

## **Article 17**

### **Acts 24-26**

Introduction: At the end of his writing, Luke showed us two major challenges faced by those who believed in Jesus:

1. The problems caused by the gospel among the Jews had become more and more acute
2. The gospel was being preached to non-Jews and there were plenty of opportunities and changes. There was nothing to stop the gospel from spreading among the people!

Abstract:

1. Paul's fellow religious leaders once again brought formal charges against Paul to the governor, accusing Paul of stirring up riots by preaching about Jesus.
2. Paul once again defended himself and pleaded that the Christ he preached about was the one whom the Jews had been hoping for!
3. The Roman leaders were curious about the gospel preached by Paul, and Felix himself had heard the gospel before.
4. The Roman leaders were used by the Jews as a tool to kill Paul for the sake of their own political interest (to please the Jews).
5. Paul requested for a trial before Caesar.
6. Paul made a third statement about his experience in Damascus in his defense, which allowed Paul a chance to give a complete account of the gospel that he preached!

Summary:

1. The adversaries of the gospel actually came from its origin - Jewish belief.
2. Paul emphasized repeatedly that Jesus whom he preached about was the hope of the Jewish religious traditions!
3. Paul had an experience that was similar to Jesus Christ's. Paul was rejected by his fellow Jews and was almost killed by Roman leaders who were being manipulated by his fellow Jews.
4. In prison, Paul continued to seek opportunities to preach about Jesus.
5. Paul intentionally requested for a trial in front of the Roman Emperor as a witness to Christ.
6. As long as he could testify about Christ, it seemed that Paul did not care about what he would experience!
7. This so-called "adversity" was an opportunity for God and Paul!

### **Article 17 Notes for cell discussion**

This passage recorded Paul's statements to three Roman leaders, among whom Agrippa was the only attentive listener. It would be good if you can analyse the differences between these three statements. If there is insufficient time for this, please choose one statement to read through carefully, preferably the one made to Agrippa.