

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

LESSON 30: CHAPTER 28

25 December 2015

PAUL IN ROME

- Vss. 1-2** Paul and 276 souls had been shipwrecked on the island of Melita (present day British Malta) in the cold rainy season. The barbarians of Melita were very kind and hospitable. The word “barbarian” originally meant that you couldn’t understand a person (see 1 Cor. 14:11).
- Vss. 3-6** Paul is bitten by a venomous viper. The barbarians concluded that Paul was a guilty murderer because according to Romans 2:14 the heathen without the law know by nature the things contained in the law (such as Numbers 35:31 and Genesis 9:5). They know that a murderer should not live. They attribute the actions of this viper to “vengeance” (vs. 4) (see Rom. 12:19).

When Paul didn’t die or even suffer from the viper, the barbarians said that he was a god. This illustrates how fickle (changeable) men are. Paul had the apostolic protection of Mark 16:18.
- Vss. 7-10** The shipwreck survivors were all given lodging by the chief man of the island named Publius. When Publius’ father became seriously ill, Paul healed him (Mark 16:18 includes healing the sick). After that, others on the island came to Paul for healing. Dr. Luke doesn’t interfere (see Romans 15:18, 19). God gets all the glory.
- Vss. 11-16** After three months they set sail toward Rome again. When they landed at Puteoli (vs.13), Paul wanted to visit brethren there for seven days, which was allowed. They’re 130 miles from Rome. Word spread that Paul was in Puteoli so other brethren came great distances to visit him and encourage him (vs. 15) before he went to Rome (vs. 16).
- Vss. 17-22** Paul speaks to the “chief of the Jews” in Rome to explain his situation. These men had heard negative things about Christians (hearsay), but never took the time to investigate it to see if it were true. They wanted to know Paul’s *opinion* of Christianity (vs. 22). They don’t care what God said (see Jeremiah 23:35, 36).
- Vss. 23-27** Paul is lodged in a house big enough to accommodate “many” visitors to hear him expound and testify the kingdom of God from the Old Testament for twelve hours. Some believed; some didn’t. Even though they were not all in agreement, they stayed and listened some more until Paul said God was turning to the Gentiles (vs. 28).

Paul quoted Isaiah 6:9-10, which is quoted four times in the New Testament: Romans 11:8, John 12:40, Matthew 13:14, and here (Acts 28:26-27). Paul quotes this to point out the Jew’s rejection of the Messianic promises that deal with spiritual and moral righteousness.
- Vss. 28-29** Salvation is going to the Gentiles and they will hear it. Paul was already preaching to Gentiles. The gentiles have heard and received the gospel ever since. They’ve been through persecutions, reformation, revivals, corrupt translations, etc. and heard the gospel. Today the Gentile’s are starting to close their eyes and ears to the truth.

Today's Christianity is been marked by:

1. A rejection of the Authorized Text by "Fundamentalists," later accompanied by ridicule and even hatred.
2. Disguising the old Jesuit Bible of 1582 under such titles as "The American Standard Version," "The Living Bible," or "Good News for Modern Man."
3. A growing conformity of Christian leaders to the world system, brought about through the brainwashing of television.
4. An absolute refusal of the major Christian educators to submit to the authority of ANY book—let alone the Holy Bible.
5. A three-ring circus type of "spectacular extravaganza" to build up attendances in a dozen cities while the majority of the cities of the world go quickly to Hell.

Vss. 30-31 ³⁰ ¶ **And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,** ³¹ **Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him."**

Paul wrote to the Romans after Acts 21 before being taken by the Romans in Jerusalem. During this two year period in Rome, he wrote Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, and Philemon.

It appears that he left Rome for a while and then ended up back in prison later, at which time he wrote Titus and II Timothy.

Paul was "**teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ**" (vs. 31)—by reading the book of Romans, we know what those things include:

1. Salvation by grace through faith (Romans 2-4).
2. Justification without works (Romans 3, 4).
3. Spirit Baptism putting the believer into Christ (Romans 6, 7).
4. Pre-Millennialism (Romans 8, 9, 11).
5. The restoration of the Nation of Israel (Romans 9, 11, 15).
6. Christian conduct and rules on "doubtful things" (Romans 11, 12, 13).
7. The One Body (Romans 12, 14, 16).
8. The doctrines that are connected with the crucifixion (Romans 5-8).
9. The judicial and legal work and decrees of God in regard to the completed atonement (Romans 5-8).
10. The missionary call to preach the gospel (Romans 10).
11. The content, message, and faith of the gospel (Romans 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10).