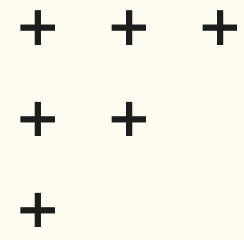


Acts.



Themes in Acts

- + COMMITMENT TO THE GOSPEL
- + TRUST IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AND CARE DESPITE CIRCUMSTANCES



+ + +
+ +
+

PAUL'S 6 DEFENSES

01

**Before the Jewish
Mob in Jerusalem**

ACTS 22:1-21

02

**Before the
Sanhedrin**

ACTS 22:30-23:10

03

**Before Governor
Felix in Caesarea**

ACTS 24:10-21

04

**Before Governor
Festus**

ACTS 25:1-12

05

**Before King Agrippa
and Bernice**

ACTS 26:1-32

06

**Before the Jewish
Leaders in Rome**

ACTS 28:17-29

+ + +
+ +
+

PAUL'S 6 DEFENSES

01

Before the Jewish
Mob in Jerusalem

ACTS 22:1-21

02

Before the
Sanhedrin

ACTS 22:30-23:10

03

Before Governor
Felix in Caesarea

ACTS 24:10-21

04

Before Governor
Festus

ACTS 25:1-12

05

Before King Agrippa
and Bernice

ACTS 26:1-32

06

Before the Jewish
Leaders in Rome

ACTS 28:17-29

+ + +
+ +
+

Five days later the high priest Ananias went down to Caesarea with some of the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and they brought their charges against Paul before the governor. ² When Paul was called in, Tertullus presented his case before Felix: “We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation. ³ Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. ⁴ But in order not to weary you further, I would request that you be kind enough to hear us briefly.”

ACTS 24:1-4 NIV

+ + +
+ +
+

“We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect⁶ and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him.⁸ By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him.”

⁹ The other Jews joined in the accusation, asserting that these things were true.

ACTS 24:5-9 NIV

+ + +
+ +
+

“We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect ⁶ and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him, and we would have judged him in accordance with our law. ^[7] But the commander Lysias came and took him from us with much violence, ^[8] ordering his accusers to come before you. ⁸ By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him.”

⁹ The other Jews joined in the accusation, asserting that these things were true.

ACTS 24:5-9 NIV

+ + +
+ +
+

When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.

ACTS 23:7 NIV

The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks.

ACTS 23:10 NIV

...we would have judged him in accordance with our law.^[7] But the commander Lysias came and took him from us with much violence,^[8] ordering his accusers to come before you.

ACTS 24:7-8* NIV

+ + +
+ +
+

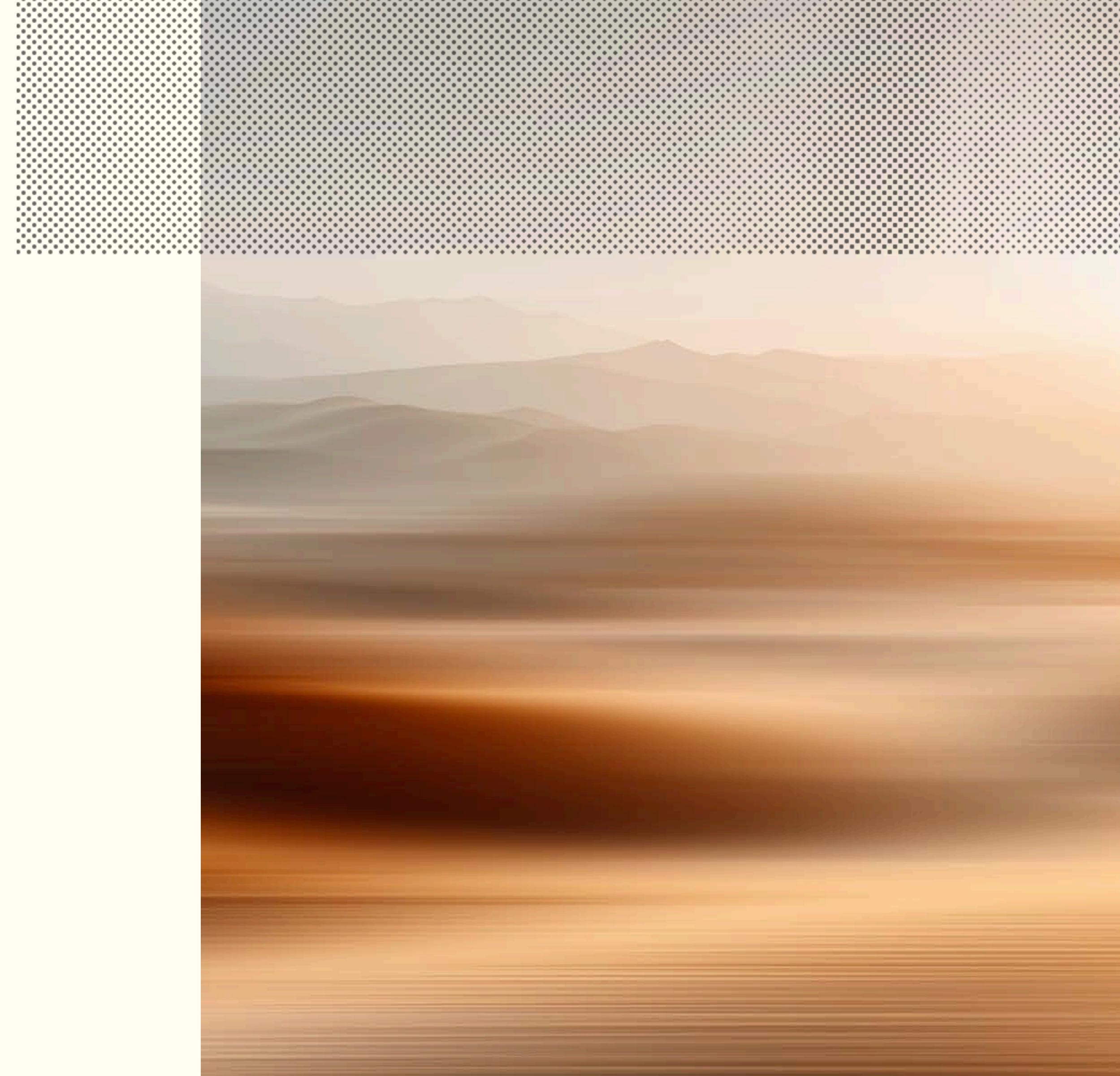
...shouting, “Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place.”²⁹ (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.)

ACTS 21:28-29 NIV

“We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect⁶ and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him.”

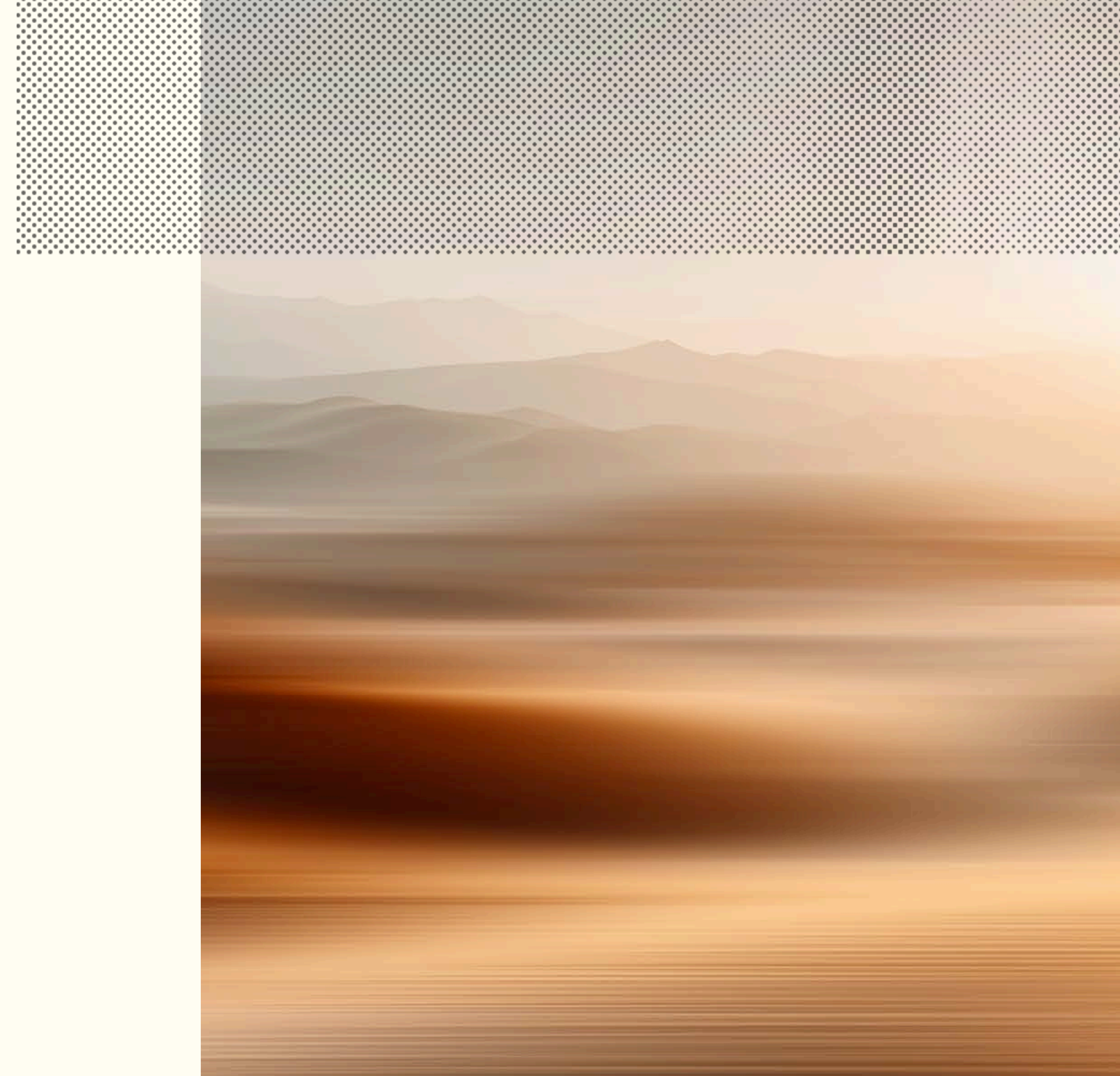
ACTS 24:5-6 NIV

The Gospel & Culture





In obedience to Christ, where do we continue in and celebrate our Americanism, and where do we challenge or jettison it?



+ + +
+ +
+

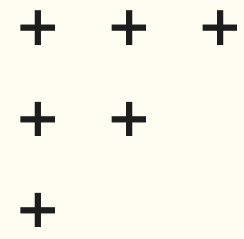
When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied: “I know that for a number of years you have been a judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense. ¹¹ You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. ¹² My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. ¹³ And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me.”

ACTS 24:10-13 NIV

+ + +
+ +
+

“However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets,¹⁵ and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.¹⁶ So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.”

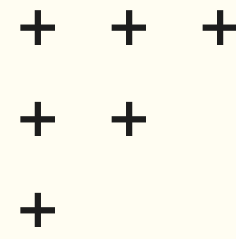
ACTS 24:14-16 NIV



“However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets,¹⁵ and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.¹⁶ **So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.”**

ACTS 24:14-16 NIV

- + COMMITMENT TO THE GOSPEL
- + TRUST IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AND CARE DESPITE CIRCUMSTANCES



...I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.
¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.
¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

PHILIPPIANS 4:11b-13

“However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets,¹⁵ and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.¹⁶ **So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.”**

ACTS 24:14-16 NIV

- + COMMITMENT TO THE GOSPEL
- + TRUST IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AND CARE DESPITE CIRCUMSTANCES

+ + +
+ +
+

“After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings.¹⁸ I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple courts doing this. There was no crowd with me, nor was I involved in any disturbance.¹⁹ But there are some Jews from the province of Asia, who ought to be here before you and bring charges if they have anything against me.²⁰ Or these who are here should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin—²¹ unless it was this one thing I shouted as I stood in their presence: ‘It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.’”

ACTS 24:17-21 NIV

+ + +
+ +
+

Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. “When Lysias the commander comes,” he said, “I will decide your case.”²³ He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs.

ACTS 24:22-23 NIV

+ + +
+ +
+

“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.²³ I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.²⁴ However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”

ACTS 20:22-24 NIV

+ + +
+ +
+

“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.²³ I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.²⁴ However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”

ACTS 20:22-24 NIV

Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

EPHESIANS 6:19-20 NIV

+ + +
+ +
+

Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus.²⁵ As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.”²⁶ At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.

ACTS 24:24-26 NIV

+ + +
+ +
+

When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.

ACTS 24:27 NIV

**“As long as I am in the tent of this body,
I will make a joyful noise!”**

JOHN VAN DEUSEN | BY GRACIOUS POWERS

