

A.C.T.S. — THE SERMON THAT MADE A GOVERNOR TREMBLE

TEXT: Acts 24:24–26

INTRODUCTION:

1. Paul is under the authority of Felix — he has heard the testimony of the Jews, by Tertullus, and the testimony of Paul.
2. Felix is awaiting the arrival of the Chief Captain Lysias before pursuing Paul's case further.
3. Felix calls for Paul to come tell him about "the faith in Christ."
4. The Sermon that made a governor tremble.

DISCUSSION:

I. RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- A. Jesus said you are blessed if you hunger and thirst for it (Matthew 5:6).
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
- B. Paul said, concerning those before the cross, that none have it (Romans 3:10).
As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one (Rom. 3:10).
- C. Paul told Timothy to follow after it (1 Timothy 6:11).
But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.
- D. It is the state of being right with God because one is doing right.
- E. *Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous (1 John 3:7).*
- F. There is a problem today, which is not a new problem—so many do not know what is RIGHT; therefore, they do not do what is RIGHT:
 1. *In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes (Judges 17:6).*
 2. *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. (Proverbs 12:15).*
 3. Today:
 - a. It is RIGHT to lie, if it is RIGHT for you.
 - b. It is RIGHT to kill a baby in the womb, if it is RIGHT for you.
 - c. It is RIGHT to practice homosexuality, if it is RIGHT for you.
 - d. Postmodernism, better felt than told, If it doesn't feel good, it's not right.
- G. Illustration: Javi from Courageous, offered a position of management.

II. TEMPERANCE.

- A. Interestingly, the word is only found 4 times in the NT, that I could find.

1. The word literally means to “hold in” or “have power over.”
2. Quite often it is translated “self-control.”
- B. Why is the control of self so important?
 1. Ultimately that is all that you have:
The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him (Ezekiel 18:20).
 2. Because self-control seems to be linked to every emotion you have:
 - a. Anger—not wrong to be angry, but what will you do while angry?
Be ye angry, and sin not (Eph. 4:26).
 - b. Sexual desire—it is natural and it is emotional, but what will you do while having this desire? Will you wait until marriage? And if you’re married, will you keep it inside your marriage?
 - c. Sadness, Grief—An emotion that can lead to a lack of self-control, once a person has allowed grief to take over his life, he may become depressed, in which he does not have true self-control.
 3. Because of the JUDGMENT TO COME.

III. JUDGMENT TO COME.

- A. Because temperance is very much involved in what we “do” or “don’t do,” it is very much connected to our souls’ condition on judgment day.
 1. *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned* (Matthew 12:36-37).
 2. *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad* (2 Corinthians 5:10).
- B. *It is appointed unto man once to die, and then the judgment* (Hebrews 9:27).

CONCLUSION:

1. The Sermon that made a Governor Tremble:
 - A. RIGHTEOUSNESS—What you DO.
 - B. TEMPERANCE—What you DON’T DO.
 - C. JUDGMENT TO COME—What you’ve DONE.
2. Invitation.