



The Convenient path to destruction

Purpose: To show the great mistake of delay in coming to Christ - to urge unbelievers to flee to Him at once.

1. Introduction

Great things can be decided in a moment
Think of the Olympic athletes
Gymnasts – trained for years for the moment
Run up to the vaulting horse and miss – land on back
Could have been gold medallist but one moment changed it all
For all of us, there are defining moments in our lives
Pivotal moments - decisions, words or deeds can change our lives
for better or worse.
This passage describes most important moment in Felix's life
Felix's eternal fate sealed in this moment
Knew quite a bit about Christianity (v22)
Immoral man – 3rd wife, accustomed to accepting bribes
Drusilla an immoral woman although a Jewess
Felix her 3rd husband and he was a Gentile
Was induced from 2nd husband to marry Felix
This was an adulterous relationship
She seems to have been responsible for this meeting
Perhaps wanted to know more about the beliefs which made the
Jews so jealously angry.
So they came and asked Paul to tell them about the Christian faith
But what Paul told him shook Felix
Felt the power and truth of the message
And in that moment he made a choice
The eternal future of his soul hung in the balance

You are in a similar position to Felix tonight
For some reason, you are here
This is a meeting in which the Christian faith will be explained

It is a defining moment for you, too
I wonder how you will react?

What did Paul tell Felix that scared him?
Righteousness, self control, judgment

2. You don't meet God's Standards

The first thing Paul spoke about was righteousness
A person is righteous when they keep God's Law
Their lives are compared with what the Law demands
They are found to be more or less righteous
Paul shone God's light into dark corners of Felix's heart
He was a wicked man – living for himself
Corrupt in relationships, corrupt in the way he did his job
Paul would have told Him of God's infinite righteousness
That the standard God has set for us is perfection
If He is ever to accept us into heaven, must be perfectly righteous
We must have kept His Law perfectly – thoughts, words, deeds
Loved Him with all our heart, mind, soul, strength
Loved others as ourselves
Even the slightest fault will condemn a person eternally
That since Adam's fall all have been born sinners
Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
That no one has any righteousness in God's sight
Romans 3:10-12 as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one;
11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; 12
All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none
who does good, There is not even one."
That because of our sin the very best we can do is filthy to God
Isaiah 64:6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our
righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf,
And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
That left to ourselves there is no hope

What about you?
You are not meeting God's standards either, are you?
Maybe not as outwardly immoral as Felix
Where will you get a righteousness that God will accept?

3. You are a slave to your desires and passions

Next Paul spoke about self control – what is this?

Mastering unrighteous desires and passions

Remember what kind of man he was addressing here!

Felix the adulterer, Felix the greedy

What did Paul say to him?

Probably that God requires us to live self controlled lives

That a righteous life is self controlled of necessity

That we are not to gratify the cravings of our fallen natures

That this is selfish and sinful and leads to death

How can you love God above all things, others as yourself

Not covet or commit adultery (thought and deed)

Without being self controlled?

Ephesians 2:3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

He might have gone on to show this is impossible for us

How we are enslaved to sin and to Satan by nature

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

We cannot do otherwise than sin

Every act, every thought, every word contaminated

But this is the way we want it and like it by nature.

What about you?

Are you living the self controlled life that God requires

Or a life of self-indulgence, gratifying desires of the flesh?

That is the message of the world around us – “just do it”

How will you break free from the sin that is your master?

4. You will pay dearly for your sins one Day

Now Paul moves to the most dreadful part of the message

God will not put up with our unrighteousness and lack of self-control indefinitely.

He has fixed a time to bring things to a conclusion

To punish the wicked as they deserve

Acts 17:30-31 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in

righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

No-one will escape

No-one will be able to hide away and wait for it to pass

Even the dead will rise up to face the Almighty Creator

The sea will give up its dead and so will the earth

God will open books, judge every man, woman and child

He will unleash the full force of His justice on the guilty

He will pay back everyone as they deserve

Every wrong will be righted

Every single sin will be punished

God is called a consuming fire in Scripture

It talks about how He will consume the wicked

Their agonies like being in eternal fire yet never burned up;

Desperately thirsty but with never a drop to drink

Being eaten alive by worms but never being consumed

Weeping and gnashing of teeth

Marked by the absence of anything good

Here God gives good things to all without finding fault

Rain and Sun on Righteous and wicked alike

Friendship, love, joy. But not there.

Eternal – we call it Hell

2 Peter 3:7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

No wonder Felix trembled!

What about you? Shouldn't you tremble too?

Are you ready to face this God?

In all His awesome purity and majesty

To feel His searching eyes examining you inside and out

Weighing every thought you ever had

Every word you ever spoke, deed you ever did?

Holding it up to the perfect standard of His Law

You will be there one day – maybe soon

Hebrews 9:27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

5. **God has provided a way of escape for you**

Thank God that this is not the whole Christian faith!
 God has intervened to provide a way out for sinners
 This is part of the “faith in Christ” that Paul would have spoken of.
 He sent Christ to rescue people from their certain doom
 How does Christ meet our needs?

5.1. ***Righteousness***

We have no righteousness but Christ can supply it
 He did what no-one else has ever done
 He kept the Law of God spotlessly - earned righteousness
 He credits that righteousness to His people
 They are counted righteous because of Christ

5.2. ***Judgment***

But this isn't enough to save.
 Still owe immeasurable debt of sin to God's justice
 How does Christ help on the Day of judgment?
 This is where the cross comes in
 He never sinned, but sin was credited to Him
 Counted as having sinned all His people's sins
 God's wrath was poured out on Jesus on the cross
 God's justice fully satisfied as Christ suffered
 Christ endured Hell on the cross for all His people
 That their sins may be blotted out forever
 Covered on Last Day - God sees Christ's righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,
 so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

5.3. ***Self Control***

The Gospel isn't all aimed for the future
 Jesus changes people here and now too!
 He breaks the power of sin
 Brings people out from their bondage
 Sets them free – no longer slaves to sin but slaves to righteousness!
 Gives them the Holy Spirit to dwell in their hearts
 And the Holy Spirit transforms these people

And one thing He produces in them is self-control!
 This is how “faith in Christ” can change your life completely!

5.4. ***How can all this be yours?***

Turn your back on your sins (repent) & turn to Jesus
 Forget all the things you think are good about you
 Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ
 Trust Him & His work as your only hope of salvation
 Plead with Him to take away your sin by cross
 To make you truly righteous by His life
 To dwell in you by the Spirit, producing this fruit

6. **Don't make the mistake of Felix**

Felix thought he found another way of escape
 He ran away – put it off
 “I'm busy right now - some other time”
 “I enjoy my life too much right now
 But I will get around to it one day.”
 As far as we know, he never did.
 He sealed his eternal fate by rejecting the message of Paul
 God does not strive with a man indefinitely
 There comes a point where he no longer pricks conscience
 Leaves person to harden themselves in sin and wickedness
 Where is Felix now? Where will he be in eternity?
 There can be little doubt.
 How many others will join him in Hell because it wasn't
 convenient to come to Christ at the time?

What about you?
 Will you seal your fate also? Will you put it off?
 Will you add this terrible sin to all your others?
 Rejecting the Christ God sent to save sinners?
 Telling God that this isn't a good time for you
 Maybe you'll get around to Him later How dare you!

2 Corinthians 6:2 for He says, “At the acceptable time I listened to you,
 And on the day of salvation I helped you.” Behold, now is “the acceptable
 time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation”—

Come to Christ now.