

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

III THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH Acts 13-28

LESSON 25 ~ Paul Arrives in Rome ~ Acts 28

KEY VERSE

Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him (Acts 28:30, 31).

PONDER¹

READ Acts Chapter 28.

WRITE the *word, phrase, or verse* that spoke to you the most. Explain. _____

PAUL'S MINISTRY IN MALTA

Paul, Luke and other prisoners were shipwrecked by the island of Malta as they were on their way to Rome. Paul would appeal to Caesar for the false accusations of him by the Jews. The crew was safe; some floating on boards and some swimming toward the island (Acts 27:43, 44).

READ Acts 28:1-10.

1. How did the natives² show kindness to the shipwrecked crew (vv. 1, 2)? _____

2. Why did these barbarians think that Paul may be a murderer (vv. 3-6)? _____

What changed their minds to make them believe he was a god? _____

¹ PONDER: think about and consider carefully God's spiritual truths as revealed in the Word of God.

² natives: barbarians, savage, brutal, uncivilized; Greeks called all people who did not speak Greek "barbarians."

LOOK DEEPER

The love of God constrained Paul to reach all people with the Gospel. Who are the diverse people he spoke of?

Romans 1:14-16 _____

Colossians 3:9, 11 _____

PERSONAL

How can you reach the *barbarians* in the world around you? _____

3. Who was Publius (Acts 28:7, 8)? _____

What did he do for the shipwrecked crew? _____

What was wrong with his father? _____

How did Paul minister to him? _____

4. How did Paul minister to the islanders (vv. 9, 10)? _____

How did the islanders honor Paul and his companions? _____

PAUL ARRIVES AT ROME

READ Acts 28:11-16.

1. What happened after three months (vv. 11-13)? _____

2. Paul was known throughout Rome because of his Epistle to the Romans. Who did he find in Puteoli⁶? How was he greeted (vv. 14, 15)?

Where did they go next? _____

How did the brethren welcome Paul to Rome? _____

PERSONAL

The encouragement of the brethren is an integral part of our faith. How have you been encouraged by the brethren?

LOOK DEEPER

What do these Scriptures teach about how to encourage and comfort those in need?

Romans 10:9-20 _____

³ Castor and Pollux: twin sons of the pagan Roman gods Zeus and Leda; patron deities of sailors.

⁴ Syracuse: One days journey from Malta important town on the eastern shore of the island of Sicily. It had a double harbor; founded in 734 B.C. as a colony of Corinth; came under Roman control in 212 B.C.

⁵ Rhegium: Fort at the southernmost point of the boot of Italy, at the entrance of the straight in Sicily.

⁶ Puteoli: located on Italy's western coast, south of Rome; chief port of Southern Italy. Main "port of call" for Alexandrian ships.

⁷ Appii Forum: the market of Appius, a small town forty-three miles from Rome. Located on the Apian Way, one of great Roman Roads of Southern Italy.

⁸ Three Inns: stopping places on the Apian Way where travelers might lodge.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 _____

3. Once they arrived in Rome, how was Paul's treatment different from the other prisoners (Acts 28:16)?

PAUL'S MINISTRY AT ROME

READ Acts 28:17-31.

1. After three days, Paul called the Jewish leaders together. What was discussed concerning:
Paul's imprisonment (vv. 17-19)? _____

Paul's meeting with the Jewish leaders (v. 20)? _____

The Jews knowledge of his situation and concern for the truth (vv. 21, 22)? _____

2. On an appointed day, many came to Paul's lodging. What did he preach (v. 23)? _____

How long did he stay with them? _____

3. What was the response to Paul's persuasive words (vv. 24, 25)? _____

How did it affect them? _____

4. What Scripture did Paul quote that caused their hearts to be pricked (vv. 25b-27)? _____

PERSONAL

How does this verse affect you? _____

5. To whom has God's salvation been sent (vv. 28, 29)? _____

What would be the Gentiles' response? _____

What was the Jews reaction to Paul's words? _____

6. What amazing freedoms did Paul experience as he continued to build the church and send missionaries world wide (v. 30, 31)?

Throughout the centuries Christians have been imprisoned for the Gospel of Jesus Christ but as Paul declared,

but the Word of God is not chained (II Timothy 2:9).

even to this day!

WRITE out the KEY VERSE. _____

*And they continued steadfastly
in the Apostles Doctrine and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
Acts 2:42

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