



THE LIFE OF
PAUL

FAMILY DEVOS

The Dangers of Procrastination

Scripture: Acts 24

Memory Verse: John 16:8

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

For My Family:

Let's take a moment to review how Paul came to stand before Felix, the Roman governor. It all started with a lie. Soon after Paul arrived in Jerusalem, he went to the temple, where he was accused of taking a Gentile beyond a wall that separated Jews from Gentiles. The crowd erupted into an angry mob that tried to kill Paul. He was rescued by the Romans and would remain a prisoner of Rome until the end of the book of Acts with a promise from the Lord that he would go to Rome. Paul's words were rejected by the crowd, and the Sanhedrin wouldn't even hear what he had to say. So now he stood on trial before Felix, the Roman governor. Felix the procrastinator.

Do you know what a procrastinator is? It is someone who puts things off until later. Maybe you have done that with chores or homework. It never ends well. Felix is one of the Bible's most well-known procrastinators. Felix listened to Paul and was curious to hear more. Felix and his wife both sat and listened to Paul talk about the importance of having faith in Jesus Christ. Paul talked to them about righteousness, self-control, and warned them that Jesus would come again to judge the world. As Paul spoke, Felix became afraid, for he was a wicked man, but instead of giving his life to Jesus, he told Paul to go away until there was a more convenient time. Sadly, that time would never come. Felix would be replaced by Festus, who we will meet in the next chapter. There is no doubt that God loved Felix very much. He is not willing that any should perish! God gave him every opportunity to believe in Him, but Felix decided to procrastinate. He kept putting salvation off until it was too late.

The Bible says, “Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2). If you aren't a follower of Jesus, don't procrastinate. The time is now! But for those of us who do follow Jesus, there is also a valuable lesson to learn about procrastination. People put off doing all kinds of things for all kinds of reasons: pride, anger, laziness, inconvenience, etc. For example, God's word tells us not to let the sun go down on our anger (Ephesians 4:26). This means that if you are angry with someone, go to them and try to make it right before the day is over. Another example might be that if you have wronged someone, go and ask for forgiveness immediately. Every time we read God's Word, we are given the opportunity to take action, or to put sometime off. God calls us to obey Him, seek Him, and share His message with others now. We don't know if there will be a later. He is coming soon! There will never be a better or a more convenient time to follow and live for Him than right now.

Questions for Young Children:

What does “procrastinate” mean?

Who procrastinated in today’s story?

Have you ever put something off/not done something right away?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Why do you think Felix sent Paul away?

Why do people procrastinate?

Is there anything that you have been putting off that you need to go and do?