

# ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

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## Study 56: Live to please God, not man

**READ** Acts 25:1-12 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

Upon assuming his role, the newly appointed Governor Festus immediately met with Jewish leaders in Jerusalem to sure up support and secure peace. In a desire to have the Apostle Paul secretly assassinated, the Jewish leadership requested a retrial for false charges that he was found innocent of two years ago. As Paul faced his accusers in Caesarea, the reader encounters two contrasting characters: Festus and Paul. Festus was a man who was willing to forgo justice to protect his own office, whereas Paul was willing to die if it meant upholding justice. Festus was a man-pleaser who would end up dying in office within two years. Paul was a God-pleaser who, after appealing to Caesar, would testify to the facts about Christ in Rome.

**Big idea:** God will protect and honour His servants who seek to courageously please Him and He will use them for His sovereign purposes.

### Questions:

1. How long after Festus became governor did he meet with the Jewish leaders? Why might he have done this?
2. Why did the high priest and Jewish leaders want Paul transferred back to Jerusalem to stand trial (vv. 2-3)?
3. After hearing the charges and Paul's response, what was Festus' verdict (25:25)?
4. Why didn't Festus declare Paul's innocence (v. 9) and how does his motivation compare to other men in Roman authority? See Mark 15:15; Acts 12:2-3; 24:27.

5. A. From John 5:44, what is the warning Jesus gives to those who would seek to please man and receive glory from them as opposed to those who would seek to please God and the glory that comes from Him?

B. What might be the internal motivation for man-pleasing over God-pleasing?

C. How can the application of the gospel, that those who are in Christ are complete in Him, help you conquer any need to please man over God?

6. A. What stands out to you about Paul's statements in vv. 10-11 with regards to his boldness, courage, and view of death? Also see Phil 1:21.

B. What can you learn from this as you face difficulties and trials in your life?

7. A. Why do you think Paul appealed to Caesar (v. 11) and was it right to do so?

B. If God is sovereign over frustrating circumstances, is it wrong to seek to get out from under them? Why/why not?

### STOP AND PRAY:

**Thank:** the Lord for the government authorities He has placed over you

**Pray:** that you would grow in your love for Christ and desire to please Him over man