

# **“MY ONLY HOPE: IS NOT ROME!”**

**Acts 25:1-12**

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## INTRODUCTION

Paul had been through much:

- Attacked by a Jewish mob and wrongly accused of violating the sacredness of the temple precincts by bringing in Gentiles.
- “Rescued by Roman soldiers under Lysias
- Nearly scourged unjustly by the Roman soldiers.
- Almost torn apart by the “dignified” Jewish Sanhedrin while on trial there.
- Threatened to be murdered by 40 sworn assassins
- Hurried off to Caesarea by night
- Unjustly accused again by the Jewish Sanhedrin and their fancy lawyer Tertullus
- Put off for two years by Felix because he was wanting Paul to bribe him.
- Left behind for Felix’ successor Festus.

What more could go wrong? Plenty!

Has anyone ever said to you when things are going pretty bad, “Cheer up, Things will get worse?”

So it is with Paul. Now he must start over again with a new procurator from Rome: Festus. Would he be any better than Felix? Would he help Paul get true justice?

We must never forget that our true hope is not with men or human institutions; our hope is only with the Lord.

**YOU MUST TRUST THE LORD—EVEN WHEN EVERYTHING SEEMS TO GO WRONG.**

- I. OLD PROBLEMS DON’T ALWAYS GO AWAY (1-5)
  - A. The New Man “at the mercy” of the unscrupulous (1)
  - B. The Old Enemies persistently cause trouble (2-3)
    1. Exhorting the procurator (2)
    2. Requesting “grace”—a legal “favor” (3)
    3. Plotting an execution—same plot as before
  - C. The New Plan won’t work; come to Caesarea (4-5)  
*Don’t ever forget who the true enemy is behind the apparent enemy!*
- II. NEW EFFORTS TO WORK THE SAME EVIL (6-9)
  - A. The Judgment Seat (6)
  - B. The same False Accusations (7)
  - C. The Same defense (8)
    1. Nothing against the Law
    2. Nothing against the temple
    3. Nothing against Caesar

D. The Foolish Concession to the wicked (9)

*Sometimes we may grow weary dealing with the same kinds of problems and people over and over again!*

III. APPEAL TO THE HIGHEST HUMAN COURT (10-11)

- A. I am accountable to Roman Law.
- B. I have done no wrong to the Jews.
- C. You thoroughly know this very well
- D. I am willing to die if I have wronged the state (11)
- E. No one has the authority to hand me over to Jewish justice (11b)
- F. I appeal to Caesar (11c)

*Paul was not acting in the flesh here. Some say he would have been released if he had but been more patient! Paul knew where God wanted him to be, and where he wanted to be.*

IV. THE APPEAL GRANTED (12)

- A. Governmental advisors consulted
- B. To Caesar you shall go

*Don't ever forget your life's purpose; don't get caught up in all of the non-essential urgencies of life!*

CONCLUSION

Paul was not depending upon human law—even Caesar—to get what he needed!

He was really trusting in the Lord's plan for his life; see 23:11; he also wanted to fulfill his life-plan to serve Christ in Rome—19:21

**God's way of fulfilling His will for us does not always follow our expectations, nor happen in the way we might expect or wish!**

Paul trusted the Lord in all of this, though it looked as though things were turning out badly!

**YOU MUST TRUST THE LORD—EVEN WHEN EVERYTHING SEEMS TO GO WRONG.**