



# Clear Conscience Before God and Men

**"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void to offence toward God, and toward men" (Acts 24:16).**

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"And after five days Ananias the high priest descended with the elders, and with a certain orator named Tertullus, who informed the governor against Paul. 2 And when he was called forth, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, Seeing that by thee we enjoy great quietness, and that very worthy deeds are done unto this nation by thy providence, 3 We accept it always, and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness. 4 Notwithstanding, that I be not further tedious unto thee, I pray thee that thou wouldest hear us of thy clemency a few words. 5 For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes: 6 Who also hath gone about to profane the temple: whom we took, and would have judged according to our law. 7 But the chief captain Lysias came upon us, and with great violence took him away out of our hands, 8 Commanding his accusers to come unto thee: by examining of whom thyself mayest take knowledge of all these things, whereof we accuse him. 9 And the Jews also assented, saying that these things were so. 10 Then Paul, after that the governor had beckoned unto him to speak, answered, Forasmuch as I know that thou hast been of many years a judge unto this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself: 11 Because that thou mayest understand, that there are yet but twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem for to worship. 12 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with any man, neither raising up the people, neither in the synagogues, nor in the city: 13 Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me. 14 But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: 15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the

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just and unjust. 16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void to offence toward God, and toward men. 17 Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings. 18 Whereupon certain Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with multitude, nor with tumult. 19 Who ought to have been here before thee, and object, if they had ought against me. 20 Or else let these same here say, if they have found any evil doing in me, while I stood before the council, 21 Except it be for this one voice, that I cried standing among them, Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day. 22 And when Felix heard these things, having more perfect knowledge of that way, he deferred them, and said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter. 23 And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him. 24 And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. 25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. 26 He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him. 27 But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound" (Acts

24:1-27).

## Paul on Trial

Acts 24 places the Apostle Paul in a Roman court, falsely accused by religious leaders before the governor Felix. In the face of injustice, Paul responds not with malice, but with wisdom, truth, and integrity. His example offers profound guidance for the believer today—on how to live righteously, witness boldly, and wait patiently upon the Lord.

### 1. Live with a Clear Conscience Before God and Men (Acts 24:16)

Paul states plainly that he *exercises* himself to have a conscience void of offence - meaning he actively disciplines himself to walk uprightly in both his relationship with God and with others.

*"Herein do I exercise myself..." - Acts 24:16*

This is not passive; it is deliberate, habitual, spiritual discipline.

- *"The end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned." — 1 Timothy 1:5*
- *"Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience." — 1 Timothy 3:9*

A Christian life must be marked by sincerity, humility, and personal holiness. True discipleship involves regular self-examination and repentance.

### 2. Be Prepared to Give an Answer with Gentleness and Truth (Acts 24:10-13)

Paul, when permitted to speak, answers calmly and reasonably. He does not rail against his accusers but simply states the truth - *"Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me"* (Acts 24:13).

He provides an honest account of his worship and beliefs, grounded in Scripture and hope in

the resurrection. Ponder on these scriptures:

- *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15).*
- *"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).*

Disciples must learn to speak the truth in love, especially under pressure or accusation. A calm, Scripture-rooted response testifies more powerfully than mere argument.

### 3 Hold Fast to the Hope of the Resurrection (Acts 24:14–15).

Paul does not hide his belief but affirms it boldly:


*"I confess unto thee... that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers... and have hope toward God... that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust" (Acts 24:14–15).*

This hope is central to the Christian faith - resurrection unto eternal life. The Bible exhorts:

- *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which... hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3)*
- *"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (1 Corinthians 15:19)*

True discipleship is grounded in eternal perspective. This hope gives courage to face suffering and compels holy living.

### 4. Do Not Delay in Responding to Conviction (Acts 24:24–25)



Felix hears Paul speak of righteousness, temperance, and judgement to come. He trembles - but delays. *"Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee"* (Acts 24:25).

He felt conviction, but postponed repentance. Many perish in that delay. The Bible exhorts:

- *"To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts"* (Hebrews 3:15)
- *"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near"* (Isaiah 55:6)

When the Spirit convicts, respond immediately. Tomorrow is not promised; salvation is for today.

### **5. Remain Faithful Even When Misunderstood or Forgotten (Acts 24:27)**

Paul remained imprisoned for two years under Felix, not for guilt, but because Felix sought favour and perhaps a bribe - *"But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound"* (Acts 24:27).

Despite this, Paul does not grow bitter or forsake his calling. The Bible Commands:

- *"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass"* (Psalm 37:5)
- *"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life"* (Revelation 2:10)

Faithfulness is not measured by visible results, but by obedience and perseverance. Disciples must learn to wait on the Lord with steadfast hearts.

### **Conclusion: Following Paul's Example of Faithful Living**

The principles drawn from Acts 24 include:

- Keep a clean conscience before God and

man.

- Be ready to speak the truth with grace and courage.
- Anchor your life in the hope of resurrection.
- Respond promptly when the Spirit convicts.

### **Remain faithful in trials, delays, and silence.**

Like Paul, let us be disciples who endure injustice without losing our witness, who suffer with joy, and who speak truth without fear.

*"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity"* (1 Corinthians 16:13–14).

My Prayer for us is that the eternal God will grant us the grace to live with pure hearts, steady faith, and bold witness. May we, like Paul, keep our conscience clear, speak Thy truth, and hold fast our hope in Christ Jesus. Let us not delay in obedience, nor falter under trial, but be faithful disciples unto the end. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.