

# Word of God

## The Book of Acts

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *THE BIBLE IS LIKE NO OTHER BOOK, FOR IT HOLDS THE VERY WORDS OF GOD, WHICH HAVE POWER TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF ANY WHO READ IT AND PUT THEIR FAITH IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. PSALM 34:8 SAYS, "OH, TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD! BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TAKES REFUGE IN HIM!" THROUGH THE NEBRASKA LIVING TIMES YOU MAY "TASTE" AND SEE THE GOODNESS OF GOD THROUGH HIS VERY OWN WORDS, EACH MONTH, RIGHT HERE. MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH HIS WORD!*

(CONTINUED FROM MAY 2019)  
**THE BOOK OF ACTS**  
CHAPTER 24

**PAUL BEFORE FELIX AT CAESAREA**

1 AND AFTER FIVE DAYS THE HIGH PRIEST ANANIAS CAME DOWN WITH SOME ELDERS AND A SPOKESMAN, ONE TERTULLUS. THEY LAID BEFORE THE GOVERNOR THEIR CASE AGAINST PAUL. 2 AND WHEN HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED, TERTULLUS BEGAN TO ACCUSE HIM, SAYING: "SINCE THROUGH YOU WE ENJOY MUCH PEACE, AND SINCE BY YOUR FORESIGHT, MOST EXCELLENT FELIX, REFORMS ARE BEING MADE FOR THIS NATION, 3 IN EVERY WAY AND EVERYWHERE WE ACCEPT THIS WITH ALL GRATITUDE. 4 BUT, TO DETAIN YOU NO FURTHER, I BEG YOU IN YOUR KINDNESS TO HEAR US BRIEFLY. 5 FOR WE HAVE FOUND THIS MAN A PLAGUE, ONE WHO STIRS

UP RIOTS AMONG ALL THE JEWS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND IS A RINGLEADER OF THE SECT OF THE NAZARENES. 6 HE EVEN TRIED TO PROFANE THE TEMPLE, BUT WE SEIZED HIM. 8 BY EXAMINING HIM YOURSELF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FIND OUT FROM HIM ABOUT EVERYTHING OF WHICH WE ACCUSE HIM."

9 THE JEWS ALSO JOINED IN THE CHARGE, AFFIRMING THAT ALL THESE THINGS WERE SO.

10 AND WHEN THE GOVERNOR HAD NODDED TO HIM TO SPEAK, PAUL REPLIED:

"KNOWING THAT FOR MANY YEARS YOU HAVE BEEN A JUDGE OVER THIS NATION, I CHEERFULLY MAKE MY DEFENSE. 11 YOU CAN VERIFY THAT IT IS NOT MORE THAN TWELVE DAYS SINCE I WENT UP TO WORSHIP IN JERUSALEM, 12 AND THEY DID NOT FIND ME DISPUTING WITH ANYONE OR STIRRING UP A CROWD, EITHER IN THE TEMPLE

OR IN THE SYNAGOGUES OR IN THE CITY. 13 NEITHER CAN THEY PROVE TO YOU WHAT THEY NOW BRING UP AGAINST ME. 14 BUT THIS I CONFESS TO YOU, THAT ACCORDING TO THE WAY, WHICH THEY CALL A SECT, I WORSHIP THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS, BELIEVING EVERYTHING LAID DOWN BY THE LAW AND WRITTEN IN THE PROPHETS, 15 HAVING A HOPE IN GOD, WHICH THESE MEN THEMSELVES ACCEPT, THAT THERE WILL BE A RESURRECTION OF BOTH THE JUST AND THE UNJUST. 16 SO I ALWAYS TAKE PAINS TO HAVE A CLEAR CONSCIENCE TOWARD BOTH GOD AND MAN. 17 NOW AFTER SEVERAL YEARS I CAME TO BRING ALMS TO MY NATION AND TO PRESENT OFFERINGS. 18 WHILE I WAS DOING THIS, THEY FOUND ME PURIFIED IN THE TEMPLE, WITHOUT ANY CROWD OR TUMULT. BUT SOME JEWS FROM ASIA — 19 THEY OUGHT TO BE HERE

BEFORE YOU AND TO MAKE AN ACCUSATION, SHOULD THEY HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST ME. 20 OR ELSE LET THESE MEN THEMSELVES SAY WHAT WRONGDOING THEY FOUND WHEN I STOOD BEFORE THE COUNCIL, 21 OTHER THAN THIS ONE THING THAT I CRIED OUT WHILE STANDING AMONG THEM: 'IT IS WITH RESPECT TO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD THAT I AM ON TRIAL BEFORE YOU THIS DAY.'"

**PAUL KEPT IN CUSTODY**

22 BUT FELIX, HAVING A RATHER ACCURATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WAY, PUT THEM OFF, SAYING, "WHEN LYSIAS THE TRIBUNE COMES DOWN, I WILL DECIDE YOUR CASE." 23 THEN HE GAVE ORDERS TO THE CENTURION THAT HE SHOULD BE KEPT IN CUSTODY BUT HAVE SOME LIBERTY, AND THAT NONE OF HIS FRIENDS SHOULD BE PREVENTED FROM ATTENDING TO HIS NEEDS.

24 AFTER SOME DAYS FELIX CAME WITH HIS WIFE DRUSILLA, WHO WAS JEWISH, AND HE SENT FOR PAUL AND HEARD HIM SPEAK ABOUT FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS. 25 AND AS HE REASONED ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SELF-CONTROL AND THE COMING JUDGMENT, FELIX WAS ALARMED AND SAID, "GO AWAY FOR THE PRESENT. WHEN I GET AN OPPORTUNITY I WILL SUMMON YOU." 26 AT THE SAME TIME HE HOPED THAT MONEY WOULD BE GIVEN HIM BY PAUL. SO HE SENT FOR HIM OFTEN AND CONVERSED WITH HIM. 27 WHEN TWO YEARS HAD ELAPSED, FELIX WAS SUCCEEDED BY PORCIUS FESTUS. AND DESIRING TO DO THE JEWS A FAVOR, FELIX LEFT PAUL IN PRISON.

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## ELEPHANT: ADDRESSING THE PRIDEFUL ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

**FROM PAGE TWO**

ceremony to be depicted in a child's cartoon on public television, I was questioned as being hateful and intolerant, my faith was questioned as being hateful, it was suggested I should maybe move out of the country, that the way I interpret the Bible when it comes to sexual sin is wrong and that homosexuality is OK based on other interpretations of the Bible.

• **Bishop Thomas Tobin:** Bishop Thomas Tobin of Rhode Island was the target of intense LGBTQ and anti-Catholic cruel and bitter criticism after posting the following on Twitter on June 1st:

*"A reminder that Catholics should not support or attend LGBTQ 'Pride Month' events held in June. They promote a culture and encourage activities that are contrary to Catholic faith and morals. They are especially harmful for children."*

Tyler, Texas, Bishop Joseph Strickland came to Bishop Tobin's defense, Tweeting:

*"Please stop labeling bishops who speak the truth of the Gospel as homophobic," he tweeted. "God gave us sexual intimacy for the procreation of children and the deeper union of a man & woman in marriage. Stating this truth is not homophobia, it is simply reality."*

However, he too was bombarded with hate tweets and harassed.

• **CA Lawmakers Trying to Force Pastors to Embrace Pro-**

**LGBT Ideology:** According to CBN News, lawmakers are pushing a resolution in the California Assembly Judiciary Committee that's aimed at telling religious leaders in California what they should preach from their pulpits.

The California Family Council reports that Assembly Concurrent Resolution 99 (ACR 99) calls on "counselors, pastors, religious workers, educators" and institutions with "great moral influence" to stop perpetuating the idea that something is wrong with LGBT identities or sexual behavior. ACR 99 also condemns attempts to change unwanted same-sex attraction or gender confusion.

Two people who are against the proposed legislation, however, are formerly gay individuals, Pastors Ken Williams and Elizabeth Woning, who argue against the resolution, calling it "discriminatory" against people like themselves, who overcame suicidal thoughts by following their faith away from their LGBT identities.

• **A Catholic restaurant is under LGBT fire over refusal to host lesbian 'wedding' rehearsal dinner:** Father Brian W. Harrison, who was interested to see who the hateful people were at Madison's Cafe, went to visit the restaurant and here is what he had to say for LifeSite News:

*"Julie, the owner, impressed me*

*immediately as a lovely and genuine person, full of strong faith, but very gentle and modest — quite the opposite of an aggressive or harshly judgmental 'gay-bashing' type. And yet (of course!) she and her husband are being accused stereotypically of 'hate,' 'bigotry,' and 'homophobia' by the LGBT activists. You can get an idea of the general tone of Madison's Cafe from the home-page of their website, where they actually have a Christian "Mission Statement": Go to [www.madisonsofallon.com](http://www.madisonsofallon.com)," Father Harrison said.*

• **Barronelle Stutzman:** a florist from Washington State is another example of a person who tried to live by her Biblical belief that marriage is a sacred union between a man and a woman and was sued for not wanting to use her creative talents to celebrate a same-sex marriage. Her case also made it to the Supreme Court, and, in light of its ruling in the Jack Phillips case, the Supreme Court told the Washington Supreme Court to go back and relook at the case to make sure that Barronelle was not unfairly treated in the process. The Washington Supreme Court, however, has continued to find Barronelle guilty of discrimination. The case is now headed back to the Supreme Court.

• **Sweet Cakes by Melissa:** This was a similar case as Jack Phillips as well. According to the Christian Post, the United States Supreme Court vacated a ruling against the Christian couple forced to pay \$135,000 for refus-

ing to make a gay wedding cake.

In an order released recently, the high court vacated an earlier ruling against Aaron and Melissa Klein, the Christian couple from Oregon who lost their bakery and were ordered to pay \$135,000 in damages for refusing to make a cake for a same-sex wedding in 2013.

The Supreme Court sent the case back to the Court of Appeals of Oregon "for further consideration" due to the 2018 decision in the Jack Phillips case.

I could list more, but I think you get the point.

The elephant is slowly making its way to the Supreme Court. The High Court will have no other option but to decide—will Christians have a right to live by their religious beliefs, or will they be forced to conform to the beliefs and Biblical interpretations of the LGBTQ proponents in this country?

I'm not sure if I have much faith in our Supreme Court. They are the ones who put us in this situation in the first place. From 2015 on, conservative Christians who stand on the absolute truth of the Bible that marriage is between one man and one woman, have had a bullseye put on our backs, and that bullseye has been getting bigger and bigger.

Christians have been backed into a corner. Not wanting to be labeled as someone who "hates", as LGBTQ proponents have labeled us, some

Christians have even gone so far as to compromise their faith and have given into the lies of the liberal left who have twisted the Bible's interpretation to fit their own desires.

Even as abortion is being successfully fought against and beaten down in the U.S., other forms of sin are rising up with the precedence set by the Supreme Court, and those with conservative Biblical Christian views are being punished and harassed for even trying to start a conversation to defend the absolute truth of the Bible and lovingly try to help those trapped in the homosexual and transgender lifestyle to see that there is freedom in Jesus Christ.

This issue is of the utmost importance to all in our country, even non-Christians, because if we lose the right to have religious freedoms, so does every other religion. Christians are commanded to love all people, but we first, and most importantly, must not sacrifice our allegiance to God because of the outcry of a few who wrongly accuse us of 'hate'. We lovingly say no when it comes to those who want to pressure us into condoning or conforming to lifestyles that we know are wrong based on the Bible. Loving someone does not mean we have to accept everything that person does, and it does not mean we have to participate in or condone all actions that person takes part in. Please pray for this monumental spiritual war going on in our country now.

### Would you like your own Bible?

Contact the The United States Bible Society, Inc., 5544 Forest Drive, Loganville Ga. 30052. Visit their website at <http://www.usbiblesociety.com/> or call them at (855)524-2537