

CHOICES

ACTS 25:1-22

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: With the expansive growth of the church, the Jews felt threatened. They had good reason to fear. "...the city and the temple were destroyed in A.D. 70 (within nine years) ...traditional Jewish worship ceased." Warren Wiersbe, Be Daring, page 97.

JEWS CHOSE VICTIMHOOD. Victimhood is a state of mind of self-imposed suffering and entitlement to self-pity. It is characterized by self-righteousness. They saw themselves as victims of Paul and his message of the gospel. In reality they were persecuting Christ and also themselves. (Acts 25:1-6, fn 25:1-9, Acts 26:12-15, fn 26:14, Philippians 2:1-5, fn 2:5, II Timothy 2:1, fn 2:1, Romans 5:13) *How can you avoid choosing victimhood?*

PAUL WITH NO CHOICE—Paul's clear conscience, resulting from his obedience to Christ, helped him make the decision to appeal to Caesar. (Acts 25:7-12, fn 25:11, Acts 28:18,19, Hebrews 10:22, I Timothy 1:18, 19, fn 1:19, Hebrews 9:8-14, fn 9:12-14, Ephesians 1:7, 8, fn 1:7, fn 1:7, 8) *In light of Paul's past, how could he have a clear conscience?*

FESTUS WITH A CHOICE—With the power of the Holy Spirit, Paul shared the good news of Jesus with Festus, leaving the results to God. Festus, like Felix, had opportunities to respond to the gospel message. (Acts 25:13-22, fn 25:19, Acts 26:19-24, fn 26:24, I Corinthians 1:17, fn 1:17[2nd], I Corinthians 2:1-5, fn 2:1-5, Psalms 40:9, 10, fn 40:9, 10, Daniel 12:3, fn 12:3, Philemon 6) *Why does Jesus want you to share your faith in Christ?*

Pray for one another's needs.

Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?