

## FACTS ABOUT FICKLE FELIX, Act, 2

He was captivated by Flattery + Covetousness

I. He Loved Flattery

A. Verses 2+3 - speech by Tertullus.

B. Self praise; pride

C. To give flattery is just as sinful as to receive it.

Ps. 12:3 - "The Lord shall cut off all flattering lips."

Prov. 20:19 - "Meddle not with him that flattereth."

Concerned

## II. He Was Interested in Religious Discussion. He had only a shallow concern with religion

A. Many people are like that today

B. He gave Paul special liberties, v. 23

C. Paul's sermon was more than he asked for. <sup>He was</sup>

1. Righteousness; justice

2. Temperance; self-control

3. Judgment to come

(See Sec. II separate Notes)

He Resisted a Conviction by the H.S.

## III. He Was Convicted And Moved By The Gospel

A. Because he realized his sin

B. Because he feared coming judgment

C. Therefore he trembled, v. 25 (was alarmed)

1. This was a sign of hope for Felix.

2. The metal was at the very point of melting. What shape would it take? It ran into the wrong mould, and, as far as we know, it has hardened there.

3. A man once said to a minister, "It is wonderful to see a whole congregation moved to tears by the preaching of the Word." "Yes," said the minister, "it is wonderful; but I know a wonder ten times greater; — that those people should so soon wipe away their tears and forget what they had."

4. Of Drusilla we are told nothing. She was abandoned to sin; she did not tremble.

D. Why Felix shook off this conviction

1. He did not want to give up his sin

2. He was so busy

3. He would not give up the honors of this world.

E. a sleeping man does not like to be disturbed.

III Yet Felix Was Open to Bribery Amidst  
All this Conflict of Emotion. (See Sec. I)

- A. This is an example of what low depths and hard condition a heart can come to that trifles with and rejects the gospel.  
B. This also shows his insincerity.

IV He Was <sup>condemned by his procrastination</sup> A Procrastinator. "Taking time, I will call for thee."

- A. The plea of convenience is a delusion  
B. A man always finds a convenient season for doing what he loves best.  
C. Delay is really decision the wrong way.  
D. If Unbelief has slain its thousands, procrastination has its ten thousands.  
Where one sinner is frightened into religion, a hundred are declined to ruin by the syren's voice crying "To-morrow."  
E. Moody's story about the man in Chicago who didn't have the courage to confer Christ before his ungodly friends.  
F. Delay increases difficulties  
1. The heart becomes more hardened, the conscience more seared, conviction returns less frequently, and sinful habits are more and more strengthened and confirmed. When God  
2. When God is provoked by our negligence and contempt of His mercy, He may justly say as He did of Ephraim, "He is joined to idols; let him alone!"  
4. "The road of by-and-by leads to the town of Never."

more  
closing Poem - "Tomorrow, he promised his conscience" -

# FRIGHTENING

## FACTS ABOUT FICKLE FELIX

### I. Description

*He was a contradiction of his own name.*

1. His name means "happy".

It probably suggests his reckless abandonment to pleasure.

2. He was a freed slave,

given his freedom by the mad roman emperor Caligula.

He had risen from the lowest ranks and had forced his way into power.

There is no dictator so cruel as this kind of man when he is put on a throne.

3. He was cruel

4. He was corrupt, depraved & licentious.

He was now living in open and wanton adultery with the beautiful, young Drusilla. He had been married three times before and had seduced and persuaded Drusilla to desert her husband for him.

4. He was covetous.

He hoped that Paul might offer him some bribe money for his freedom.

He may very well have been bribed by Paul's enemies not to release Paul.

5. He was a man of compromise & procrastination

He adjourned or deferred Paul's case.

He put off his own case regarding his spiritual condition.

He was always postponing, always vacillating.

6. He had some prior knowledge of Christianity which he must have received from some other contact. (us. 22)

### II. PAUL'S WITNESS TO HIM, us. 25

1. Concerning righteousness. (us. 25)

Like we might read in the first few chapters of Romans.

Felix would remember the cruel years of his unjust governorship.

2. Concerning self-control or self-mastery.  
Felix living in adultery with Drusilla  
now at his side.

How uncomfortable they must have been!

II. THE REACTION OF FELIX *He wasted the greatest opportunity of his life*

1. He procrastinated or postponed.

"Go, I will send for thee at a more  
convenient season."

2. Vacillation,

the postponement to to-morrow,  
or to a more convenient season,  
means HARDENING.

CONCLUSION: Assembly of evil spirits imagined  
bo someone. One said, "I will go and  
persuade men there is no heaven."  
Another said, "I will go and persuade them  
there is no hell."

Satan answered: "That will not do.  
You will never persuade men that that is so  
for conscience will witness against you.  
We must have something else,  
something which will appeal to all classes  
and ages and dispositions."

Thereupon a dark spirit glided forward  
and said, "Satan, I will go."  
"And what wilt thou tell them?" asked Satan.  
"I will tell them," answered the spirit,  
"that there is no hurry."

He was the spirit chosen to go --  
and he is still abroad in the earth.

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