

## Message Notes *Deployed into Chains... When God... When?*

*Acts 24* <sup>22</sup> Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. “When Lysias the commander comes,” he said, “I will decide your case.” <sup>23</sup> He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs.

<sup>24</sup> Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.” <sup>26</sup> At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.

<sup>27</sup> When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.

*Acts 26* <sup>9</sup> “I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. <sup>10</sup> And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. <sup>11</sup> Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. In my obsession against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them.

<sup>12</sup> “On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. <sup>13</sup> About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. <sup>14</sup> We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic,<sup>[b]</sup> ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

<sup>15</sup> “Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

“ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. <sup>16</sup> ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. <sup>17</sup> I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

<sup>19</sup> “So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. <sup>20</sup> First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds. <sup>21</sup> That is why the Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. <sup>22</sup> But I have had God’s help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— <sup>23</sup> that the Christ<sup>[c]</sup> would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

<sup>24</sup> At this point Festus interrupted Paul’s defense. “You are out of your mind, Paul!” he shouted. “Your great learning is driving you insane.”

<sup>25</sup> “I am not insane, most excellent Festus,” Paul replied. “What I am saying is true and reasonable. <sup>26</sup> The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. <sup>27</sup> King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.”

<sup>28</sup> Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

<sup>29</sup> Paul replied, “Short time or long—I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.”

<sup>30</sup> The king rose, and with him the governor and Bernice and those sitting with them. <sup>31</sup> They left the room, and while talking with one another, they said, “This man is not doing anything that deserves death or imprisonment.”

<sup>32</sup> Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

**What is God up to?..... And why does it take so long?**

**The question of God’s “timing” invites us to deep**

**s\_\_\_\_\_!**

**In “waiting” we get to surrender the f\_\_\_\_\_ and make the**

**absolute most of the n\_\_\_\_\_! Waiting “on the Lord” is not**

**w\_\_\_\_\_ time—waiting in r\_\_\_\_\_ can be!**

**It takes “time” and “times” for Him to be f\_\_\_\_\_ in us,**

**for us to be S\_\_\_\_\_ and R\_\_\_\_\_ of Him and so**

**God’s “for the sake of others” purpose might be formed in us!**

**Remember, REAL LIFE for all is His deepest desire!**

*1Peter 3* <sup>8</sup> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

*Ephesians 5* <sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

*Psalms 27* <sup>13</sup> I am still confident of this:

I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

**Dear Lord Jesus,**

**I SURRENDER myself and my agenda for this day in my life to You!**

**I RECIEVE You and Your agenda for me!**

**And now I will ACT like it in faith-filled obedience! Amen**