



To Each One

The Defense Rests

Acts 24:1-27

The background is a soft-focus underwater scene. It features numerous small, shimmering bubbles rising from the bottom. Light rays, or sunbeams, penetrate the water from the top, creating a bright, ethereal glow. The overall color palette is a range of blues, from deep cerulean to a pale, almost white light at the top.

**BAPTISMS ON
EASTER!!**



To Each One

The Defense Rests

Acts 24:1-27

David French

“In my view, the truly important emerging divisions in the Evangelical church aren’t just theological or ideological. They’re also dispositional and temperamental.”



How to Make a Bad Argument (Acts 24:1-9)



“How to Make a Bad Argument”

by Tertullus

1. The Appeal to Flattery (Buttering up)

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.
(24:2b-4)



Who was Felix?

1. He was cunning and resourceful
2. His reign was characterized by insurrection and instability
3. He used brutality to suppress uprisings

Tacitus: “[Felix was] a master of cruelty and lust who exercised the powers of a king with the spirit of a slave.”



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1. The Appeal to Flattery (Buttering up)
2. The Ad Hominem (Name-calling!!)

For we have found this man a plague (24:5a)



“How to Make a Bad Argument”

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1. The Appeal to Flattery (Buttering up)
2. The Ad Hominem (Name-calling!!)
3. The Red Herring (Distracting with irrelevance)

...one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. (24:5b)



“How to Make a Bad Argument”

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1. The Appeal to Flattery (Buttering up)
2. The Ad Hominem (Name-calling!!)
3. The Red Herring (Distracting with irrelevance)
4. The Alleged Certainty (Claiming it's obvious)

By examining him yourself you will be able to find out from him about everything of which we accuse him.
(24:8)



“How to Make a Bad Argument”

by Tertullus

1. The Appeal to Flattery (Buttering up)
2. The Ad Hominem (Name-calling!!)
3. The Red Herring (Distracting with irrelevance)
4. The Alleged Certainty (Claiming it's obvious)
5. The Bandwagon Fallacy (Citing popular opinion)

The Jews also joined in the charge, affirming that all these things were so. (24:9)



How to Make a Good Argument (Acts 24:10-21)



“How to Make a Good Argument”

by Paul

Proverbs 12:16 The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult.

Proverbs 16:32 Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

Proverbs 17:27 Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.



“How to Make a Good Argument”

by Paul

1. Give precise and verifiable data

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. (24:11-13)



“How to Make a Good Argument”

by Paul

1. Give precise and verifiable data
2. Clarify the real issue

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. (24:14)



“How to Make a Good Argument”

by Paul

1. Give precise and verifiable data
2. Clarify the real issue
3. Point out common ground with opponents

...having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. (24:15)



“How to Make a Good Argument”

by Paul

1. Give precise and verifiable data
2. Clarify the real issue
3. Point out common ground with opponents
4. Plainly lay out intentions and motivations

¹⁶ So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. ¹⁷ Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings. (24:16-17)



“How to Make a Good Argument”

by Paul

1. Give precise and verifiable data
2. Clarify the real issue
3. Point out common ground with opponents
4. Plainly lay out intentions and motivations
5. Focus on the most important truth

...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.’ (24:21)



1 Corinthians 2:2

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.



Read Acts 24:22-27



Who was Drusilla?

1. The youngest daughter of Herod Agrippa I, she originally married Azizus, the king of Emesa
2. Captivated by Felix's ruthlessness, she left Azizus to marry Felix (who was captivated by her beauty), becoming Felix's second of three wives
3. She was probably around 20 when she married Felix, while he was probably over 50
4. Although a Jewess, she did not allow Felix's Roman paganism to deter her from marrying into a higher station in life



Acts 24:25

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.”



Mark 10:29-30

Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel,³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

