

ROME AT LAST!

28:16-31

How do we use our freedom?

God's purpose: 1 Tim. 2:1-4

We see how Paul takes advantage of *HIS* freedom in Acts 28.

Though he is in prison,

He is free to preach the gospel.

TESTIMONY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH 13-28

ROAD TO ROME 21:17-28:31

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

His witness in Malta 28:1-15

Paul's witness in Rome 28:16-31 14a-16

Finally, after three months on the island they moved on to Rome.

While waiting for his accusers, Paul is free to preach.

What happened to the Jews' legal accusation against Paul in Rome (28:16-22)?

How do you explain this?

Why would Luke bring it up?

How do the Romans proceed with Paul's case in Rome (28:16-31)?

Why would Luke demonstrate this?

Centurion's confidence in Paul 28:16

In Rome also it became clear that Paul was being persecuted on account of Christ, rather than for some serious crime.

He had the confidence of the centurion and considerable personal freedom.

Testimony before the Jews 28:17-29

Appointment arranged 28:17-23a

Paul explains his circumstances to the Jewish people present.

His “crime” is believing and proclaiming the fulfillment of Israel’s hope. 20

They are curious to hear about Jesus.

They have heard about Him, but haven’t heard the gospel.

Word about this “sect” has gotten around!

They want to hear more!

They agree to come hear him.

Testimony presented 28:23b-29

His message 28:23b

He proclaims the gospel of the kingdom.

He wants them to understand what the law and the prophets say about Messiah’s coming and how Jesus fulfills that promise.

Their uncertainty 28:24-25a

How do the Jews in Rome respond to the message (28:23-28)?

Some of the listeners are convinced by his message.

Others refuse to believe it.

The Jews in Rome, representing the nation, are divided about Jesus.

His commentary 28:25b-27

A final commentary on the state of Israel concludes the book.

What does Paul demonstrate with the quote from Isaiah?

How does this relate to the development of Luke's theme?

Since they are not willing to commit themselves to follow their Messiah, Paul turns from them to the pagan Gentiles.

Their blindness is recognized as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

They don't hear the message because they don't want to hear it.

His conclusion 28:28-29

What facts related to the future preaching of the gospel are brought out in the concluding summary (28:28-31)?

God is going to do His work among pagan Gentiles who want to hear the truth. 28-29

Residence in his own house 28:30-31

By law the accusers had to come within 18 months.

It is evident that the accusers are not going to come.

The pagan Roman government is seen at the end of the book permitting Paul to do what the Jews want to hinder.

Rome facilitates what the Jews prevent!

Though they are called “God’s chosen people,” they don’t want to hear, or let others proclaim, God’s Word.

In Rome Paul is able to preach to all who came to him.

Thus God's work continues, in spite of Jewish opposition.

WHAT LESSONS CAN WE LEARN FROM PAUL’S EXPERIENCE?

Even in the face of pagan and religious opposition, God is able to quiet the opposition and draw people to Himself.

God can turn the most negative circumstances into opportunities for ministry.

The book concludes with one last clue of Luke’s thesis: God turns to pagans, because His people have rejected His Son—their Messiah.

The people you would expect to respond positively don’t; those you would *never* expect are eager to hear the truth.

We proclaim the gospel to unlikely people, because we can’t predict whom God will call to Himself.

Keep preaching! Keep praying!

God *will* call out His people.

**He will probably surprise us when we see
whom he calls.**

Review the main development of Luke's account in the entire book of Acts.

Why did he write Luke-Acts?

Summarize in a few sentences the main ideas of Acts.

What are the main divisions of the book? What does each section teach about the church?

State several of the main practical lessons you have learned as a result of this study.