



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
November 20, 2011
How It Changes Everything!

desert breeze community church

Acts 24 "The Verdict"

If you were accused of being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you? Saying we believe something & really believing it, are two different things.

Evidence beyond a reasonable doubt...

Acts 24:1-27

- 1) If you're going to live a godly life in the midst of an ungodly society, you're going to be persecuted. (2 Tim3:12; 1Pet3:14; Matt5:10-12)
 - 2) If you are inflated by praise you'll be deflated by criticism and therefore lose all objectivity & your ability to make wise decisions. Vv2-4 (1Cor3:21-4:7; Gal6:14; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Luke 10:20)
 - 3) The most important and decisive factor in life is not what happens to you but what happens in you. (John Maxwell) (Pro. 4:23; James 1:2-4; 1Pet. 1:3-8)
 - 4) Let your actions speak louder than your words. (Matt5:13-16; James 1:19-27; 2:14-26)
- ☒ Cheerfulness in the midst of negative circumstances. v10 Gr. well disposed, kind, of good cheer, of good courage Acts 27:36
 - ☒ Clear conscience in the midst of false accusations. v16 Acts 23:1-5

- ☒ Christ-centeredness in the midst of a self-centered world vv24-25

Only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ the verdict comes before the performance and the performance never leads to the verdict. Through the Cross of Jesus Christ the trial is over, court adjourned:

"You are His beloved child, with whom He is well pleased!" (Matt.3:17) And it is from this verdict that you perform.



Growing

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- 1) If someone claimed to be a Christian what evidence would you look for to validate their claim? Saying we believe something & really believing it, are two different things. Explain. What should you do when your behavior invalidates your beliefs?
- 2) Read Acts 24:1-27. What stands out to you? If you're going to live a godly life in the midst of an ungodly society what should you expect & prepare for (2 Tim3:12; 1Pet3:14; Matt5:10-12)? If you are inflated by praise (or anything) you'll be deflated by criticism & therefore lose all objectivity & your ability to make wise decisions (Vv2-4). Explain.
- 3) Why is the most important & decisive factor in life not what happens to you but what happens in you (world view/perspective)? Why do you think you can have two people in precisely the same bad situation & have polar opposite responses? How do these verses speak to this topic? (Pro4:23; James 1:2-4; 1Pet. 1:3-8)
- 4) What does it mean to let your actions speak louder than your words (Matt5:13-16; James 1:19-27; 2:14-26)? What are the three characteristics that give evidence of Paul's faith in Christ with his actions speaking louder than his words? Which one(s) are strengths & which one(s) growth areas for you?
- 5) Explain what it means that only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ the verdict comes before the performance. What difference would it make if you really believed that "You are His beloved child, with whom He is well pleased?" Pray this truth becomes a greater reality for you & all dber's.