

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Paul a Prisoner Before Felix. Acts 24, 19-27. Golden text. Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God and toward men. Acts 24-16. OVER THE HARD PLACES.

The Lesson tells of a complete denial, a straight story, and a cowardly judgment.

Paul had been held a prisoner in Caesarea for five days, when the high priest with some other members of the Sanhedrin came down from Jerusalem, bringing an orator named Tertullus to speak against Paul. When Felix the governor brought Paul forth Tertullus accused him of raising rebellion, of profaning the temple, and of being a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. Vs. 1-9.

10. The governor, Felix, sent from Rome to rule Judea. Forasmuch as he was a Jew, he was well acquainted with Jewish customs and would therefore understand Paul's case. 12. Disputing; arguing. Raising up the people; causing disturbance. Synagogue; Jewish meeting houses. 13. Neither can they prove a bold challenge which Paul's enemies dared not take up.

14. This I confess; something which Felix would think no crime. After the way; according to the Christian religion. They call heresy; which my accusers have called a separation from the religion of the Jews. The law and the prophets; the Old Testament writings, which all Jews professed to believe and in which were many prophecies of Jesus. 15. Hope toward God; hope resting on Him and promises. They themselves allow. All the Jews, except the Sadducees, believed in a resurrection. 16. Herein, believing that the dead will rise and that God will be the Judge of all. Exercise myself; train myself to. Conscience void of offence; act so that no man can accuse me of wrong doing.

Many years; spent in missionary journeys. Alms; gifts, a collection brought from Macedonia and Greece for the poor in Jerusalem. Offerings; sacrifices to be laid on the altar. 18.

Asia; a Roman province where Paul has been preaching. Purified, according to the customs of the Jews. Tumult; uproar. 19. Ought; anything. 20. Council; the Sanhedrin. 21. Voice; speech. Touching; concerning. The resurrection, of which Paul has spoken before the Council (see ch. 23: 6). Called in question; accused. 22. Having more perfect knowledge; knowing that what the Jews said against the Christian religion was not true. Deferred; put off. Lysias; the Roman commander who had saved Paul from the Jews (see Lessons I, and II.). 24. Drusilla; a very wicked woman. 25. Trembled; knowing he had lived a wicked and cruel life. Convenient season; a suitable time. This was merely to put off deciding to do right. 26. Money; bribes. 27. Into Felix' room; Felix' place. To show the Jews a pleasure; and so keep them from sending complaints against him to Rome.

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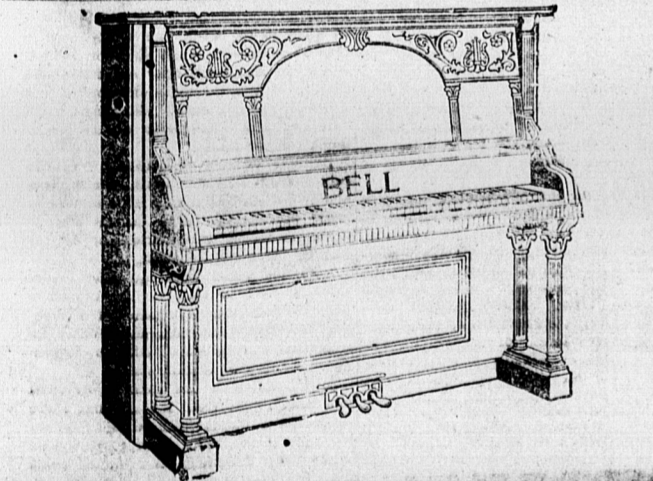
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