

FOOD TIME: (30-45 minutes) – Remember to give some direction for this time.

MEETING TIME: (45 minutes)

Paul has given one of his three testimonies and this one was to a mob of those who are calling for his head. Paul has found solace in the protection of the Roman commander and he is brought to Felix, the Roman governor of Judea. Felix calls for Paul's accusers to be there and to place their accusations upon him. Chapter 24 shows that as Felix hears the case, that the Jews want to accuse Paul, but they do not have much ground to stand on in their accusations. Paul gets to make his defense to Felix and this is where we pick up this portion of scripture for this week's meeting time. Paul goes back to his hope in the gospel and how it is through his character that shows the transformation that God has made on his life.

READ Acts 24:15-21

15 I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. **16** This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men. **17** Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation, **18** in the midst of which some Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with a mob nor tumult. **19** They ought to have been here before you to object if they had anything against me. **20** Or else let those who are here themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council, **21** unless it is for this one statement which I cried out standing among them, "Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judge by you this day."

FACILITATE Discussion Questions

1. Through the strife that Paul is going through, how can hope in God strengthen him as he makes his defense against the Jewish leaders?
2. What can we do to act like Paul when he talks about having a conscience without offense?
3. Why does Paul show so much confidence as he makes his defense to Felix?
4. Paul shows confidence in the Lord as he continues to stand up in his faith. How can his actions be an inspiration for us when we experience people coming against us for our faith?
5. Why can it be difficult to stand up in the face of opposition when someone tries go against the name of Jesus?

PRAY- Take the last 10 minutes to pray about the needs of the group.

APPLICATION- Paul shows a tremendous amount of confidence in how he handles both the Jews as well as the governor Felix. He stands tall for the truth and is not afraid to say what needs to be said. As an application this week, look for those moments to stand bold in your faith. A moment with someone who does not know Christ yet; how can you go to the Lord and ask Him for the strength and confidence to say the right thing at the right time, but to do it in a character of grace and mercy and love. Paul's character shows clearly here as he is constantly looking to honor the Lord in everything that he does. That includes showing that grace and mercy to even the men who are trying to kill him.