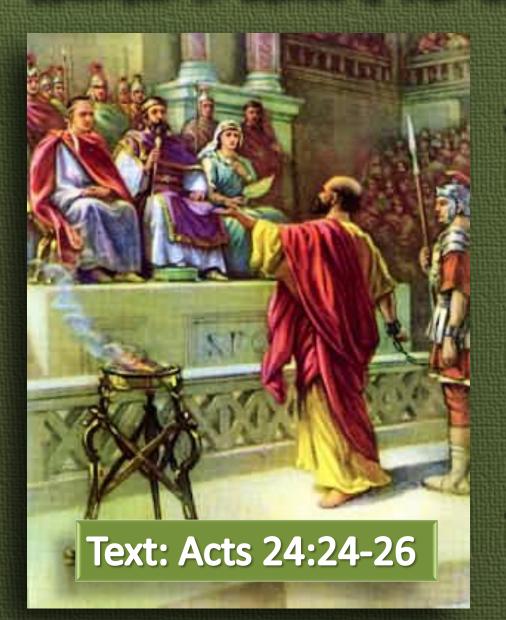
God presents opportunities to do what is right - Satan strives to cover them with lies and tempting alternatives.

Satan strives to make certain that doing what is RIGHT is never the convenient thing to do.



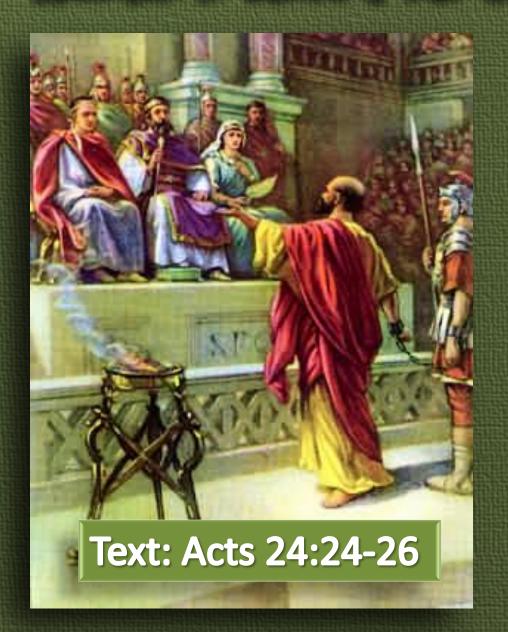
There is no neutral ground when it comes to Christ! — (Mat. 12:30)

After hearing the Gospel, we answer "YES, BUT LATER," it is imperative that we understand that such an answer is actually,

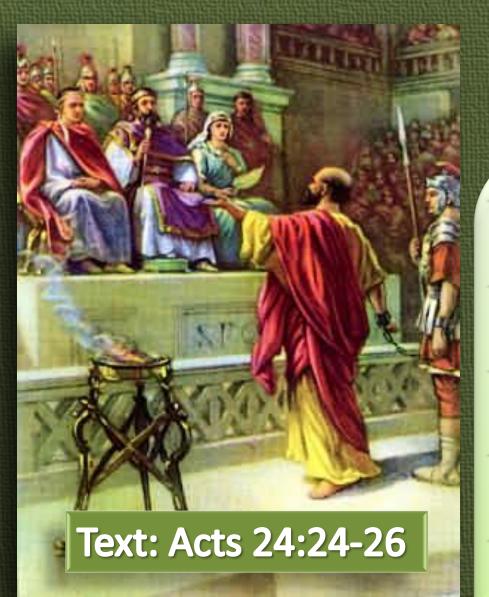


2 Corinthians 6:2 (NKJV)

For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

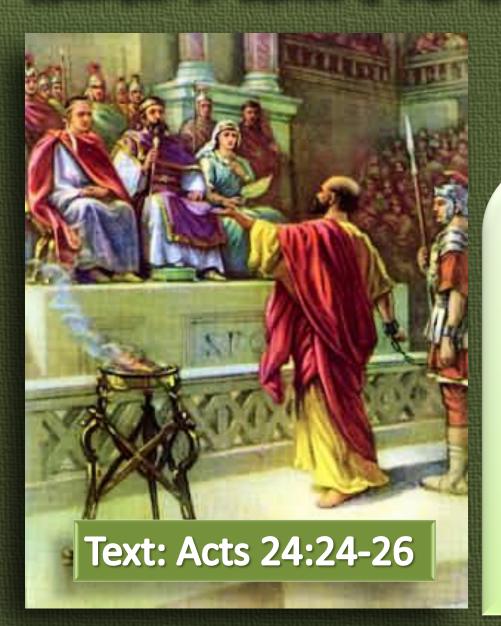


WHY DID FELIX AND DRUSILLA REJECT THE GOSPEL? FOR THE SAME REASONS MANY REJECT THE GOSPEL TODAY!



BACKGROUND OF OUR TEXT:

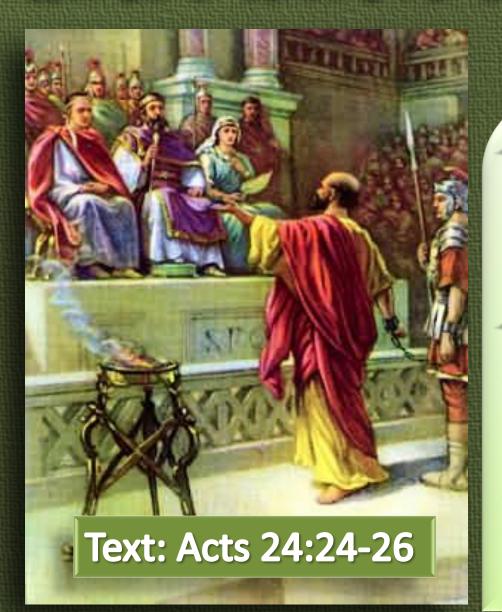
- ◆ Paul's arrest in the Temple Acts 21:26-36
- ◆ Paul's defense before the Jewish mob – Acts 21:37-22:22
- → Paul invokes his Roman citizenship Acts 22:23-29
- ◆ Paul divides the Sanhedrin Acts 22:30-23:10
- ◆ Plot against Paul exposed and subverted – Acts23:11-22



BACKGROUND OF OUR TEXT:

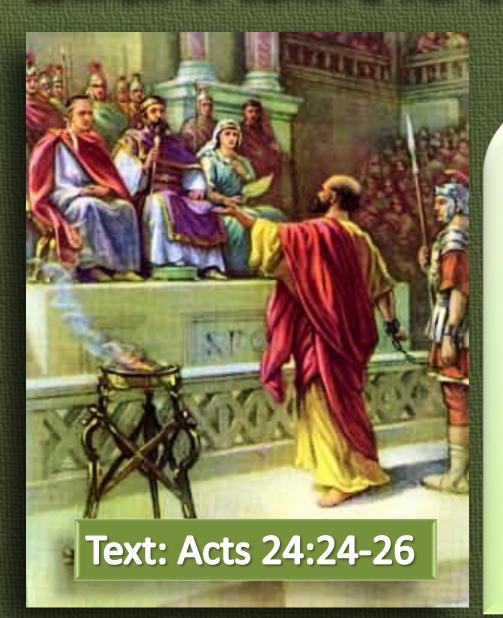
- ◆ Taken to Caesarea to appear before Felix with letter from Lysias – Acts 23:23-35
- ◆ Paul accused of sedition by the orator Tertullus – Acts 24:1-9
- ◆ Paul's defense before Felix Acts 24:10-23
- ◆ Paul before Felix & Drussila

- Acts 24:24,25



Who Was Felix?

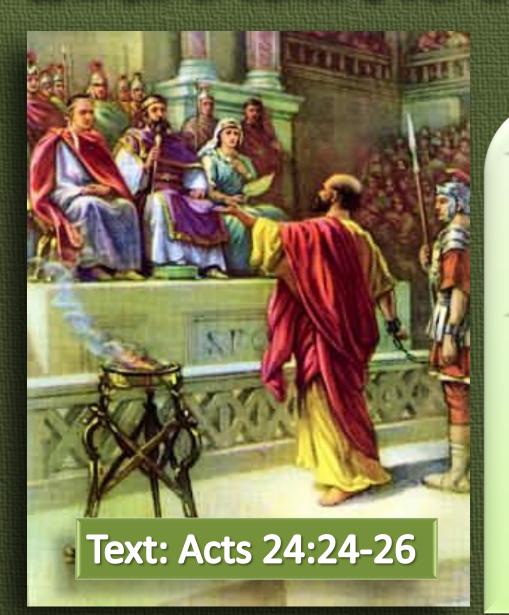
- Antonius Felix had been a former slave of Antonia the mother of Caesar Claudius.
- ◆ After gaining freedom he rose to power through the influence of his brother Pallas, who had formerly been a slave also, who had been a friend of Emperor Claudius.



Who Was Felix?

- ♦ He was married three times
- ◆ Presently married to Drusilla, a Jewess, the daughter of Agrippa I.
- He seduced her away from her husband through a magician.
- ◆ At the time Paul met them she would have been around 20 years old and Josephus says she was "strikingly beautiful."

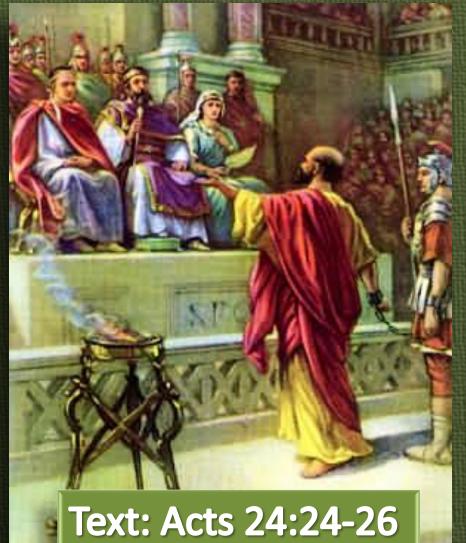
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Who Was Felix?

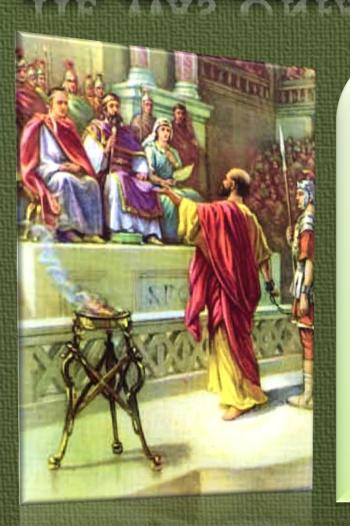
- ★ He had a reputation for being murderous and corrupt.
 - ◆One described him as "a master of cruelty and lust, who exercised the powers of a king in the spirit of a slave."

When I Have A Convenient Time Who Was Felix?



A MAN WHO
HAD AMPLE
OPPORTUNITY
TO OBEY THE
GOSPEL!

The Problem With Felix was Not That:
HE WAS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE WAY

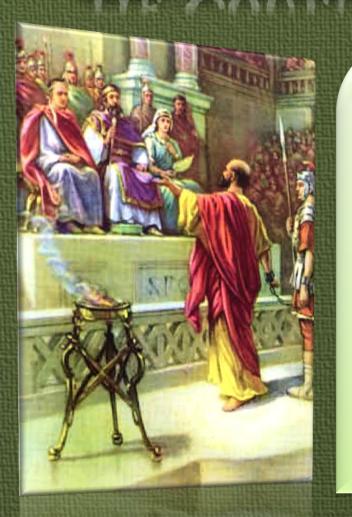


- Felix had a "more perfect knowledge of that way" − 24:22
- Felix heard Paul "concerning the faith in Christ" - 24:24,25
 - ▶ Felix sent for Paul "more often and conversed with him" 24:26

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The Problem With Felix was Not That:

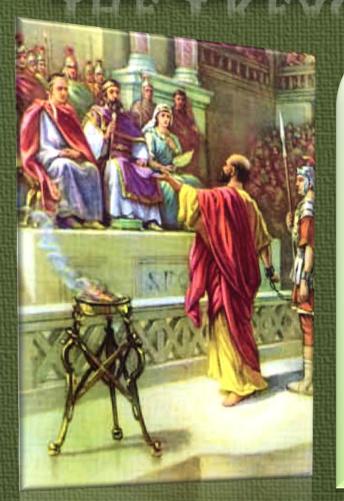
HE COULD NOT BE FORGIVEN



- ◆ Publicans and harlots can enter the kingdom - Mat 21:31
- ◆The woman who was a noted sinner Luke 8:47
- ◆Paul was a blasphemer, unbeliever, persecutor - 1 Tim1:13
- ◆God desires and wills that all know the truth, repent and be saved - 1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9

The Problem With Felix was Not That:

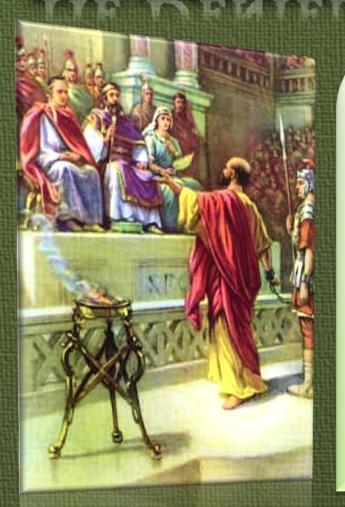
THE PREACHING WAS BAD...



- ◆ Paul's habit was to reason from the scriptures - Acts 17:2; 28:23; 2 Tim. 4:2-4
- ◆Paul was not a hypocrite Acts 23:1; 24:16;
- ▶ Paul was straight forward and direct - Acts 24:25

The Problem With Felix was Not That:

He Denied God Altogether



- ★As a result of Paul's presentation of "righteousness, self-control and judgment to come" Felix "trembled" and was "frightened" (Acts 24:25)
- ★An absolute unbeliever would not have been disturbed by the message.

When I Have A Convenient Time Some Today Choose Not To



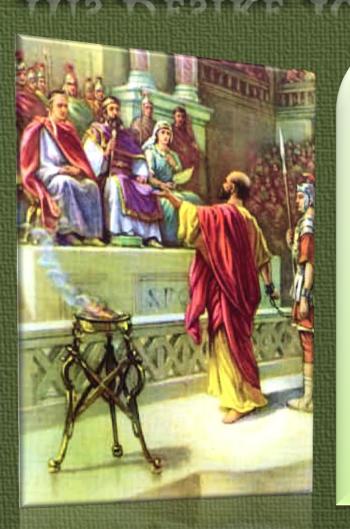
- ◆ Growing up under the influence of godly Christians.
- ◆ Being given truthful, Biblical answers to their questions.
- → Having heard the gospel for a number of years.
- ◆ Understanding what Christ did so they could be saved.
- ★ Knowing they are lost and the inevitability of a coming Judgment.

When I Have A Convenient Time Some Today Choose Not To Be Converted In Spite Of...



- ★Knowing exactly what Christ wants them to do.
 - Some <u>choose</u> not to be converted in spite of anything anyone can do to persuade them to be converted just like Felix.

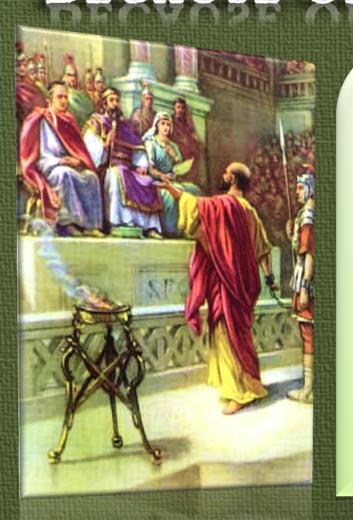
Why Did Felix Choose To Reject The Gospel? HIS DESIRE TO PLEASE UNSAVED PEOPLE



- Felix had an ungodly wife and in an unscriptural marriage - (Acts 24:24; Mat. 9:19; 14:3,4)
- Felix did not do what he knew was right because he wanted to "please the Jews" - (24:27)
- ◆Are you compromising truth or rejecting the gospel altogether because of those close to you? -(Gal. 1:10; John 12:42; Mat. 10:32-33)

Why Did Felix Choose To Reject The Gospel?

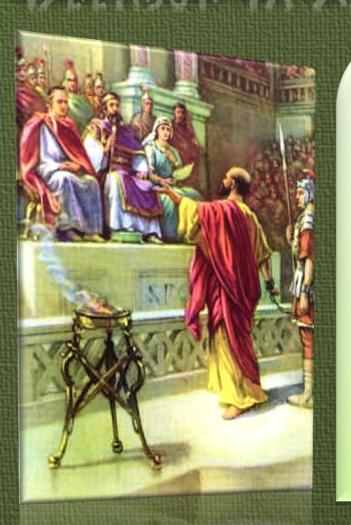
BECAUSE OF HIS MATERIALISM



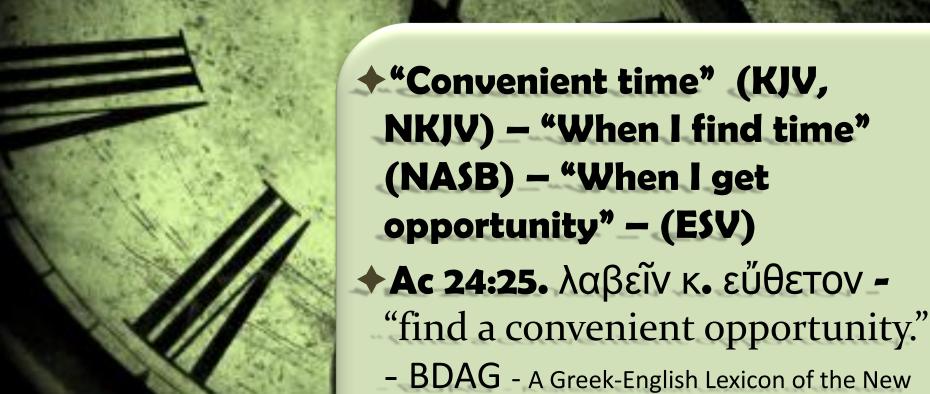
- ♦ He was hoping Paul would give him some money - (24:26)
- ◆ Covetousness Many love the world TOO much to give it up -(Mat. 6:19-34; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4)
- → Many have rejected the true gospel and have developed their own "gospel of greed."

Why Did Felix Choose To Reject The Gospel?

REFUSAL TO CONFORM TO ITS TEACHING



- ◆ "Righteousness," i.e. their responsibility to conduct themselves obediently before God - (1 Cor 6:9-11; 1 John 3:7).
- **◆ "Self-control," –** i.e. the notion of self-restraint (1 Cor. 9:24-27; Tit. 2:11,12)
- ◆ "Judgment to come" Felix "trembled" in light of the fact that he would stand before God and that if he did not repent hell would be his destiny (Mat. 10:28; John 5:28,29; 2 Pet. 3:9-14).



Testament and Other Early Christian Literature.

FELIX THOUGHT OF BEING A CHRISTIAN WHEN IT WOULD:

- Require No Political Disadvantage
- Demand No Personal Sacrifice Of A Sinful Relationship
- No Longer Benefit Him To Live The Corrupt Life He Had Chosen.

If So – You Are WAITING FOR A TIME THAT WILL NEVER

- ◆ Are you waiting for family to no longer object to your obedience to the gospel?
- ◆Are you waiting for a time when less sacrifices will have to be made?
- ◆Are you waiting for Satan to get out of your way?

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NKJV)

For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

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