I believe in Jesus the Nazarene

Questions:

1. Read Acts 24:5-9. What crimes did some Jews accuse Paul of committing? In V8, why would the Jews expect Governor Felix to find out Paul’s guilt by simply examining him?

2. Read Acts 24:14-15. While Jews and Paul both believe in God the Father and the Scripture, why would Paul’s believing in Jesus be so offensive to the Jews? Why wouldn’t Paul avoid the conflict with the Jews and downplay his faith in Jesus?

3. Read Acts 22:7-8. Why would Jesus call himself “Jesus of Nazareth”? Why is it important that Christians believe in Jesus the Nazarene and not a spiritual concept?

4. Read Apostle’s Creed and discuss why it is very useful for Christians to proclaim our faith.

**Apostle’s Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

=== Sermon notes ===

(slide 1) What do Christians believe?

Acts 24:5 “We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect 6 and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him.

1. 23:12 The next morning some Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. 13 More than forty men were involved in this plot.
2. 23:24 Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix.”
3. 24:1 5 days later, high priest Ananias went down to Caesarea with some of the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and they brought their charges against Paul before the governor. Felix
4. Paul is guilty of being a Christian. What defines Christianity?
   1. 24:8 By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him.

(slide 2) I believe in God

Acts 24:14 However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect.

1. You cannot call yourself a Christian if you don’t believe in God, the Creator
2. Chicken and egg

(slide 3) I believe in the Bible and all its revelation

Acts 24:14b-15 I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection..

1. We cannot find God if God does not reveal to us himself
2. The biggest assumption of humanistic society
3. The Jews believed in resurrection of the dead and final judgment
   1. Psalm 73:18 Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. 19 How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!

(slide 4) I believe in Jesus, God’s only Son

Acts 22:7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’ 8 “‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked. “ ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied.

1. What got Paul into trouble is this
2. The biggest portion of Creed
3. You are not a Christian because
   1. A good man doing good things
   2. Religious devout
   3. Live a hard life and press on
   4. Sacrifice and love
   5. But you believe in Jesus of Nazareth

(slide 5) Live a life compelled by the love of Christ

Acts 24:16 So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

1. Only 2 kinds of Christians in Muslim countries