

## **ACTS - Church On Mission**

### **Part 63: The End & The Beginning**

Acts 28:11-31- "After three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the island, a ship of Alexandria, w/ the twin gods as a figurehead. Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. And from there we made a circuit & arrived at Rhegium. And after one day a south wind sprang up, & on the second day we came to Puteoli. There we found brothers & were invited to stay w/ them for seven days. And so we came to Rome. And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius & Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God & took courage. And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, w/ the soldier that guarded him. After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, & when they had gathered, he said to them, "Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar--though I had no charge to bring against my nation. For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you & speak w/ you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain." And they said to him, "We have received no letters from Judea about you, & none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you. But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for w/ regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against." When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God & trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses & from the Prophets. And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: "'Go to this people, & say, You will indeed hear but never understand, & you will indeed see but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, & w/ their ears they can barely hear, & their eyes they have

closed; lest they should see w/ their eyes & hear w/ their ears & understand w/ their heart & turn, & I would heal them.' Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen." He lived there two whole years at his own expense, & welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God & teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ w/ all boldness & w/out hindrance."

### **1. Radical Devotion To The Fellowship Of Believers**

- Philippians 1:12-14- "I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard & to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word w/out fear."
- Matthew 14:49-50- "...stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother & my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother & sister & mother."

### **2. Radical Dedication To The Gospel:**

- 2 Timothy 4:1-2- "I charge you in the presence of God & of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living & the dead, & by his appearing & his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season & out of season; reprove, rebuke, & exhort, w/ complete patience & teaching."
- 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57- "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, & the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

### **3. Radical Response To The Gospel:**

- **Is This Relevant For Us?**
- **What Did They Need?**
- **Do We Need That To?**
- John 5:39-40- "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; & it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life."

### **4. Radical Commitment To The Mission:**

- Acts 1:6-8- "So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the

Holy Spirit has come upon you, & you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem & in all Judea & Samaria, & to the end of the earth.”

- Acts 28:31- “He lived there two whole years at his own expense, & welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God & teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ w/ all boldness & w/out hindrance.”
- 2 Timothy 2:8-9- “Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound w/ chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!”