



THE LIFE OF  
**PAUL**

FAMILY DEVOS

# A Man of Integrity

**Scripture:** Acts 25:1-12

**Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 2:15

“For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.”

## For My Family:

At the end of Acts 24, we read that Paul was in custody for two years after his trial before Felix. At the end of that time, Felix was replaced by a new governor named Festus. However, while there was a new governor in charge, little else had changed about Paul's situation. He was still a prisoner. The Jews still wanted to get rid of him. We even read in Acts 25:3 that they were still plotting to kill him, asking Festus to bring him to Jerusalem so that they could ambush him. But despite all these difficulties Paul faced, there was something else that hadn't changed: God's promise that Paul would get the chance to preach the Gospel in Rome.

Festus didn't fall for the religious leaders' plot to ambush Paul, but he did want to figure out why the Jews wanted to kill him, so he arranged for Paul to be put on trial again so that he could decide the case. Festus invited the chief priests to Caesarea, and they accused Paul of many serious crimes, but without any proof. Paul again argued that he had broken neither the laws of Rome nor the laws of the Old Testament and that he was innocent of everything they were saying. Still, Festus wanted to do the Jews a favor, so he asked Paul if he was willing to go to Jerusalem and be put on trial there. Paul likely knew this was a trap, so he did something that he had the right to do as a Roman citizen: he asked to go to the emperor in Rome, the most powerful ruler in the world, and make his case there. Festus declared that Paul would indeed be sent to Rome to go on trial before the emperor.

Paul was unafraid to stand before Festus because he knew that he had done nothing wrong. He made sure to always do what was right and follow the laws of those who were in authority over him. Of course that doesn't mean he never sinned, but he did make it his aim always to do good and obey the rules. Another word for this is integrity. Because Paul lived with integrity, he knew that the religious leaders couldn't prove what they were saying because he hadn't done any of it. Even if Festus had believed them and Paul was punished, he knew that God was the true Judge who knows all truth, and He would judge Paul with justice. As believers, we also should live with integrity. That means obeying the authorities that God has placed over us, such as parents, teachers, and other adults, and doing our best to do the right thing at all times. When we live with integrity, we don't have to fear getting in trouble because we have done nothing wrong. Even if we do get in trouble, when we have integrity we know that God will make all things right in the end.

## Questions for Young Children:

Did Paul really do the bad things the chief priests accused him of?

Who did Paul ask Festus to send him to?

What authorities has God given you to obey?

## Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

What does the word “integrity” mean?

Why do you think Paul asked to go to Rome?

Read 1 Peter 2:11-17. According to these verses, what will happen if we have integrity in front of unbelievers? (Note: In these verses, “Gentiles” refer to unbelievers.)