

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

ACTS 24:1-27

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

BACKGROUND: Paul recognized the reason that he was on trial and it was not for the bogus charges of the Jews. The “elephant” was the resurrection, and it was really Jesus, not Paul, who was on trial. (See **Acts 23:11**)

THAT WAS—In his defense to the accusations by the Jews, Paul explained that the Jewish Law and the Prophets proclaimed a resurrection of the dead. (**Acts 24:10-16, fn 24:10ff, Luke 20:27-44, fn 20:27-38, fn 20:34, 35, fn 20:41-44, Exodus 3:6, I Corinthians 15:3-8, fn 15:5-8, Luke 16:19-31, fn 16:29-31**) *What is the gospel message found in Acts 24:14-15?*

THAT IS—We have Jesus with His resurrected power living in us, and that is why we can confidently proclaim the resurrection. Like Paul, it is for the resurrection of the dead that we are “on trial” today. (**Acts 24:17-21, Ephesians 1:15-22, fn 1:20-22, II Corinthians 4:7-18, fn 4:16, fn 4:18, John 14:6, Ephesians 2:8, 9, I John 2:1, 2, I Peter 3:15**) *How would you explain the answer to the following question to a lost friend? “When you die and stand before God, what reason would you give that you should be allowed to live eternally with Him?”*

THAT WILL BE—For Felix, the elephant in the room was resurrection, then judgment. “He had just made the potentially fatal error of procrastination... Though we might hear the same truth again, it might not bring conviction again... Repetition dulls truth’s potency... Moreover, truths not acted upon can harden us so that we cannot understand them.” Kent Hughes, *Acts*, page 314. (**Acts 24:22-27, fn 24:25, II Corinthians 6:1, 2, fn 6:2, Mark 10:17-23, fn 10:23, Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 20:11-15, fn 20:14, John 1:12, 13, fn 1:12, 13**) *How could you encourage your family to avoid putting off the decision to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior?*

Pray for one another’s needs.

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