

The Folly of Felix

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Introduction

1. Text Acts 24:25
2. There are times in life when waiting is necessary:
 - a. The farmer must wait for his harvest. James 5:7
 - b. The sick must wait to get well.
 - c. Christians have to patiently develop Christian character. 2 Peter 1:5-11
3. There are times when waiting is dangerous.
 - a. Cannot wait to train children Proverbs 22:16
 - b. Should not wait in making preparation for eternity.
 1. Death can come unexpectedly.
 2. Sin may harden the heart. Hebrews 3:12-13
 3. Jesus may come and find you unprepared. Matthew 24:24
- 4 We learn from the folly of Felix that we should obey the Lord now!

II Discussion

- A. Felix had opportunity.
 1. He evidently had an interest in spiritual things, Acts 24:25
 2. Think about Felix's opportunity to hear the apostle Paul preach!
 3. Think about Felix's opportunity to hear God's word proclaimed by Paul
 4. Paul reasoned with Felix, Paul did not make a shallow emotional appeal
 5. Paul reasoned about:
 - a. Righteousness, or right doing. Acts 10:34-35
 - b. Temperance or self-control. Felix was doing as he pleased
 - c. Judgment to come. Acts 17:30-31; Romans 14:11-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10
- B. Felix's immediate response.
 1. He did not react the way Stephen's audience reacted. Acts 7:51ff
 2. He did not react the way some at Lystra had reacted to Paul's preaching. Acts 14:19-22
 3. Felix did not react the same way the mocking or indifferent Athenians had reacted to Paul's preaching. Acts 17:32
 4. He was not so hardened by sin that there was no response.
 5. Felix trembled!
- C. The Folly of Felix
 1. He was relying on an uncertain future Acts 24:25; James 4:13-16
 2. He was looking for a convenient season i.e. an easy time to give up sin
 - a. God commands all men everywhere to repent. Acts 17:30-31
 - b. The call to repentance is a challenge to one's will.
 - c. It is not easy to repent and to surrender the will to God.

III Conclusion

1. One may be looking for the convenient season:
 - a. Excuse delay.
 - b. Ease of conscience.
2. But it is the course of folly to delay obeying the Lord. 2 Corinthians 6:2

- a. Sin can hardened the heart. Hebrews 3:12-13
- b. Death may swiftly come.
- c. The Lord may unexpectedly return.

Source: Challenge of the Commission Sermon outlines from Acts by Thomas Holland.