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Act 24. These are the words of god. Now after five days ananias, the high priest came down with the elders. And a certain orator named turtles. These gave evidence to the governor against paul. And when he was called upon to tell us begin, his accusation. Saying. Seeing that through you.

We enjoy great, peace. And prosperity is being brought to this nation by your foresight. We accept it. Always and in all places most noble feelings with all thankfulness, Nevertheless not to be taught just to you any further. I beg you to hear by your courtesy, A few words from us.

For we have found this man. The plague. The creator of dissension. Among all the jews throughout the world. And a ring leader of the sect of the nazariners. He even tried to profane the temple. And we seized him. And wanting to judge him, according to our law. But the commander Lizzius came by and with great violence, took him out of our hands, commanding his accusers to come to you.

By examining him yourself, you may ascertain all these things of which we accuse him. And the jews also, assented maintaining that these things were so Then paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak answered. And as much as i know that you have been for many years, a judge of this nation, i do the more cheerfully answer for myself.

Because you may ascertain. That it is no more than 12 days. Since i went up to jerusalem to worship, And they neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone, nor in citing the crowd. Either in the synagogues or in the city, Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me?

But this i confess to you. That according to the way. Which they call effect. So, i worship the god of my fathers. Believing all things. Which were written in the law and in the prophets. I have hope in god. Which they themselves. Also accept that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just, and of the of just This being so i myself always strive to have a conscience without a fence.

Toward god. And men. Now, after many years, i came to bring homes and offerings to my nation. In the midst of which some Jews from asia. Found me purified. In the temple. Neither with a mob nor with two molt. They ought to have been here before you to object.

If they had anything against me, Or else. Let those who are here themselves. Say if they found any wrongdoing in me. Well, i stood before the council Unless it is for this one statement, which i cried out standing among them concerning the resurrection of the dead. I am being judged by you this day.

But one, felix heard these things having more accurate, knowledge of the way he adjourned, the proceedings and said, when Lizzie is the commander comes down. I will make a decision in your case. So he commanded this centurion to keep paul and To let him have liberty. And told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him.

And after some days, when Felix came with, his wife Drizzilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now, as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid. And answered, go away for now. When I have a convenient time, I will call for you.

Meanwhile, he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul. That he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him. But after two years Porcia's festus succeeded Felix. And Felix wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.

So far the reading of God's inspired. And an errand forth. We rejoice that as Christ addresses us by his spirit. He blesses the preaching. Of that word, please be seated.

There are many who don't even realize. The freedom that they could have in the Lord, Jesus Christ. Because they don't recognize. The fear. In which they currently live.

They may be living in fear of men. Those turtles and Felix are. We'll see that. In the passage in a moment, by God's will. They may be living in. Fear of. Their own inability to bring the outcomes. That they want in their life. They may be living. In that great fear, that they won't even, Express to themselves.

The wrath of God is revealed against all unrighteousness of men. And so they spend a lot of their mental and emotional energy whether they recognize it or not suppressing the truth and unrighteousness. Pushing down. On the knowledge of the Creator that has been made obvious and all of the creation.

He has made known in us ourselves and the conscience that he makes to remain. Even in the unregenerate, man. Who knows, right and wrong and knows the law of God. That condemns all sin. And it says, those who do such things deserve death. They don't recognize that. That's what they're afraid of that.

They're afraid of death. They're afraid of hell. They're afraid of judgment. They're afraid of God. And so, not only do they do those things. They get so good, it's oppressing the truth and unrighteousness they even approve. Of those who do. And so there are many who don't realize how free they could be in Christ because they don't know how enslaved they are by their fear.

And so, as the Lord Jesus is taking us to in rapid fashion to the end of the book of Acts. Where that which Christ has decided for his servant as you testified for me in Jerusalem. So you shall testify in Rome. We have all of these moments. In which Paul has given opportunity to testify of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And we're kind of like, when one of our family members or one of our brothers or sisters from the church, or perhaps. One of you your your husband or If your manual wife goes to town and comes back and has had some kind of evangelistic interaction and you're excited to hear about.

How did they receive it? And how did they respond? And what did you say? Pray for the person that they talked to about the Lord Jesus. We feel kind of like that following Paul along and wondering. How he's going to get these opportunities to testify for the Lord Jesus Christ by what sequence of providents.

The Lord is going to. To take Paul. At the last to Rome. And we pay attention. To cuse in the scripture. As the spirit has given us word by word. Like we just heard every word that is in scripturated. So the printed ink on the page is every bit as much.

God, breathing outwards to us as I now stand before you breathing out words. In this pulpit. And so we pay attention to the cues and that's especially Uh, why we are? Thinking this morning about freedom because we do see each other and Felix enslaved, whether they know it or not.

And we do have even the language of liberty where Paul who has been cheerful and free throughout the entire passage even though technically he's bound by men. And he is the one in prison and on trial, but he's the freest, man. In in this passage and you have that it's called dramatic irony where it seems one way to those who are in the account.

And yet as those who receive the account, the way that is written, we can see that it is. Often exactly the opposite. The way men. Think it is. In their experience. And you have Felix. Thinking that he's the one. Who's giving Paul liberty? He commanded the centurion to keep Paul and let him have liberty.

Uh liberty. Of course, something he has already in his spirit, but it is a kindness of the Lord Jesus through Felix. Um, That Paul is, Paul's friends are not forbidden to provide for him. Or to visit him. And then, especially this concluding section. About Felix having symptoms that we would ordinarily associate with freedom, spiritual freedom, wanting to hear about faith in Christ.

And yet. By the way that he responds, To the gospel. Showing that he's still very much a slave. Of his sin. And a slave of his fear. And so, each one of us, Here this morning. Uh, we have The text then confronting us, Have we identified? Those things of which we are tempted to live in fear And have we realized then and received The freedom that there is and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And relaying hold of him. Rejoicing over his goodness or jostling over his power. Experiencing what it is. To live. Freely. Truly. As one who belongs. To the Lord Jesus Christ. Dear children. I have seen enough children's. Shows and films. In which over and over again. The message is. Don't live, according to other people's expectations live according to your own heart.

You see the world without Christ? I think that's freedom. And they said be true to yourself. That's true living No, that's slavery to yourself. And your desires. True freedom. True living. Is to belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. To have his righteousness, counted for you. To know that it is his righteousness that is being worked out in you.

To be able to look forward to his appearing for judgment with joy. Knowing that not only will you be declared before all? The creation righteous in Jesus. But even those deeds that you have done in union with Christ will be commended, and praised by God. For their having been done in union with Christ.

True freedom. Is to know Christ, belonged to him live out of that. Not be afraid of any situation. Since your redeemer is ruling and overruling, even what the wicked do and even with the wicked say, That's true, freedom. So in the first place we see, Freedom from the fear of men.

Where to tell us at the beginning of the passage and Felix, at the end of the passage are Our contrasted in the account with Paul all the way throughout the passage, To tallest man. He must have been He must have been considered pretty hot stuff as far as. Lawyers go.

The high priest has come down with the elders. This is the best that money can buy and Jewish nobility, can find these called turtles. The orator And his speech is like you children's plates of pancakes. It's so full of syrup that you can't find any substance and not that a pancake.

Well, certainly not the kinds of things you'd get at a restaurant. Your mama would have to make you a good pancake for it to be of any substance, but her Tullis's speech is just dripping. And

even for someone like Felix you you've experienced this or maybe you haven't, I've experienced this whenever someone wants to leave the church that they're coming from, they always talk to you.

The first couple of services at your church like you walk on water and you just have to remember that the way they're talking about their old pastors, probably the way they're going to be talking about you and a few months or years and just take it with a grainier grain of salt.

Uh, but sometimes the flattery is just poured on so thick. Children experience. This fair amount in our age. I hope none of you. Uh, but my own children. Uh, growing up in a time where Uncles and grandparents, and all sorts of people had Had really gone through the programming of the self-esteem, culture of the 70s and the 80s and Um, you know, poor children, who are constantly being told, how much every adult admirers everything in them and then they grow up to be arrogant narcissists, and we wonder what happened to them.

Um, you gotta watch out for flattering. You got to watch out for flattery. You gotta watch out for someone like dr. Tullis. Who comes and he says, Seeing that through you, we enjoy great. Peace. And prosperity. Is being brought to this nation by your foresight. We accept it. Always and in all places.

Most noble felix. So, just dripping and thick and Is gross. The flesh likes to be flattered that way. But watch out for the flatterer. Watch out for the flatterer. To tell us here is living out of man, pleasing. And manipulation. He doesn't have a case, he's afraid, he is gonna lose his case, he's not able to go on substance, he's not able to go on facts.

And so he just uses all of this. In this case, flattering emotionally charged. Language. And he does the same. With his manipulation word manipulation, we talks about paul For we have found this man, a plague A creator of dissension now. Y'all are american. Uh, we don't love order. Uh, at least anymore.

God having God, help us like some other cultures. Yeah, the the Germans and the dutch. I know you're not supposed to talk like this but facts are facts. This germans and the dutch and the japanese and other societies. There's lots of them and which orderliness and cleanliness, and And no.

You know, nothing out of place or disturbing. Is, is highly valued and that can be a weakness. Uh, to not just a strength. But the reason for saying all that is you are not as equipped to hear the word descension like a roman wood romans loved order that had a very large empire, and an increasingly smaller comparatively proportionally force to keep that empire under control.

And within the room and empire, there were few few people who had been as much trouble for as small as they were as the Jews had been And so someone who stirs up dissension among the Jews. Not only in in judea, But throughout all the world. Uh, it was the equivalent of calling someone a nazi or Uh, actually that's kind of Um, Passed us now the modern equivalent of calling someone a Patriarch.

Christian nationalist. All you mean by that is someone who thinks that every nation should acknowledge that. The lord. Jesus christ is the king of kings and all laws should be in accordance with his laws. And they use. Um, I don't know. Does anyone even say alt right anymore? Whatever it is.

But, but you use the language as a form of Of verbal acid to throw upon and disfigure. Rather than to actually engage with any facts or ideas. You see if your tallis here? And the

difference between, His speech. Which is all man pleasing. Uh, to please to tell us and manipulating and what he's doing is he's operating on a fear.

That the actual facts of the case, the actual truth, the actual substance isn't going to support his goal. He's been hired to get a conviction against Paul. And so, he's operating. Out of fear. Felix is also operating at a fear. Thankfully, this Uh, You know, we have a fair amount of Roman history from outside the bible that records?

The Administration of Felix. For instance, and one of the reasons why he wants to do the Jews a favor or give the Jews a gift. In verse 27, as the reason he's being replaced, is. He's been charged with being heavy-handed. Um, With the Jews and he's been called to Rome to answer for how he has treated them.

There are a couple incidents. In particular that is being called to answer for. But here, he's he's engaging in, you know, the maybe you've heard quid pro quo. This for that. Yeah, I'm going to give you something because I want you to give me something, and he's hoping to To help his case when he goes to back to Rome and he answers Felix's also afraid of what man might do to him.

What man might say to him, he's putting his hope in men which is Another way. A fearing men. And I hope you, too. Are aware of flatterers and aware of your own temptation to flatter others. I hope you too are. Are aware of. The temptation to manipulate with the way that you talk about others.

Not engage in substance so much as in innuendo speaking in a way that casts someone in a particular light Rather than Speaking about facts, and And truth. Paul. However. The, the only Emotional word. He uses his cheerful. And Paul after the governor had nodded to him to speak answered.

In as much as I know that you have been for many years, a judge of this nation. Very different than the way. Turtles described Felix, isn't it? It just gives him. He just repeats fact about it. I do the more cheerfully answer for myself because you may ascertain and then he just he starts with facts, doesn't he?

It is no more than 12 days. Since I went up to Jerusalem to worship, And they neither found me in the temple, disputing with anyone, nor inciting the crowd either in the synagogues or in the city. So here's certain charges. That they've leveled about what kind of horrible person I am.

But they're actually isn't an incident that they can point to. That could rock corroborate. These things. That they're saying. Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me? But this I confess to you and we'll come back. To versus. Uh, To verse 14 and 15 in a moment.

But this I confess to you that according to the way, which they call a sect. So, I worship the god of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and the prophets. That was. That was something important. I said, we'll come back to in a minute and we will for another reason.

But Judaism was one of the few. Indigenous religions that. The the Romans. Permitted. It was a legal religion. It was protected by Roman law. And what Paul is saying is I'm actually more Jewish than they are. I actually believe in the god that Roman law protects believing in. I actually ascribed to The, the holy books, the The religious texts that Roman law protects.

Uh, my ascribing to I have hope in God, which they themselves also, accept that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust this being so on myself, always strive

to have a conscience without offense toward god and men. In other words, Uh, my worship, which they hate.

Actually makes me a better citizen. Than mere, roman law would have made me. This is an argument that persecuted christians. Have used throughout the centuries. This is a great argument of one of the The first grade apologists in the church, Justin martyr. And he wrote to the emperor and said, why are you commanding that?

We be executed, our christianity makes us better citizens of the empire than anyone else in the empire. Uh, this is actually the reason behind the institutes of the christian religion, which we in our kind of dumb down and anti-theological age. Think of, as this like great systematic, theology text But it was a description for the common man.

Of what christianity believes and what christianity does and it was addressed to the king of france to explain to him. This is what we believe and this is what we do. So that all the papest accusations against the reformation would be answered just with facts. You know, all the things that the paper say they believe, that's why it's fairly comprehensive book and i would commend it to you.

As a theology book institutes to the christian religion. Uh but basically they're saying this is what the reformed, the biblical christians believe and do. Don't you see that it makes us the best citizens you've got And so, Paul also, being able with a clear conscience. And you too can do this dear Christian.

If you fear god not men. And you are right with god in jesus christ. And you have his word. Which you are learning and seeking. By faith in christ and his life working itself out in you, his spirit, applying his life and his righteousness to you. And that's what produces the holy behavior.

The obedience to god's commandment the love to god without offense toward god, and love to, man, without offense toward men that you find in the first four commandments without offense to god. And in the last six commandments of the declared without offense to men, if you live that way, for that god, by faith in this christ than you can stand.

Before any tribunal in the world. And say it is actually my christianity. That gives me a clear conscience before god and any one of your laws that is right or good that or or permissible, i already keep. Because i obey god. And any of your laws that forbid me to do it is right.

Or command me to do. What is wrong. I cannot keep. Because, I am following a christ to his righteous and who makes me righteous. And you can stand with a clear constants. They're just be cheerfully unafraid. Of what men may say like turtles or what men may do. Like felix.

Christianity. Frees. You It frees you to have a cheerfully clear. Conscience. Now a little bit more than in the second place. On this being freed to live by the great commandments. Now, there are there are many who have a form of religiosity. Uh, like the chief priests and not so much the chief priests.

You remember the the chief priests were from the Sadducees side and the the elders were largely from the Pharisee side and we saw that last week. Oh, paul found the point of division between them about the resurrection and that was the one thing he he said at his trial.

Apparently, the only thing they could both agree on is they wanted to kill Paul. Uh, but in this case, You can see the difference between the religiosity of the pharisees. Because we know

that they were trying to commend themselves to god by what they did, they pursued? As Romans 9 says towards the end a law that would lead to righteousness.

How? Because the law spoke continually. About union with god and union with christ. Although, we don't realize that fully until god comes in flesh as the god man. And it was because Yahweh had saved Israel. And because Yahweh had given himself to israel and brought them near and atoned for their sin, that they would be able by their connection to the lord to live in righteousness.

The religion given by god in the old testament. The religion given by moses for the jewish church was not a religion of works. It was a fleshly unchristian, unbelieving. Sorry, unchristian is a little bit anachronistic but not exactly because Christ, as the lamb seen from the foundations of the world.

But It was an unbelieving response. To what God had given in exodus and Leviticus and doubt Deuteronomy. That had turned it into a religion of works. They had a law that would have led to righteousness but they pursued it in the wrong way. Not by faith but by works.

And so here, they were not saying, The merciful almighty god of all creation. Has saved us redeemed us over against what we deserve by way of a substitute. Whose blood attends for our sin and and he has brought us near to himself by grace, hallelujah. And being those who are brought near to him, he has also given us a good law that when we obey it others will say.

And what do you see in the opening chapters of Deuteronomy, what nation is there the as a god, so near to it That they have such good laws. And so, What paul is saying is, He used to be like them. We, we saw that even when he was addressing the crowd.

Remember talking about his deal, how he was like, them one day. And you remember when he was stoning stephen and he was like them one day, But this idea, That we could use obedience to god to commend ourselves. Works, principal rather than That god redeems joins us to himself and we know now by christ's coming and joins to us to himself by union with our union with christ and works that that out in us.

They were not. Believing all things which were written in the law. And in the prophets, They pursued. Obedience, or they pursued righteousness as if it was by works. And so when god came in the flesh in the lord jesus. That wasn't to help to them. That was a stumbling stone.

That the only righteousness a sinner can have. Before god. That is worthy before god. Is the righteousness of who jesus is. And what jesus has done. And how jesus has atoned by his blood. Forgiven sin and adored, all of the wrath, that our sin deserves, that wasn't good news to them.

Because they were running so hard after righteousness by works. That when The lord presented christ for righteousness. They stumbled over him. We fell flat on their face. I got up like kept running as if i works. Now in, in God's providence, to us, we've just been in isaiah, haven't we?

Where the lord says that to a has the king. And he's got an Ephraim and syria alliance problem. And his Um, His theme song has become, My hope is built on nothing less than tigglet police are and the Assyrian army. And the lord comes to him and tells him ask for me a sign.

I will be the one who redeems. You The lord presents himself alone as all of the hope for deliverance. And a has as unwilling to ask for a sign. He's unwilling to trust in the lord. He

wants to trust in his plan. Sorry. There's a little platform back here because i'm short almost fell off it.

Um, he wants, he wants to trust in his plan, to have this alliance with Assyria and this alliance with tiger left, the loser. And when the lord says, no, don't trust in them. Trust in me, i will save you all by myself. I am the almighty God.

They have stumbles over the stumbling stone. And that becomes a type a, a prophetic in advance. Intentional providence from god. That displays. What is going to happen with the juice? By and large, not all of them as well gloriously hear. In Romans 9 through 11 not too long from now in the midweek meetings, Christ is presented.

As all of the righteousness. All of the salvation. And because they already have a plan. About how to commend themselves to god. They stumble over him as a stumbling stone. Not stand upon him. They don't rest upon him.

They are the ones. Who are not believing all the things which are written. In the law and the prophets, jesus is the key to the bible. He taught this to. Those. Poor disciples. Who, of course, the rich disciples because they have christ, but you remember Uh, when he was crucified the two that were on the road to Emmaus.

And, And jesus was walking with them and they were just confused. They thought he was going to be the christ. They thought he was going to bring in the kingdom. They thought lots of bright things about him in slightly wrong ways. And jesus asks them why they're so sad.

How did you have missed what happened to here in the last couple of days? They think about jesus, they say to him, and And he begins to explain to them from all the scriptures. The law of the prophets and the writings, which is the three great subdivisions of of the Hebrew bible.

Explains to them, from all the scriptures of things concerning himself. What a theology lesson. I hope we get to have that word for word and glory. And then and then he sits down with them, he breaks bread. And, As you are going to. We pray by faith. Come. To the lord's table and break bread.

He still makes himself known. Then the breaking of the bread. He waits not, he's given them all of this word and then it's He breaks breads to them. And, Reveals to them in that moment who he is. And they realized the one about whom the whole hebrew bible speaks.

Is the one who is giving himself to us. He was giving himself to us by his word all the way here. And he is giving himself to us as we were about to have fellowship. And then he disappears. Because your glorified resurrected body is going to be able to do that.

Our self-same physical bodies will be transformed to be conformed to his still physical true human body, but glorious and resurrected And they who already had a long day of it. They immediately get up and go back to jerusalem to tell the rest of the disciples and jesus appears there too.

Jesus is the key. To the bible. If, if you've never Red. Leviticus and seen christ everywhere with joy. And i plead with you to, I mean, I don't know what else is going on in the lord's day. But if you can't at least be here, For those sermons and at least, Download them.

Listen to them. Read. He's the key to the bible.

And he's the key to life. It's because He's able to look forward to the resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust verse 15 knowing that in christ for him. It's a resurrection of the just You know, the darkness hates the light because its deeds are evil.

But john 3:21 says that those who are righteous The godly loved the light. So that it can be seen that their deeds were done in god. Not so everyone can see how great they are in themselves. But so that the grace of god that produces actual righteousness and those who are forgiven and justified entirely, but like by what christ has done.

So that grace that has done both those things, the justification, and the sanctification may be glorified. And so jesus wasn't just for paul the key to understanding the whole bible. You realize what he's saying in verse 14. That when he was a Pharisee of Pharisees and had advanced beyond anyone else in his entire generation and bible knowledge, he hadn't begun to believe he'd been begun to understand it.

Because it's now that he believes in jesus, That he believes and lives according to all the law and the prophets. He's drawing a distinction between himself on this day, in Acts 24 and those elders. Who actually believe and live the way he did, until just a few years ago.

But he's also the key to life. To being it freed to live out of love to god and love for man the way god defines love. The way his commandments. Define love. And so, he's freed to live that verse 16 life that we referred to Earlier. The last place.

Belonging to god by faith and the lord, jesus christ, living out of that faith. Frees us to enjoy gospel preaching. Frees us to enjoy gospel preaching. Felix, here's these things. He has. What is written here? A more accurate knowledge of the way. And the implication in the passages. He knows that paul has made his case and that paul is right.

Isn't amazing. This guy who was a quadruple adulterer and had married. A triple adulteress There's a little bit of the background for you. Felix and drizzilla are very much. Like like Herod. And and his wife whom john, the The baptizer had been. Um, Ended up being beheaded. By. We know this from external, Roman.

Roman history about Felix and drizzilla. But he knew that paul was a great Jewish scholar and a great Jewish teacher. And that the resurrection of the just, and the unjust was true, And, Uh, He adjourns, the proceedings. There isn't enough to convict paul yet. He allows that if lizzius the commander comes down and presents.

Some more. You know, his side of things that he would be able to make a decision. That's what he's saying. Verse 22. Buddy, he commands the centurion to keep paul, and let him have liberty. As far as things go, he believes. That paul is teaching the true belief of the jewish bible and that the the law and the prophets teach faith in christ.

And how convenient for me, because Uh, i'm multiple times divorced says, felix. And my, my wife drizzilla who is multiple times divorced and kept trading up until she got to me. She's jewish and now i've got one of her guys. I've got one and he can come and he can, he could teach us, he could teach her all about how to be better, jewish?

And, So after some days, felix comes with his wife drizzilla, who is jewish, and he sends for paul and he hears him concerning the faith in christ. And just a word of caution, but also encouragement. Don't set your hopes. On what someone says they want. Set your hopes on god, who loves to use his word.

Remember the rich young ruler who comes and he says, what must i do to inherit eternal life And how many of us have that, that family member that relative, that friend, that co-worker that we've been praying for and we would just love for them to come and say what must i do to inherit eternal life Here, felix has got his jewish wife.

Drusilla is almost like the Cornelius with his household except for its entirely the opposite of kernelius and his household because the spirit isn't giving them life. And felix gets his wife and and He comes. He sends for paul. They says, all right. Tell us about faith in christ.

We take the opportunity as the lord has given us, but dear brothers and sisters, put your hope in the Lord. And put your hope. In. What the person says. Because felix has not. Getting converted, is he? He doesn't even realize, he's a slave to his greed and he's a slave to his lust.

He doesn't understand that when paul starts to speak to him about faith in jesus christ, paul is going to tell felix things, not that are religiously, informative and amusing and And mentally stimulating and are going to help him live his best life now and have you know be a highly effective person or or financially be able to live like nobody else now so he can live like nobody else later or have a marriage that's full of love and respect or or Yeah, empowered freed.

Happy children and You know, all of these things that people think they can get no. The preaching of the gospels intended to give you christ. We've already said. That when you get christ, you get the whole christ. Not just made right with god, but also enabled to live in holiness by your union with jesus christ to produce us that obedience of life, that loving of god, with all the heart, soul, mind and strength, that loving of your neighbor as yourself, that loving of the brethren is christ, has loved you.

But the preaching of christ is intended to give you christ. And if he is being preached faithfully, And you have, And you desire, anything other than him. You're not going to like the results. Felix says okay preach christ to us and so here's what paul preaches to him. Righteousness self-control and the judgment to come.

Because preach christ to us, is not make a decision that, that you will trust jesus and everything will be shiny happy people. Holding hands lollipops in unicorns and rainbows for the rest of your life. There is no christianity without justification. We are under the wrath of god, which has been revealed from heaven.

And you can see it even by the types of sins that he gives us over to. That are so perverted. So, contrary to nature so self-destructive That in order to do those sins or approve of them, you would have to be given over. To a reprobate dysfunctional self-destructive. Mind,

And sinners have provoked god to whom belongs, all glory, and all goodness, and he is going to display that glory by destroying. Or wickedness. Including us if we are not found in Christ in the last day. And he's going to display that goodness by avenging himself and avenging. All of the righteous who have been harmed and avenging.

All of the wrongdoing even that have been done to the wicked. Because all wrongdoing is against God. And if you are found without christ, if you are found without his righteousness, Then there is nothing but infinite, eternal wrath, that is equal to the commitment of god to his own glory.

Was a little bit more than felix's bargain for He's a breaching me. Faith in christ. And he didn't get a. Answer, five, questions, say a prayer. Put a sticker in your Bible and write down the day you guys saved. He got righteousness self-control. Self-control. You know, the The 10, the equivalent to the 10th commandment and the fruit of the spirit.

That. Um, God works in the heart, the tenth commandment exposes about the whole law that God makes demands of the heart. Every commandment does that, but the 10th is especially love joy. Peace patience. Kindness goodness faithfulness generous and self-control. That the holy spirit takes over the christian from the inside out.

That all of these things that he produces in the heart are the things that come out of the believer's mouth and that are expressed and what the believer does with his hands. And that the, the Non-Jesus judaizers. Can't give you either righteousness before god or real righteousness, from the heart, in the life, but jesus can Because union with christ doesn't just give us justification.

It is the key. It is. The dynamode is the engine that powers sanctification. Circumcision or uncircumcision is nothing but faith working by and and the word in the greek you can even hear it in the English enter gao or of. I soften the g for you energize And you're like i took, you know, high school spanish, that means energized.

That doesn't actually mean energized in spanish. But, It's not circumcisions or uncircumcision. It's faith. That works by love that. The jesus who makes us right with god is also the jesus who transforms our heart and out of union with him, then we have things like self-control and who needed to hear about self-control more than the quadrupler adulterer or married to the triple adulterous And loving money so much that he kept the frightening gospel preacher around so he could draw him out all the time and hope to get a bribe from him.

There's no christianity without justification, there's no christianity, that doesn't produce sanctification, there's no christianity that isn't looking forward to the appearing of christ on the last day to judge the just and the unjusts. You want to hear the gospel? You should hear about righteousness self-control and the coming judgment.

That's gospel preaching.

Hosty hostess Twinkie, theology. It's not gospel preaching. Doesn't proclaim christ in all of his glory and all of his benefits and all of his reality. As the one who made you and the one before whom you will stand. But the one who has given himself to be your righteousness.

If you would just rest upon him. And turn from your sin which would destroy you to the savior who has every right to destroy you. But god sent his son into the world, not that you would be condemned. With that, before the condemnation before the judgment, You might believe in him and be forgiven.

And that believing in him and being joined to him, you would cease to be darkness and you would become light, and you'd be able to live with things like self-control. And the more you did the more glorious jesus who produced that innu would be seen to be And then when he returns at the judgment, He would get all the glory.

Now, if you're a christian, that is the best news you've ever heard. But if you hear like Felix. Then that's alarming. Now, the spirit tells us felix is afraid, but Felix doesn't say he's afraid. Felix responds, like most people do. When there's faithful preaching nearby. Well, i don't have time for that.

Is uncomfortable. For the one who comes to hear preaching to receive anything other than christ. Is uncomfortable for that sort of person to hear Christ, preached. But we're so good at suppressing. Are awareness even of our spiritual fear. Do you see what it feel? Like says. Spirit says, felix was afraid.

But what does Felix say? Go away for now when I have a convenient time, I will call for you. Oh, the services are too long. Or the worship is too boring. Or I'm busy at that time. And, you know, you can even attend and give a stiff arm to the preaching.

You just don't pay attention. In one ear out the other. Smiling or not. Write notes. Pass them around. Use your own discomfort with hearing the word breach, to become a distraction to the people around you.

There are many reasons. That people do not that there are many ways that people show that they are not freed by faith in Christ to hear Christ, preached. But you need this freedom before Christ appears. Because at the judgment, there will be no. Excused absences or unexcused absences? You will not have somewhere else that you need to be and you will not be able to be anywhere else.

There is going to be no chit chatting, instead of listening or passing notes. At the judgment. When Christ proclaims himself in the last day,

You need to have already come. To the freedom that is in him. Why do you like to hear the gospel? Maybe we should start before that. Do you love to hear the gospel? Because someone who knows and belongs to this Christ, loves to hear these things about him. That he is our righteousness.

That he is all the life and hope for our living righteously even. Although that doesn't make us right before God only he makes us right before. God That he's appearing. And when we see him, we'll be like him and that's why we're purifying ourselves, like he is pure. He is the desire of our hearts.

We love his appearing. Why do you like to hear the gospel? Let us not think that we are safe. Simply because we like to hear sermons. Because there are so many other motives than Christ himself. For which you might like coming to church and even might like hearing gospel sermons.

You know, there are people who go to church for money. Not necessarily being on the role of those who receive money. Although that happens to But because it's good for their business connections. You know, of one man who attended a faithful church until he ran for office? As soon as he started running for office, he needed to attend a big church.

Instead of a faithful church. More hands to shake after.

That's probably not a big one for y'all. But some people like to hear, Gospel sermons because it increases the way others esteem them. They like to be seen. Hearing gospel sermons. You know, more nuanced and more deadly tricky. Version of that, is You feel good about yourself for liking to hear those gospel sermons?

Or maybe you just enjoy theological ideas, the way some people enjoy. Ideas about physics and other people. Enjoy ideas about music and other people enjoy ideas about art. Maybe you just find it intellectually stimulating?

Some of us. Hope that we will hear well enough one day. To make up for how guilty we feel before, God.

You never hear well enough. Only Christ. Makes up for guilt. Other people have just attended. Church and know that they should attend. They're in that habit and good. Good habits are

good for us. That they just hear sermons because they're maintaining good habits. Keeps preserves for them, their sense of equilibrium in life.

Oh, dear congregation. Seek from christ. To hear the gospel of christ. Out of a desire for christ himself. To hear about christ as your righteousness before, god. To hear about christ as the one who by his spirit produces strength and motivation for your sanctification unto self-control. To hear about christ as the certainty, that he who began the work and you will bring it to completion.

To hear about christ as your safety at the judgment. And your reward at the judgment. And if you come, Trying. But enable. To hear the preaching in this way. Look to him wrestle. Hold on. Like jacob with whatever he enables you. Cling to him. Like someone who refuses to let go until god.

The spirit will bless you. Don't repeat felix's error. And either stop hearing or hear in a way that resists engaging. Because it is through the preaching of christ, that christ will give you himself.

Cry out to him. That his spirit would give you faith and join you to jesus. And ask others to pray for you. Because those who have him and know him, they will not judge you here, i thought you were a christian oldest time. And it turns out that You don't like to hear gospel preaching, because you have no appetite for jesus.

No one's coming well. Anyone who responds that way, isn't the one you want praying for you anyway. They're not converted. Those who are Love you and love him. And want you to hear with desire and hear without fear. To find your freedom. In the lord, jesus christ. It is this very preaching, which we are tempted to avoid, which is the means by which christ gives himself to sinners.

And so press on in hearing, And look to him. Even to give you his spirit. And his life. By which you will have faith. To have him to have christ himself. Amen.

Our father, we thank you for The freedom that you had given paul. No longer pull the pharisee. Now, paul the apostle.

When we thank you that you Proclaim, christ's to us by this word. And we pray lord jesus that you would be glorified. As all of our righteous standing before God. And the source of any righteousness in our life. And as our safety. For when you return. When we pray that your spirit would, Continue to write the truth about you on our hearts.

For, we ask it in your name, Lord, jesus. Amen.