

## Study Notes and Questions for Acts 23-24

- What clues do you find in the text that reveal that the Sanhedrin had already made up their minds concerning Paul and his ministry?
- What tactic did Paul resort to in order to create a diversion in the Sanhedrin?
- What did Paul mean by calling Ananias a “whitewashed wall”?
- **Study Note:** Ananias was high priest from AD 47 to 59. The Jewish historian Josephus referred to Ananias as “insolent and quick-tempered.” Ananias was ultimately assassinated by the Jews for being a friend of Rome.
- In what sense was the division between the Pharisees and Sadducees at the heart of the issue for which Paul was on trial?
- Consider the lengths to which the Jewish fanatics were willing to go to silence Paul. How were they prevented from carrying out their plan?
- When giving testimony to Governor Felix, compare Paul’s opening statement to Tertullus’s. How are they different, and why?
- How did Paul refute each of Tertullus’s charges against him?
- Why do you think it was so important for Paul to keep a clear conscience before God and man?
- Describe the attitudes and emotions Paul seemed to have as he defended himself. What do you learn about him that is worthy of imitation?
- Why is it important to us that Paul claimed Christianity was not something new, but the true continuation of the faith recorded in the Law and the Prophets?
- Put yourself in Paul’s place in 24:23–26. Would you have tried to raise money to buy your way out of prison, or would you have preached to Felix? What does this tell you about Paul?
- How many examples of political corruption do you see in these chapters?
- How did Felix respond to the Gospel?
- What other responses to the Gospel have you witnessed people having?