A Governor’s Fear
Acts 24:25

Introduction:
A. Paul rescued from Jewish mob carried to Caesarea.
B. Paul put on trial before Felix, Roman governor of Judea (53-60 A. D.)
   1. An unrighteous, licentious, and greedy governor.
   2. Drusilla, third wife, daughter of Herod Agrippa I.
   3. Held Paul prisoner in Caesarea for two years.
      a. Played politics with Paul’s case. (v. 22, 27)
      b. Tried to get a bribe from Paul. (v. 26).
C. Felix with Jewish wife hear Paul concerning his faith in Christ.
   1. Felix trembled (KJV) at the three-fold message of Paul.
   2. Three themes needed today:

Discussion:
I. He Reasoned about Righteousness.
   A. Unrighteous governor needed righteousness of God.
      1. Could be made righteous through gospel (Rom. 1:16, 17).
   B. Righteousness is made up of two inseparable components:
      1. Love for God — spiritual righteousness. (Matt. 22:37; 1 John 5:3)

II. He Reasoned about Self-control.
   A. Self-indulgent governor needed self-control.
   B. Self-control distinguishes us from lower creatures. (cf. Jude 10).
   C. Self-control is often surrendered to other forces.
      2. Emotions—emotions are good servant but poor master.
         a. Anger. (Eph. 4:26).
         b. Anxiety. (Matt. 6:33,34).
         c. Affections. (Cf. “Great is Diana”; “My parents did not believe that way”).
         d. Fear. (Rev. 21:8).
         e. Desires. (1 John 2:15-17; cf. David).
      3. Life’s external circumstances. (cf. Phil. 4:11-13).
      5. Peer-pressure—not limited to youth. (Barnabas—Gal. 3:13).

III. He Reasoned about The Judgment to Come.
   A. Felix had reason to be afraid of judgment to come.
   B. Every sinner ought to be afraid of judgment to come.
      1. Will have to give an account:
         a. For sinful words. (Matt. 12:36,37).
         b. For sinful deeds. (2 Cor. 5:10).
         c. For sinful neglect. (Matt. 25:40-46).

Conclusion:
A. Felix was great at putting things off. (v.22, 24).
B. Felix likely never saw a “convenient time.”