“A Convenient Season”

**Text:** Acts 24:22-27 And when Felix heard these things, having more perfect knowledge of *that* way, he deferred them, and said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter. 23 And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let *him* have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him. 24 And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. 25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, *Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.* 26 He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him. 27 *But after two years* Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.

*Procrastination unchecked soon becomes a pattern that by default is permanent!*

*Conviction when put aside for convenience sake turns to callousness, callousness to corruption, and corruption to final condemnation!*

**Context: vs.1-27**
- We see Paul on Public trial for the faith vs 21 (namely the resurrection of the dead)
- Paul sought out Personally for the faith vs. 24 (Felix seeks out Paul to hear him concerning the faith)

I. **The Topic:** vs 25 “...as he reasoned...” THE CONVERSATION

A. **“Righteousness”** (Rule or Standard)

1. **The Foundation of Righteousness** Righteousness finds foundation in God

*To find that which God expects for the exaltation of a nation and the rescue of a reproached people man must find outside of the natural realm of unrighteous men, for there is none righteous, He must look to the only supernatural man, the God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness!*

   a. **Righteousness’s first mention:**

      1). Initiated by God

      2). Imputed to Man for his Faith!

**Genesis 15:6** And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. **Rom. 4:21-22**

b. **Righteousness’s only foundation:**

**Psalms 11:4-7** The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. 5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. 6 Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. 7 *For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.*
2. The Failure of Righteousness  Righteousness finds its failure in man
   a. The First State: Innocence  See: Genesis 1:26
   b. The First Situation: Choice  See: Genesis 2:9
   c. The Fallen State: Man made his choice, he chose SIN.

_Psalms 14:1-3_ To the chief Musician, _A Psalm_ of David. The fool hath said in his heart, _There is_ no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, _there is_ none that doeth good. 2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, _and_ seek God. 3 They are all gone aside, they are _all_ together become filthy: _there is_ none that doeth good, no, not one. See also: Romans 3:10-11; Deuteronomy 9:5-6

3. The Fountain of Righteousness  Righteousness finds fountain in Christ!
   a. Exposed in the Law:

_Galatians 2:21_ I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness _come_ by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

_Galatians 3:10-11_ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed _is_ every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. 11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, _it is_ evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

b. Expressed in Christ:

_1 John 2:1-2_ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for _the sins of_ the whole world.

_Philippians 3:8-9_ Yea doubtless, and I count all things _but_ loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them _but_ dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

c. Extended in the Gospel:

_Romans 1:16-17_ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

B. “Temperance” (Responsibility)

Webster's 1828 Dictionary: TEM'PERANCE, n. L. temperantia, from tempero.

1. Moderation; particularly, habitual moderation in regard to the indulgence of the natural appetites and passions; restrained or moderate indulgence; as temperance in eating and drinking; temperance in the
indulgence of joy or mirth. Temperance in eating and drinking is opposed to gluttony and drunkenness, and in other indulgences, to excess.

2. Patience; calmness; sedateness; moderation of passion.

Acts 17:24-30 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; 26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; 27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: 28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. 29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. 30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

C. “Judgment to Come” (Reckoning)

Romans 14:11-12 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Acts 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

II. The Trembling “...Felix trembled...” THE CONVICTION

Acts 5:30-33 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. 33 When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

III. The Time: “…for this time…”

2 Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

Luke 12:16-20 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: 17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?
IV. The Tragedy!!

When is a convenient time for the lost to repent?
When is the convenient time for the backslider to return?
When is a convenient time for a Christian to humble themselves?
The question is not one of convenience but one of opportunity! The only certain opportunity we have is NOW!

A. We assume we will have ANOTHER opportunity

James 4:13-14 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

B. We underestimate the deception we are prone to:

Luke 8:11-12 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

C. We are unaware the Lord may never approach me again of the matter!

1. Of Sinners

Romans 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

2. Of Saints

1 Samuel 28:6 And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. *Eph 4:30 grieve not / I Thess. 5:19 quench not the Spirit!

D. We can “use up” the opportunities offered in the longsuffering of God!

2 Chronicles 36:16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

E. We can cross the unseen line!

Numbers 14:20-23 And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word: 21 But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD. 22 Because all those men which have seen
my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; 23 Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: