Acts 24:25

Intro: As a basis for our study turn to Acts 24:25 “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.” Here Paul was in prison and Felix called for Paul to come, hoping that he would receive money from Paul. But Paul used this opportunity to preach the gospel unto Felix and Drusilla.

1. **Righteousness.**
   a. It means the quality of being right or just. The relations we sustain to God and our fellow man.
   b. To God.
      i. Psa. 119:172 “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.”
      ii. Rom. 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. 17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
      iii. 1 John 3:7 “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”
   c. To man.
      i. Tit. 2:12 “Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”
      ii. Mat. 22:39 “And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
      iii. Treating them as you would like to be treated; Mat. 7:12 “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.
   d. Rom. 6:13 “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

2. **Temperance.**
   a. Means self-control; Restraint of all passions and evil inclinations.
   b. God has given unto us various powers, abilities, which can be misused.
      i. If not brought under the controlling power of the will.
         (1) Rom. 7:14-34 (esp. 15, 19, 21 “For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.... 19For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.... 21I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.”)
         (2) Gal. 5:19 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,”
      ii. Directed by God.
         (1) Rom. 6:6-7, 11 “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.... 11Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
         (2) Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
         (3) Eph. 4:22-24 “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”
3. **JUDGMENT TO COME.**
   a. **Universality.**
      i. Acts 17:30-31 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent. 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. Heb. 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
   b. **According to what we have done.**
      i. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things **done** in **his** body, according to that he hath done, whether **it** be good or bad.”
      ii. Rev. 20:12 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is **the book** of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”
      iii. Rom. 2:16 “In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”

Conclusion: Felix trembled but did not prepare himself for the coming judgment. Are you prepared?