

A MURDERER, OR A GOD?!!

Acts 28:1-15

Again everything seems to be going wrong!

Previously => 2 Cor. 11:23b-27

Arrest => false imprisonment => 2 years in jail => storm => shipwreck => rain
=> snake bite => “bad press”

=> God turns it around! => unexpected opportunity for ministry!

TESTIMONY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH 13-28

ROAD TO ROME 21:17-28:31

Even before Paul's arrival at Jerusalem it becomes apparent that this is really a trip to Rome.

The end of the road is in Rome (21:17-28:31).

Though Paul knows arrest is ahead, he goes on anyway, confident of God's will.

He witnesses along the way and on his arrival in Rome.

This is the purpose for which God called him (cf. Acts 9:15-16).

Paul's witness in Jerusalem 21:17-23:35

Paul's witness in Caesarea 24-26

Paul's witness on the way to Rome 27:1-28:15

His witness on ship 27

As they travel to Rome Paul gains the favor and confidence of the centurion on the boat.

When the ship gets into trouble, Paul's prophetic revelation of their fate is significant in the decisions made (27:1-44).

His counsel saved them from the shipwreck.

In the end it did save their lives.

His witness in Malta 28:1-15

While they're on the island of Malta, his testimony is effective.

God gives effective opportunities for ministry.

Paul's encounter with the poisonous viper. 28:1-6

What conclusion do the islanders first deduce from Paul's snake incident? 1-3

Their initial reaction: 4

When bitten by a poisonous viper,
all expect him to die. 28:1-4

The logical conclusion: he must be a terrible criminal.

"Justice won't allow him to live!"

Even the gods are out to get him!

Instead, Paul is miraculously saved.

Their final conclusion:

What is their final conclusion regarding Paul (28:5-10)? **28:5-6**

Why does Luke mention this change of attitude?

The people change from considering him a dangerous criminal to calling him a god.

He must be more powerful than whatever force is out to get him!

The healing of the sick 28:7-10

Paul also has the opportunity to heal the sick on the island.

Treatment by Publius 7

Blessing for those who respect God's servant.

Healing of Publius' father 8

Healing of the rest of the sick 9

Result of the healings 10

As a result of Paul's ministry there,
the prisoners are treated well on the island.

(Not the normal response to Roman prisoners!)

The people treat them kindly because it's obvious that God ("the gods") is with Paul.

The conclusion of the journey to Rome 28:11-15

What do the incidents on the island tell us about Paul's life and ministry?

Events on the island demonstrate that God is on Paul's side.

God affirms His hand on Paul.

The confirmation of the signs promised by our Lord for His followers are evident in Paul's ministry. Mark 16:17-18

What lessons can we learn from Paul's experience?

God prepares the way for His servants and watches over them.

We can trust Him!

God confirms the truth of the gospel for people who really want to know the truth.

Even when everything seems to be going wrong, God can turn it around and use the negatives of life for His glory!