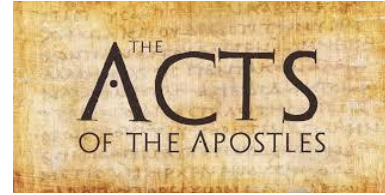


# ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Paul Arrives At Rome  
Acts 28:11-31; I Cor 15

July 24, 2024

No. 31



We have arrived at the close of the Acts of the Apostles.

Some of the things we saw were the:

- Birth of the Church
- Coming of the Holy Spirit
- Importance of Repentance
- Why we have Deacons
- The stoning of Stephen
- Conversion of Saul of Tarsus
- Evidence of a New Life
- How to be saved
- The violence of Religion
- Hard times happen for a reason
- The shipwreck and deliverance of Paul

Today we close the book with the Apostle Paul finally on his way to Rome to stand trial before Caesar.

Remember;

The crew was shipwrecked and they made it to the Island of Malta. They were received and treated with hospitality.

Paul healed the governor's father of a sickness and probably he and Dr. Luke cured many other people who came to them.

Three months has gone by and now it's time to set sail again.

**Acts 28:11** *At the end of three months we set sail on an Alexandrian ship which had wintered at the island, and which had the Twin Brothers for its figurehead.*

"Twin Brothers" Castor and Pollux –

gods of mariners

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Their images were painted one on either side of the bow of a ship.

**v.12** *After we put in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days.*

**v.13** *From there we sailed around and arrived at Rhegium, and a day later a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli.*

**v.14** *There we found some brethren, and were invited to stay with them for seven days; and thus we came to Rome.*

Paul was going to Rome because he asked to stand trial in a Roman court for the accusations made against him by his own people, the Sadducees.

He was preaching the resurrection Christ and they didn't believe in the resurrection. For that they wanted to put him to death.

So now he goes to appeal to Caesar because he is also a Roman citizen.

Paul arrived in Rome and called together some of the leading men of the Jews to explain his plight.

He said back in Jerusalem;

**v.18** *And when they had examined me, they were willing to release me because there was no ground for putting me to death.*

**v.19** *"But when the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, not that I had any accusation against my nation.*

**v.20** *"For this reason, therefore, I requested to see you and to speak with you, for I am wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel."*

"Hope of Israel" Jesus Christ

Israel had always been waiting for the Messiah and when He came, they failed to recognize Him. (their bad!)

They had the prophecies to prepare them but they either missed them or refused them.

He said;

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*for I am wearing this chain*

Paul is speaking about the iron chains around him but he wears them for his faith in Christ.

Paul was perhaps chained to a Roman soldier for safe keeping.

You could say "Paul is bound to a soldier for the cause of Christ."

Isn't that somewhat true about us?

We are bound for the cause of Christ.

Bound from:

- Worldliness
- Vices
- Immorality
- Etc

For the sake of Jesus Christ.

Phi 1:1 Paul called himself a bond-servant

*Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ*

Rev 22:3 believers in Heaven are bond-servants

*There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;*

So Paul is in chains, arriving in Rome for his hearing.

Paul is meeting with some Jewish leaders in Rome, and they said;

**v.21** *We have neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren come here and reported or spoken anything bad about you.*

**v.22** *"But we desire to hear from you what your views are; for concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere."*

Can you see how this spiritual warfare has always existed, even back when the Church began.

That's why we have to keep saying, even though you may get tired of

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hearing it, that good works, religion or behaviors do not warrant salvation.

It is faith in Christ and faith alone.

Eph 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that [salvation] not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;*  
v.9 *not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

And to deny the resurrection is to deny Christ.

**I Cor 15:13** *But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;*

**v.14** *and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.*

**v.15** *Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.*

**v.16** *For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;*

**v.17** *and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.*

OUCH!!

But wait!

**v.20** *But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.*

**v.22** *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.*

**v.23** *But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,*

**v.24** *then comes the end,...*

Back to the leading Jewish leaders;

**v.23** They had a long, drawn out Bible study

*When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.*

But, as usual;

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Some believed and some did not.

So,

As they were leaving, Paul gave them a zinger from the O.T. prophet Isaiah; 6:9-10

God told Isaiah;

**v.26** *'GO TO THIS PEOPLE AND SAY, "YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;*

**v.27** *FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES; OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM."*

They have willingly shut out the Truth.

So Paul said; But the Gentiles, they listened and believed.

**v.30** *And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him,*

**v.31** *preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.*

Paul got to stay in a apartment, like a home confinement where he could receive visitors, though still guarded by a Roman soldier.

And,

While there, he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. The letters were letters of "encouragement."