

Study Guide for Jan. 14th, '07. A Governor, A Prisoner & Divine Providence: Acts 25

Introduction: Describe a time when after prolonged waiting, circumstances moved forward quickly and you sensed God was at work fulfilling his plan.

I. A New Governor: Festus.

- A. Read through Acts chapter 25. How would you describe Festus as a politician?
- B. What request do the Jews make of Festus when he visits Jerusalem? (vs. 2-3)
- C. How does Festus respond to this political pressure? (vs. 4-5, 16-17)
- D. What does Festus ask Paul? (vs. 9) What does Paul request of Festus? (vs. 10-11)
- E. What challenge does Festus face in granting Paul's appeal? (vs. 20-21, 24-27)
- F. What is the real issue?
(Note how Luke uses Festus' speech to articulate the truth of Paul's case)
- G. Festus died in office a mere two years after assuming his post. Reflect on the statements of God's sovereign control over rulers in the following passages (Job 12:13-25, Dan. 2:20-22, 4:17& Rom. 13:1-7). How should this truth inform our attitudes regarding those in positions of political leadership?

II. An Old Prisoner: Paul

- A. How does Paul defend himself? (vs.8, 10-11) What charge had the Jews made?
- B. Why do you think Paul refused to go to Jerusalem to stand trial?
- C. Why do you think Paul appealed his case to Caesar?
- D. While Festus admitted ignorance (vs. 20), what had Paul made clear? (vs. 19)
- E. Relate I Pet. 2:12 to Paul's situation in Acts 25 and then apply it for us today.

III. Divine Providence: God's "unseen" hand

- A. How does Festus protect Paul (vs. 3) and fulfill God's plan (Acts 23:11) for Paul?
- B. Write out Prov. 16:9 and apply it to Paul's situation and then to your situation.
- C. Read Luke 18:1-8 and apply it to Paul's situation. How can we apply it today?