



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **Acts 24**

- We begin our study with:

- **A FLATTERING SPEECH
AND A FALSE CHARGE**

- **Tertullus began his speech
with nauseating flattery.**

- It is almost
a universal custom
**for people who
know least to talk most.**

It was customary
for the accusers to
present oratorical arguments
and try to flatter the judge.

- Every word of which he and Felix
knew was quite untrue.

There were
three accusations
by the Jews against Paul:

(1) a personal accusation:
“**we have found this man**
a pestilent fellow”;

(2) a political accusation:
“**a mover of sedition**”;

(3) a religious accusation:
“**a ringleader of the**
sect of the Nazarenes.”

- They considered Paul
“a plague”
(Acts 24:5)
 - Tertullus did not say that he was a pestilent fellow,
but that he was the very pestilence itself.
 - He was inferring
that Paul was the cause of disturbances
everywhere among the Jews.

- Let's picture this scene as in walks a man named **Felix**, **the Governor of Judea.**
- From a worldly perspective **his life is a success story:**
- Born a **slave**, later freed, and eventually worked his way up to Governor of Judea.
 - The Roman historian **Tacitus** said, **“He exercised the authority of a king, with the spirit of a slave.”**
 - He was **cruel** and **covetous.**

- He takes his place on the judgment seat.
 - Walking in behind him is his wife Drusilla.
- **She comes from a very wicked bloodline:**
 - Daughter of Herod Agrippa I,
 - The one who had the Apostle James put to death.
 - It was her great grandfather, who attempted to kill the baby Jesus by having all the infants in Bethlehem slain in cold blood.

- Then, in walks the Apostle Paul, surrounded by Roman soldiers.

- An irony:

Paul stands bound before Felix, who appears free, but has chains on his soul.

- Paul may be in bonds, but inwardly he is free indeed!
- And on this day Paul reasoned with Felix about faith in Christ.
- And our faith is quite reasonable! Isaiah says,
“Come, let us reason together...”

- Paul stands before the man who had the power to set him free,
 - Yet he didn't beg for his life or freedom.
 - He made no deals.
 - He stood bold and tall and used the opportunity to preach to the Governor.
 - What did Paul say on this momentous occasion?

- It was again the rational, orderly development you would expect from Paul.
- He reasoned with him of:
 - Righteousness
 - Self-control,
 - Judgment to come.
 - When he finished, Felix trembled.
(**Acts 24:24-25**)

- **A Righteousness**
the Governor
did not possess
- **God** is righteous.
Man is not.
 - **What appears**
as righteousness
in human view
is truly filthy rags
compared to God.

- **Isaiah 64:6**
- **But we are all as an unclean thing,**
- **and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;**
 - **and we all do fade as a leaf;**
 - **and our iniquities, like the wind,**
 - **have taken us away.**
 - That's God **talking about our good.**
 - What is man **compared** to God's perfection?

- Paul didn't try
to pull God down to Felix' level.

- He preached
of righteousness
and the God who hates sin.

- Romans 1:18

**For the wrath of God
is revealed from heaven
against all ungodliness
and unrighteousness of men,
who hold the truth
in unrighteousness;**

Romans 15:4

**For whatsoever things
were written aforetime
were written for our learning,
that we through
patience and comfort
of the scriptures
might have hope.**

- In the Old Testament there are many examples of God's wrath.
- Numbers 16:1
Now Korah,
the son of Izhar,
the son of Kohath,
the son of Levi,
and Dathan and Abiram,
the sons of Eliab,
and On, the son of Peleth,
sons of Reuben, took men:

- **Numbers 16:2**

And they rose up

**before Moses,
with certain of the
children of Israel,**

two hundred and fifty princes

**of the assembly,
famous in the congregation,
men of renown:**

- **Numbers 16:3**

And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, You take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

- Numbers 16:32

And the earth
opened her mouth,
and swallowed them up,
and their houses,
and all the men that
appertained unto Korah,
and all their goods.

- Fourteen thousand and seven hundred
are slain by a plague,
for murmuring
against
Moses and Aaron

- **Numbers 16:46**

**And Moses said unto Aaron,
Take a censer,
and put fire therein
from off the altar,
and put on incense,
and go quickly
unto the congregation,
and make an atonement for them:
for there is wrath
gone out from the LORD;
the plague is begun.**

- Numbers 25

- Israel commits whoredom and idolatry

- Numbers 25:3

**And Israel joined himself
unto Baalpeor:
and the anger of the LORD
was kindled against Israel.**

- Israel is stricken
with a plague.

Numbers 25:9

**And those that died in the plague
were twenty and four thousand.**

- And the Lord's anger worked in reverse for His chosen people.

- Jeremiah 50:13

Because of the LORD's wrath,
she will not be inhabited;
she will become a desolation,
every bit of her.
Everyone who
passes through Babylon
will be horrified
and scoff
because of all her wounds.

- Then Paul spoke of **”temperance”**
- We have a nation **out-of-control.**
 - **Riots**
 - **Road rage**
 - **Drug adiction**
 - Etc.
 - A nation with no idea of **”temperance”**

- The Scriptures speak specifically to several areas where temperance needs applied:
 - Self-control of what I do and how I behave.
 - Paul spoke of controlling his body like an athlete must do in the training process:
 - 1 Corinthians 9:27

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection : lest that by any means , when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

- He was fearful of being disqualified due to out-of-control, fleshly desires.

- **Self-control over what I say.**

- The Bible speaks over

- **150 times**

- about the tongue.

- **Ephesians 4:29**

- challenges the use of our words:

- **Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.**

- **Self-control over the way I feel.**
- This flies in the face of our culture.
 - We are told that this is **something you just can't control.**
- **Note the wisdom of Solomon.**

Proverbs 25:28

**He that hath no rule
over his own spirit
is like a city
that is broken down,
and without walls.**

- **Self-control over what I think.**
 - Your mind is **where it all begins.**
 - Get control of a person's thoughts, and you'll control him/her.
- One of the **most challenging** things to do,
 - Yet one of the **most necessary** to spiritual maturity, is this:
 - **2 Corinthians 10:5**
**Casting down imaginations...
and bringing into captivity
every thought
to the obedience of Christ;**

- First, we've got to identify the problem.

- Do you have a weak spot?

- James 1:14-16

But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desires.

- 1:15 **Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.**

- 1:16 **Don't be deceived, my dearly loved brothers.**

- **Galatians 5:22-23**
- **But the fruit of the Spirit is**
 - **love, joy, peace,**
 - **longsuffering, gentleness,**
 - **goodness, faith,**
 - **meekness,**
 - **temperance:**
- **against such there is no law.**

- **FLESH VS SPIRIT**
- **An enemy I had,
whose face I stoutly strove to know,**
- **For hard he dogged my steps unseen,
wherever I did go.**
- **My plans he balked,
my aims he foiled,
He blocked my onward way.**
- **When for some lofty goal I toiled,
he grimly said to me, Nay.**
- **One night I seized him and held him fast,
From him the veil did draw,**
- **I looked upon his face at last**
- **and lo myself I saw.**
(Unknown)

- Then Paul spoke of **”Judgment To Come”**
- When the apostle Paul arrived in Athens, Greece, his spirit was stirred within him when **he saw the numerous idols** and elements of idol worship.
- **What did Paul talk about?**

- Acts 17:24-31.

Paul referenced
two specific events:

- 1. Day of creation

God made the world
and all things.... (v. 24)

- 2. Day of judgment:

Because he hath appointed
a day,

in the which he will
judge the world
in righteousness (v. 31)

- **The Judgment to Come**
is Unpredictable:

- **Matthew 24:43-44**

But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

- **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...
(2 Peter 3:10)**

- **The Judgment to Come**
will be Comprehensive
 - **Pete Rose,**
one of greatest players of all time.
- When he was being accused of betting on baseball games,
was asked;
Why would he do that
when he knew the severity
of the punishment?
 - **What was his answer?**

- He did not think he would get caught.

- He was, after all, Pete Rose.

- It is very prevalent for us to think that we are the exception.

- That might apply to someone else but not to me.

- **Hebrews 4:12-13**

**For the word of God is
living and powerful,**

- **and sharper than any two-edged sword,**
- **piercing even to the division of soul and
spirit, and of joints and marrow,**
- **and is a discerner of the thoughts and
intentions of the heart.**
 - **13 And there is no creature
hidden from His sight,**
- **but all things are naked and open to the eyes
of Him to whom we must give account.**

- **When Jesus foretold of that day, he said,**
- **“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him,**
 - **then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:**
 - **And before him shall be gathered all nations:**
 - **and he shall separate them one from another,**
 - **as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats”**
(Matthew 25:31-32).

- **The Judgment Will Be Compassionate.**

- During his earthly ministry,
Jesus informed us
that the Father
has committed

all judgment unto the Son.

- **John 5:22**

**For the Father
judges no one,
but has committed
all judgment to the Son,**

- The Hebrew writer connects this thought to the

High Priesthood
of Jesus

in

Hebrews 4:14-16



- **Hebrews 4:14-16**

- **Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.**

- **15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.**

- **16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

- **Jesus has experienced the human dilemma.**

- **The Judgment Shall Be Done in Righteousness.**
 - **Not all judges are alike.**
 - Some judge with **partiality** and can be bought with money.
 - Some do not understand or care about the **circumstances** or the motives of the person they are judging.
- **What kind of Judge is Jesus?**

- **Psalms 9:7-10**

**But the LORD shall endure forever;
He has prepared His throne for judgment.**

- **8 He shall judge the world
in righteousness,**

**And He shall administer judgment
for the peoples in uprightness.**

- **9 The LORD also will be
a refuge for the oppressed,
A refuge in times of trouble.**

- **10 And those who know Your name
will put their trust in You;
For You, LORD, have not forsaken
those who seek You.**

- **The Judgment Shall Be Executed According to the Word of God**
 - Do you want to know **about the standard?**
 - We shall not be judged by what we “**think**” or what we “**feel**”
 - We will not be judged according **to what our parents believed.**
 - We will not be judged by other Christian friends, **nor compared to our enemies.**

- **Judgment will not be according to our good deeds.**

- **Luke 17:10**

When ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say,

- **We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.**

- **The words of Jesus**
make it emphatically clear
what the standard of judgment shall be.

- **John 12:48**

**He who rejects Me,
and does not receive My words,
has that which judges him**

- **The word that I have spoken**
will judge him in the last day.

- God's word treats
everyone alike.

- It condemns the **King**
as well as the **slave.**

- **Now the Good News.**
- The Christian Can Have **Boldness in the Judgment**
 - **1 John 4:17**

Love has been perfected among us in this:
that we may have boldness in the day of judgment;
because as He is,
so are we in this world.
 - Do you have **this confidence?**

- **Without that confidence**

I do not want to stand before God.

- **1 John 2:1**

**My little children, these things I write to you,
so that you may not sin.**

**And if anyone sins,
we have an Advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous.**

- **1 John 5:12**

**He who has the Son has life;
he who does not have
the Son of God
does not have life.**

- **1 John 2:3-5**

**Now by this we know that
we know Him,
if we keep His commandments.**

- **4 He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**
- **5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.**

- **Romans 8:1**

There is therefore now
no condemnation
to them which are
in Christ Jesus,
who walk not
after the flesh,
but after the Spirit.

- Is it any wonder Felix
“trembled”?
- Acts 24:25
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.

- What is your **“Convenient season”**?

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17

