

THE BOOK OF ACTS

CHAPTER 28:11-31

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM 225 ~ MARCH 17, 1996

TITLE:

FROM ROME TO HOME

BEING READY TO SHARE THE LORD

THEME:

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “you shall be witnesses to Me” in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

These verses **Conclude** the journey of the apostle Paul. • Some thirty years of ministry will soon be “Credited” to Paul’s account • as he will be leaving this world for Heaven.

The Bible **Teaches** us that, we who are Christians, are actually serving God when we serve at all in His Name and to His Glory! And that He remembers all things that are done for Him...

1 Corinthians 3:11

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

James 2:17

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James 2:26

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

1.) The Journey Reaches Its Destination *vv. 11-16*

a) After Three Months in Malta *vv. 11-13*

Now **Mid-February**, spring is beginning to show its colors. The storms would be less frequent and the temp. warming up

Figurehead:

Securing An Alexandrian Ship...

“whose sign was Castor and Pollux” (KJV)

“the twin sons of Zeus, they were to guide the ships at sea to a safe harbor”

Verse 13

Rhegium

A town located at the "Toe" of Italy which you can visit today

The Accuracy of the Bible !!!

Why All The Detail ?

SIR WILLIAM RAMSEY was dispatched by an antichrist, antagonistic group committed to destroy Christianity - He became a Christian over this verse

b) A Great Greeting at Put-e-oli

vv. 14

*

Found

GRK 2147 **heurisko** (hyoo-ris'-ko)

to find by observing, to obtain by discovery, to have perceived

Puteoli, A deep water on the Bay of Naples, it handled the heavy freighters of the day. Now on the Mainland of Italy heading west towards Rome

THEY FELLOWSHIPED WITH THE FAMILY AT

Calvary Chapel of Puteoli

How I see It...

The Crowd Along a Marathon Route...

1st A large Crowd at the Start. **2nd** things thin out in the middle of the course
3rd but the crowds swell as you approach the finish line

At The Start:

John 8:31

Then Jesus said to them... "**If you abide** in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

At The Mid-Point:

Acts 11:23

When Barnabas came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and **encouraged** them all that with purpose of heart they should **continue** with the Lord.

At The End:

Jude 1:24

Now to **Him who is able to keep you from stumbling**, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

c) A Great Meeting at Appius Forum

vv. 15

“They Came to Meet Us”

* **Came to Meet** GRK 1831 exerchomai (ex-er'-khom-ahee)
to issue forth like a river. The words used to describe a victorious nation coming out to meet their conquering general

IT IS USED ONLY FOUR TIMES IN THE BIBLE:

- 1.) **Matthew 25:1** "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to **meet** the bridegroom.
- 2.) **Matthew 25:6** "And at midnight a cry was heard: Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to **meet** him!
- 3.) **1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to **meet** the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Verse 15b

Paul, there is river of people running this way shouting “praise the Lord... Paul’s greetings to Paul

“Was that Greetings to Paul or was it Beatings to Paul”

* **Saw** GRK 1492 eido (i'-do)
first to consider, **second** to have knowledge of, **third** to understand

Verse 15c

* **Thanked** GRK 2168 eucharisteo (yoo-khar-is-teh'-o)
to be inwardly to outwardly grateful, to show great expression of gratitude (to bless the meal)

* **Courage** GRK 2294 tharsos (thar'-sos)
to become daring & filled with boldness

No Doubt, Paul Needed Encouragement!

Paul Had Been Misunderstood, Slandered, Falsely Accused, Arrested, Beaten, Stoned, Imprisoned, Threatened, Shipwrecked Three Times, water-logged & Snake Bitten

this had to have brightened Paul's heart

WHERE DID THESE PEOPLE COME FROM (SPIRITUALLY IS NOT KNOWN)

Not from Peter, Paul or Mary...

His Message Had Beaten Him There...

He had never come this way before, Yet there were brothers already there...

THIRTY YEARS LATER PAUL REACHES ROME, THE CAPITOL OF THE WORLD
AND THE GOSPEL HAD BEATEN HIM THERE

Acts 1:8

... "you shall be witnesses to Me" in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Verse 16

"Now when we had come to Rome..."

In Paul's Sandals...

Can you see the city yet?..... Do you see anything?... What about the hills?...

Can you see the hills?... Are you guys able to see the coliseum?...

The Awe of Rome

Paul, landing at the port, would have seen the massive roman warship ships that were stationed there...

He would have seen the multi-colored sails of the yachts that the roman wealthy owned and their homes on the bay...

What Effect Did That Have On Paul?

All His Christian Life He desired to Preach Jesus At Rome, Italy

It's what Jesus Felt going into Jerusalem...

"o Jerusalem o Jerusalem"

Paul would have been "consuming"

**the culture, the people, the language, the sounds, the smells,
the faces, the future....**

Russia is my Rome

(QUESTION)

“Lord, Could it be the same thing I feel about my Rome (Saint Petersburg, Russia)
what was Paul feeling?

Is it what I feel when I think about Russia

What was he thinking of? What was he praying for and about?

Was he Obsessed “in the Lord” for Rome...?

Acts 19:21

... Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

- MY WATCH IS SET TO SAINT PETERSBURG
- MY PRAYERS ARE IN TWO DIFFERENT TIME ZONES - 11-OPPOSITE
- MY THINKING IS DIVIDED BETWEEN THESE TWO PLACES

“but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldiers who guarded him.”

These were praetorian guards (Rome’s Best)

(helmet salvation, breastplate righteousness, shoes gospel, sword word, shield faith)

- THEY GUARDED IN 4 HR. SHIFTS
- THEY WERE TO HEAR EVERYTHING PAUL WAS TO HEAR
- THEY WERE TO SEE EVERYONE PAUL WAS TO SEE

Converted Guards

Philippians 4:21

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, **but especially those who are of Caesar's household.**

2.) Paul Defends His Case at Rome

vv. 17-22

Acts 23:11

But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."

(Paul never Made it to Roman Court... These Guys were the reason for it all....

Romans 1:14-15

I am a **debtor** both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.

a) Paul's Careful Presentation v.17-19

- 1.) But Notice Also His Defense-Mode vv. 17-20
- 2.) Notice Paul's Way of Approaching
His Brothers According to the Flesh, Fellow Jews

b) For The Hope of Israel v.20

"For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you,
because for the hope of Israel.... I am bound with this chain."

I.)

That Jesus of Nazareth was in fact Israel's Hoped-for Messiah

II.)

And that God the Father had Raised Jesus From the Dead according to the scriptures

3.) Paul Proclaims the Gospel in Rome vv. 23-29

Verse 25-27

Paul quotes to them their most revered prophet Isaiah
the truth would have cut them in half

When you share the gospel with a Jew or a Muslim
use the Old Testament

"The Gospel"

Built for All the World: Just as God had Commanded

Acts 10:9

as Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO COME TO;

Bombay, India

BECAUSE THERE ARE MISSIONARIES THERE EVANGELIZING INDIA FOR CHRIST

Verse 29

you can have • the greatest message delivered by • the greatest apostle in • the greatest city and have heard by • the greatest people the world, but it will only produce a percentage...

4.) Paul's Office Job in Rome

vv. 30-31

from Rome he would write the epistles to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, I & II Timothy & Titus

Philippians 1:12

But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Verse 30-31

The Mission Began in the Religious capital of the world, Jerusalem
it begins again from the commercial capital of the world, Rome

The message was first given to Jerusalem & the Jews
and from Rome it will cover the Gentile world.

At the beginning, The greatest opponent and warrior against Christianity,
in the end, became its greatest defender and promoter to have ever lived.

The A,B,C's for church Growth

Preaching (Evangelism) **Teaching** (Doctrine)
Confidence (knowing what you believe)

Interesting Note:

Paul's Message Never Changed...

**IT WAS THE SAME MESSAGE ALL ALONG -
EVEN TILL THIS DAY**

There was no new revelations! No new prophets! No new message

if it's true - it's not new
and if it's new - it's not true

Ephesians 2:20

having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,**

Hebrews 2:3

how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, **which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,**

There is no Need of a Latter-Day Revelation

Matthew 16:18

"I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

On the day of Pentecost the church was born, the holy spirit coming to move inside of every believer, to never leave them nor forsake them.

The church is not perfect - but it has never had anything prevail against it

THE CHURCH MILITANT & THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

THE CHURCH MILITANT

is the church on the earth that is serving, evangelizing, teaching, loving & standing;

- Serving - unselfishly meeting the need
- Evangelizing - having the passion to reach the world outside
- Teaching - building up the church to know what it believes
- Loving - reach out to those around you (*Christian or Not*)
- Standing - being the salt & light to a sick and blind world
-

THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

is the church that is in heaven resting, worshipping, praising, enjoying, living

- Worshipping - seeing God face to face in His heaven, in His fullness
- Praising - thanking Him for all that He has done & for everlasting life
- Enjoying - experiencing pleasures that this world could never produce
- Living - possessing the truest form of life... In Christ
- Resting - no more struggles or fears or pain - filled with absolute peace

You can't run the race as a Christian being drunk on alcohol, or drugs, doing pre-marital or extra-marital sex, being abusive, or spiritually apathetic...

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **(THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT)** let us **(THE CHURCH MILITANT)** lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

That's The Call

That's Placed Upon The Church throughout the Millenniums
but never before more true than now....

Paul will be Killed for being a Christian in April 67 AD.
As decreed By Caesar Nero

2 Timothy 4

TO THE CHURCH MILITANT "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. **TO THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

The Book of Acts Opened with a command from Our Leader Jesus Christ Himself to All who would enter in to the body of Christ - The Church - You He said Us...

Acts 1:8

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and "you shall be witnesses to Me" in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

THIS IS THEME of the Book of Acts

Matthew 28:18-19

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And truly I am with you always, even to the very end of the world

Verse 24



Believed GRK 3982 peitho (pi'-tho)

to be convinced by the argument of truth. to assent or come to the evidence



Disbelieved GRK 3982 peitho (pi'-tho)

to reject or to refuse to be convinced by the argument of truth. to neglect the invitation to come to the evidence.

1. IT'S NOT AN INTELLECTUAL PROBLEM
2. IT'S NOT AN EMOTIONAL PROBLEM
3. IT'S NOT A PERSONAL PROBLEM
4. IT IS A 100% SPIRITUAL PROBLEM

So What is your excuse or reason for not receiving Jesus Christ Today?