

When Justice is Delayed...

Endlessly

Acts 24.1-27



Paul



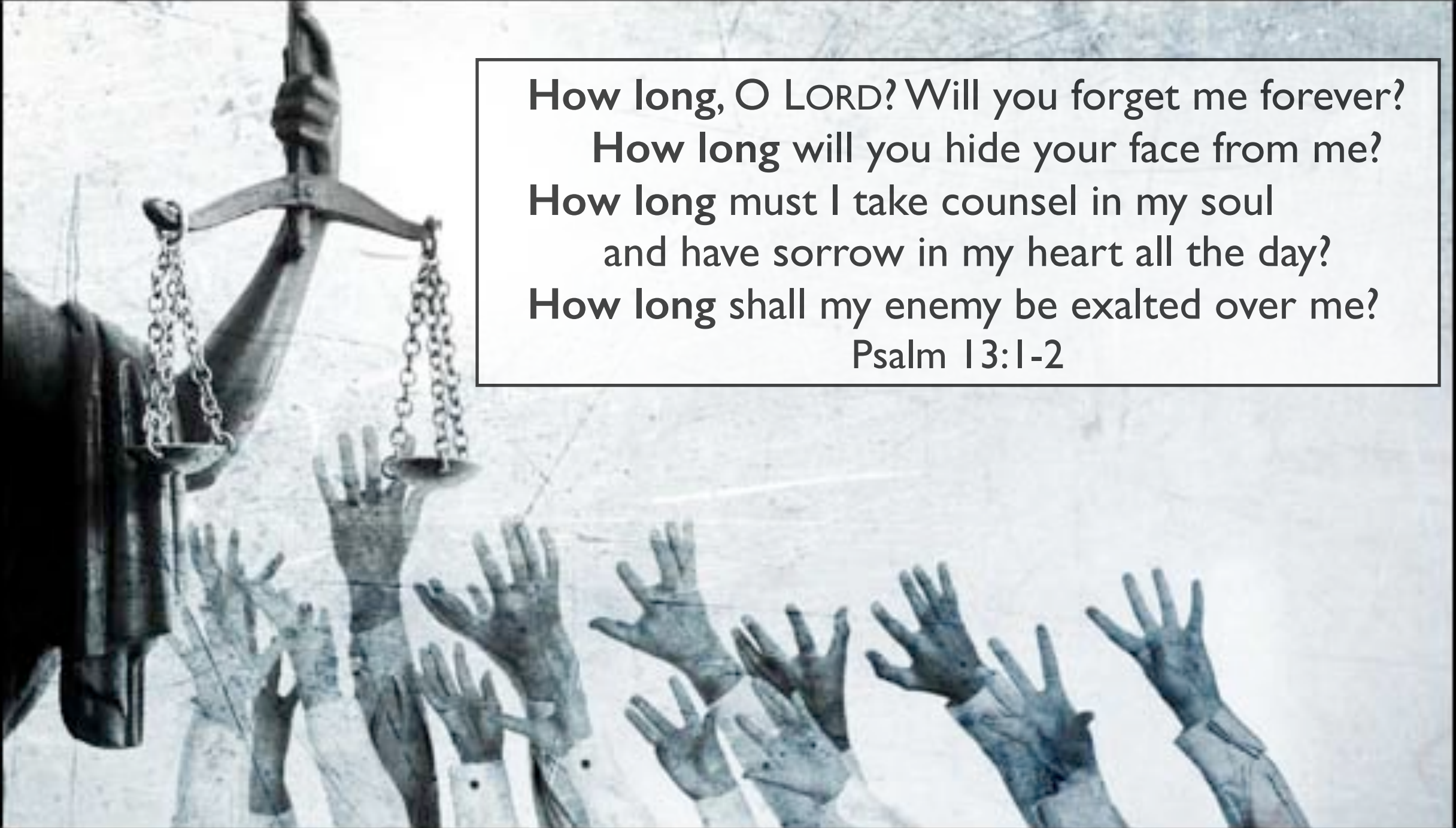
The Tribune

Fortress of
Antonia

Courtyard

Herod's Palace Caesarea Maritime

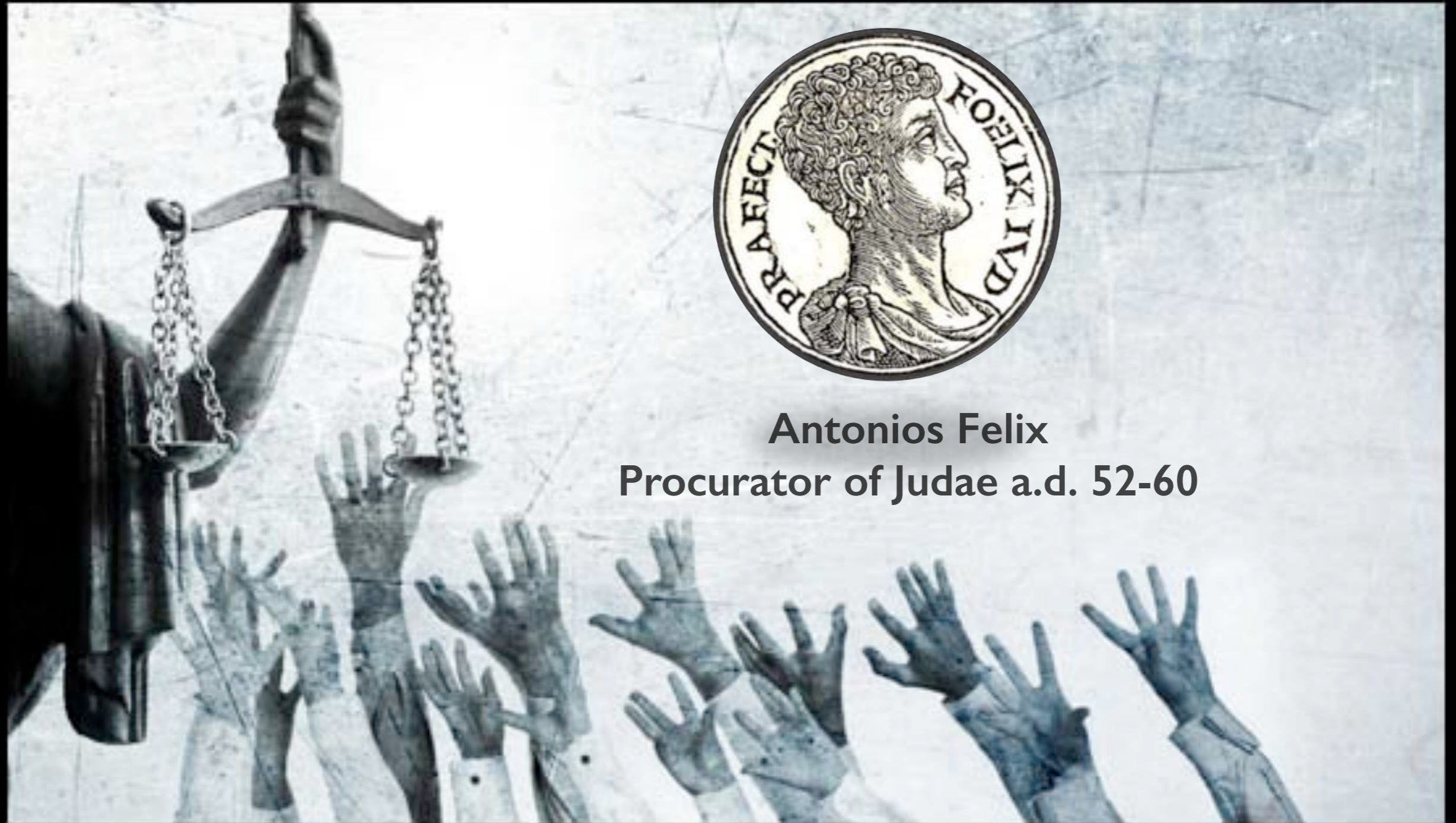


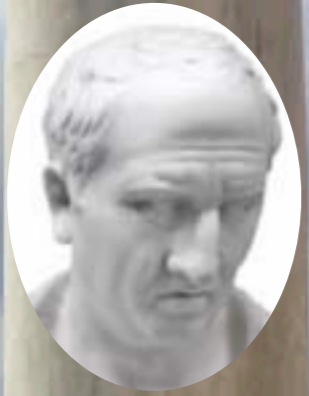


**How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I take counsel in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
Psalm 13:1-2**



**Antonios Felix
Procurator of Judae a.d. 52-60**



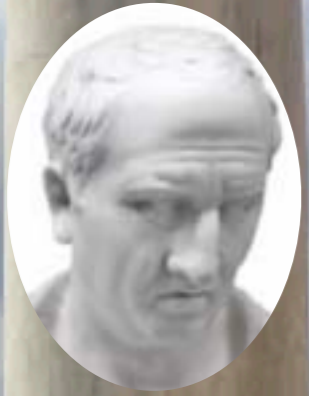


Tertullus'
Opening

1 And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and a *rhētor*, 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.”

Acts 24:1-4



Three Accusations

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.

Acts 24:5-9



Paul
Refutes Charges

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.

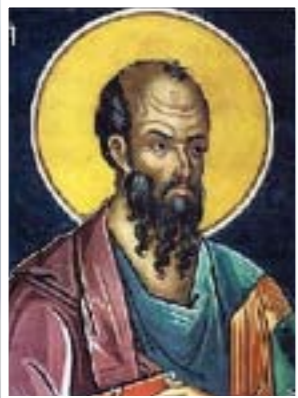
Acts 24:10-13



Paul
The Way is
Orthodox

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.

Acts 24:14-16



Paul
The Real Cause
of Trouble

17 But 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.’”

Acts 24:17-21



**Felix
Adjourns
the case**

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.

Acts 24:22-23

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.

Acts 24:24-26



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.

Acts 24:27





When Justice is Put on Hold

A. The soul learns to lament

Look to the right and see:

there is none who takes notice of me;
no refuge remains to me;
no one cares for my soul.

Psalm 142:2



When Justice is Put on Hold

A. The soul learns to lament

B. God is at work without you

- The saints were emboldened to share Christ because of Paul's imprisonment
- Dr. Luke was busy at work gathering research for his two volume work



When Justice is Put on Hold

- A. The soul learns to lament
- B. God is at work without you
- C. God is at work within you**

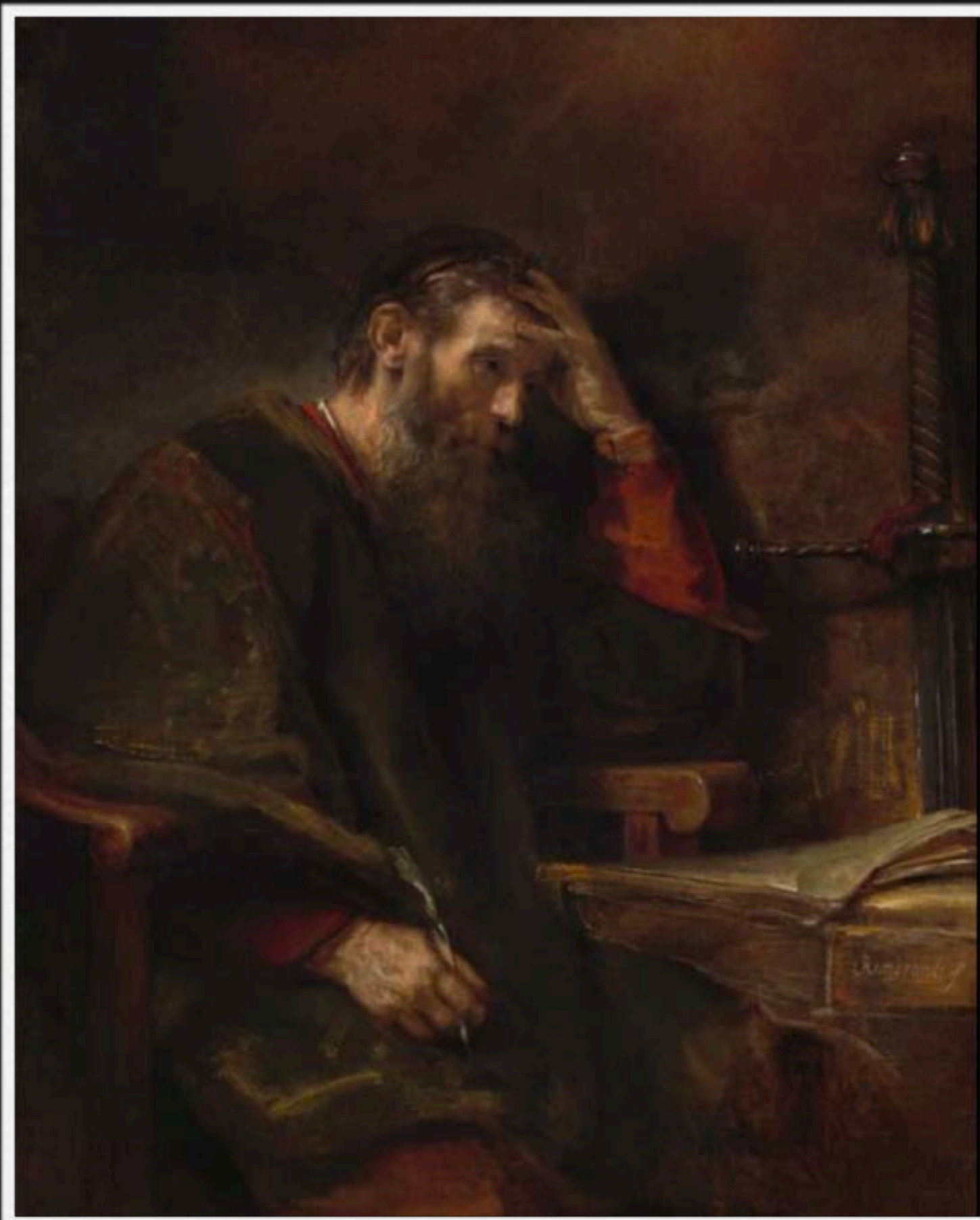


Martin Luther - Wartburg Castle

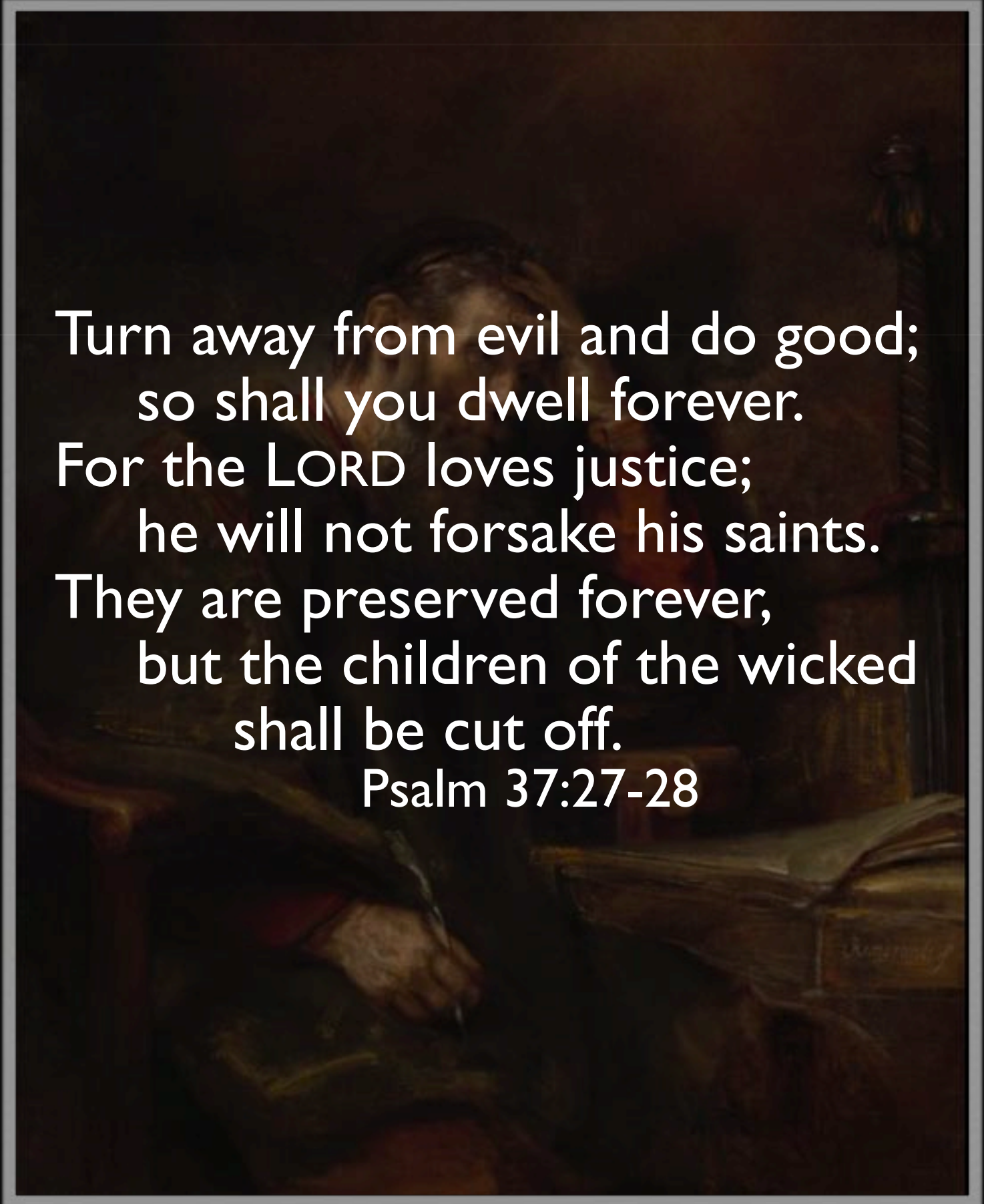


“Junker George”
Cranach’s 1522 woodcut





Rembrandt van Rijn - The Apostle Paul, 1657

A dark, atmospheric painting of a person reading a book, with the text overlaid. The scene is dimly lit, focusing on the person's face and the open book. The background is dark and indistinct, suggesting an interior setting. The overall mood is contemplative and quiet.

Turn away from evil and do good;
so shall you dwell forever.
For the LORD loves justice;
he will not forsake his saints.
They are preserved forever,
but the children of the wicked
shall be cut off.

Psalm 37:27-28