



Acts

Lesson 26, Chapter 28

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom he foreknew He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren; and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ...for I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:28-31;38-39.

When Paul wrote these words to the believers in Rome, he had not yet gone through the severe trials that are recorded in the last chapters of Acts. These truths were not just good ideas or emotional jargon to Paul. He was willing to back up the reality of them with his life. Paul would suffer greatly in his ministry of the gospel, but it is evident in his life that those difficult circumstances never separated him from his trust in Christ’s faithfulness. He knew that if he lived it was because his job wasn’t yet complete, and if he died that his work was done. He was content in whatever circumstances his was in because He trusted God’s purpose and

plan for him more than situations or hardships. He was confident that nothing in life could separate him from the love of God, so therefore he had nothing to fear. This is the truest meaning of freedom. Though he spent most of his life as a slave to the gospel, Paul was the freest of all men.

In Acts 28 Paul and his companions are on the island of Malta after escaping from their sinking ship. Thankfully the natives on the island were friendly, so they took Paul and the other men in and cared for them.

After three months on Malta the group continued on their journey to Rome. By this time it was probably hard for the ship’s crew to see Paul as a prisoner after all he had done for them, but the purpose for the journey had to be carried out.

Once they arrive in Rome, Luke doesn’t give the details of Paul’s trial or even confirm there was one, but he does tell us of Paul’s continued ministry in Rome despite his chains. Tradition says that Paul was found not guilty of the charges against him and was later released. It is believed he went on to Spain, which was his original plan, and then later returned to Rome. This time Paul was arrested by Nero, found guilty, and was beheaded around 67 A.D.

READ CHAPTER 28

1. *Why do you think God allowed all the trials that Paul had to endure in his ministry?*

2. *What was the first conclusion that the people came to when Paul was bitten by the viper? What was the second conclusion?*

3. *How was this event a prophetic fulfillment? Mark 16:17-18*

4. *What kind of reception did Paul and his men receive in Rome?*

5. *Why do you think he was allowed to stay in a house instead of in prison?*

6. *Why do you think Paul gathered the Jewish leaders together to explain his circumstances? Vs. 17*

7. *What do you think Paul means by his phrase “it is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with these chains”?*

8. *How did the Jewish people respond to Paul?*

9. *What was Paul’s perspective of these people?*

10. In the end, did the Jews accomplish their goal by having Paul arrested?

11. What four New Testament letters did Paul write during his imprisonment in Rome?

12. Give a short synopsis of the Book of Acts. Why is it important to study this Book?

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
