

The Sermon That Made a Governor Tremble

Acts 24:24-27

Introduction:

- A. Felix, Roman governor of Judea (53-60 A.D).
 - 1. Drucilla, his third wife, daughter of Herod Agrippa I.
 - 2. Held Paul prisoner for two years.
- B. Felix badly needed all three points in Paul's sermon:

Discussion:

I. "Righteousness"

- A. Felix was unrighteous.
 - 1. Given to bribery (v. 26)
 - 2. Governed by political expediency (v. 27)
- B. Righteousness is doing right for its own sake.
 - 1. Based on word of God (Psa. 119:172)
 - 2. Doing right toward God (Matt. 6:1-18)
 - 3. Doing right toward others.
 - a. Enemies (Mt. 5:43-48)
 - b. Citizens to rulers - vice versa (Rom. 13:5)
 - c. Child to parent - vice versa (Eph 6:1-4).
 - d. Husband to wife - vice versa (Eph. 5:22-25).
 - e. Servants to masters - vice versa (Eph. 6:5-9)

II. "Temperance" (Self-control)

- A. Felix was self-indulgent – needed self-control.
 - 1. Restraint
 - 2. Direction
- B. Self-control often surrendered to other forces
 - 1. Drugs and alcohol (cf. Eph. 5:18).
 - 2. Provocations. (Psa. 106:32, 33)
 - 3. Emotion and passions.
 - 4. Peer-pressure - not limited to youth (Barnabas - Gal. 2:13)

III. "Judgment"

- A. Felix had reason to be afraid of judgment.
- B. Every sinner ought to be afraid.
 - 1. Sinful words (Mt. 12:36-37).
 - 2. Sinful deeds (2 Cor. 5:10).
 - 3. Sinful neglect (Matt. 25:40-46).
 - 4. Lost forever (Mt. 25:32-41)
- C. Saved have no reason to fear judgment (cf. 1 John 4:17).

Conclusion:

- A. The governor's reaction.
 - 1. Trembled
 - 2. Procrastinated.
- B. What is your reaction?

Another Sermon by Edward O. Bragwell, Sr