

Festus Takes Over from Felix as Governor

- 1. Festus Arrives to Replace Felix as Governor (1-5).**
- 2. Paul's Arraignment Is One of Festus' First Duties (6-9).**
- 3. Paul Appeals to Caesar (10-12).**

CONCLUSION: While Paul remains in jail, Felix is recalled to Rome and Festus replaces him as the Governor of Judea. Whereas Felix procrastinated and unjustly kept Paul in prison for two years, Festus sought to resolve his case expeditiously. Paul claims his right as a Roman citizen to appeal his case to Caesar and Festus grants his request. Throughout this brief account we see God's sovereign reign continuing regardless of the worldly authorities that are involved. We can rest in Christ's loving care and are to be vigilant in pursuing His justice for ourselves and others.

Colossians 8:1-4

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.* ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "*Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?* ²⁰ *As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.* ²¹ *So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.*" Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Daniel 3:16-18

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If this be so, *our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.* ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Genesis 9:1-17

³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. ⁴ But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵ And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. *From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.* "Whoever sheds the blood of man, *by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.* ⁷ And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it." ⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Hypothetical: Last year our judge was horrible. This year the new judge is not so bad. What difference does it make?! Well, that depends on if you are on trial or not. And when. But God is able to work through them all.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 25:1-12; Colossians 3:1-4; Genesis 9:3-11; 50:15-21; Daniel 3:1-30; Romans 8:31-39.** DISCUSS To what level of detail is King Jesus overseeing? Over whom does He have control? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2.** PRAY “Lord Jesus, thank You for caring for us in every detail of our lives. Thank You for faithfully doing exactly as You promised to do to save us.”

Sunday Evening

Come join the *Young Adults' Fellowship* tonight at 6pm. Pray for them!

Monday

READ **Acts 25:1-12; Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 73:1-28.** DISCUSS How did Joseph see what his brothers had done to him? Why? How did God's faithfulness enable him to forgive others? What changed for the psalmist in v. 17? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2.** PRAY, “Lord Christ, help me to trust in You rather than complain about those around me.”

Tuesday

READ **Acts 25:1-12; Daniel 3:1-30; Psalm 109:1-4.** DISCUSS Why would Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego not bow before the image? Look at their response in vv. 16-18. Did they know that God would save them from the furnace? What did they know? Why did the psalmist give himself to prayer? Do you run to God with your complaints or to other people? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2.** PRAY, “Lord, keep us from bowing to idols. Embolden us, we ask You. Strengthen us each day to trust You.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 25:1-12; Genesis 9:3-11; Colossians 3:1-4**. DISCUSS, What does God require for the murder of human beings? Why? What are we supposed to focus on according to Colossians? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2**. PRAY “Lord, forgive us for ways that we profane Your holy name. Teach us to look to You and focus on the truth of what You have promised.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 25:1-12; Romans 8:31-39; Numbers 14:1-9**. DISCUSS, No matter how evil or good the civil authorities are, we can trust that God is still ruling and reigning over all things. Where do you most struggle to remember that? MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2**. PRAY “Father, help us to trust You in both times of plenty and times of want. You are always faithful.”

Friday

READ **Acts 25:1-12; Colossians 3:1-4; Genesis 9:3-11; 50:15-21; Daniel 3:1-30; Romans 8:31-39**. DISCUSS, What have you been learning from these passages this week? REPENT of whatever the Holy Spirit is pointing out in your life! MEDITATE on **Romans 12:1-2**. PRAY for FCCW.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. READ **Acts 25:1-27**. Invite others to join you for either the *in-person or live-stream service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to be glorified in our testimony of Him.

Romans 12:1-2

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”