


Pastor Lance Ainsworth
Acts 27 & 28

**MESSAGE NOTES**

Thursday, Nov 5
Sunday, Nov 8

**Introduction**

Caesarea to Myra
Myra to Malta
Malta to Rome

notes

"You can press the words of Luke to the furthest degree and beyond any other historian, and they stand keenest scrutiny and hardest treatment."

*The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament*
Sir William Ramsay- gatewayvisalia.com/acts

Acts 28:16-31 NASB
16 When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay
by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.
17 After three days Paul called together those who
were the leading men of the Jews, and when they
came together, he began saying to them, "Brethren,
though I had done nothing against our people or
the customes of our fathers, yet I was delivered
as prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the
Romans. 18 And when they had examined me, they
were willing to release me because there was no
ground for putting me to death. 19 But when the
Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, not
that I had any accusation against my nation. 20 For
this reason, therefore, I requested to see you and to
speak with you, for I am wearing this chain for the
sake of the hope of Isreal." 21 They said to him, "We
have neither received letters from Judea concerning
you, nor have any of the brethren come here and
reported or spoken anything bad about you. 22 But
we desire to hear from you what your views are;
for concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is
spoken against everywhere."

"The events of Jesus's life, death and resurrection, so important for the Jews and Christians at the time, were marginal events in a nothing town on the edge of an empire with more important matters to consider. If we fail to recognize this, we can fail to recognize just how remarkable the rapid growth of the early church really was. For the first couple of centuries, Roman writers often referred to Christians as "Galileans," indicating how nominal and provincial they considered the early Jesus movement to be."

*Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to better understand the Bible*.
E. Randolph Richards, Brandon J.O'Brian

23When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers' and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.

notes

Kingdom of God - wherever Jesus is welcomed as King.

Kingdom of darkness - wherever Jesus' rule is resisted or refused.

Acts 1:3 NASB
3To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

24Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe. 25And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word. "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, 26saying, 'Go to this people and say, 'You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; 27For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes; Otherwise they might see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them.'"

Dull pachyno - make thick, insensitive, or callused.

**Different responses to the Gospel in Acts:**

The Sadducee - Religion as a tool to serve personal agendas (Acts 23)

The Pharisee - Rules without relationship (Acts 23)

The Seeker - Spirituality without Truth (Acts 14:11-15)

The Intellectual - Knowledge without Faith (Acts 17:18-32)

The Opportunist - Power without Surrender (Acts 8:9-24)

The Believer - Jesus as Lord and fulfillment of God's Kingdom (Acts 1:3, Acts 28:31)

30And he stayed two full years in his own rented quaters and was welcoming all who came to him, 31preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

And abrupt end, or is it?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

The Power of a Testimony: Book of Acts
GateWay Church of Visalia, Pastor Lance Ainsworth
Acts 27 & 28, November 5th & 8th, 2026
Paul's witness in Rome.

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: Have you ever been completely convinced of something, only to discover later that you were wrong? What changed your mind??

Read Aloud: 28:16-31

1. Paul finally arrives in Rome after years of opposition, imprisonment, and hardship. What do you think might have been going through his mind when he finally reached his destination? In verse 20, Paul says he is wearing his chains "for the sake of the hope of Israel." What does this tell us about how Paul viewed his circumstances?

2. Verse 24 says some were persuaded, while others refused to believe. Why can two people hear the same Gospel message and respond so differently? What does it mean to have a heart that has become "dull" (pachynō)? How does someone's heart gradually become insensitive to God's truth?

3. Which of these responses do you see most frequently in our culture today, and why?

- The Sadducee: Religion as a tool to serve personal agendas.
- The Pharisee: Rules without relationship.
- The Seeker: Spirituality without truth.
- The Intellectual: Knowledge without faith.
- The Opportunist: Power without surrender.
- The Believer: Jesus as Lord and fulfillment of God's Kingdom.

4. Why do you think Luke ends the book of Acts without telling us what ultimately happened to Paul? How does the conclusion of Acts demonstrate that the mission Jesus gave His disciples in Acts 1:8 was continuing?