

Today:

We are going to be finishing the book of Acts.

- That being said, I want to give a brief reminder of what God has accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit as ordinary men and women were faithful to answer His call.

Acts 1- 2 – Ordinary men were transformed and equipped by the POWER of the Holy Spirit in their lives to accomplish what God has called them to do.

- Peter who had denied Jesus three times, sank when walking on water with Jesus because of his lack of faith we empowered to preach the gospel with boldness and thousand of people gave their lives to Jesus.

APPLICATION

The work of God is a spiritual work that CANNOT be accomplished by trying our best or trying harder. You can only do what God has called you to do by tapping into a power bigger than yourself. We must rely upon the POWER of the Holy Spirit in us as believers in Jesus.

"One of the biggest mistakes you can make is to try to do God's work without God's power."¹

-Levi Lusko (SLIDE)

And so a fire ignited the church as the Holy Spirit comes upon them in power to be bold in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

Acts 3-12 – We followed Peter and others that as they faithful proclaim the gospel. People were healed. More importantly, people were saved.

- Revival broke out in Samaria.
- A high Ethiopian official believed in Jesus and was baptized.
- A Roman centurion and his household gave their lives to Jesus.
- The great persecutor of the church, a man by the name of Saul (who is also called Paul) got not only saved but was called into the ministry by Jesus Himself.
- Stephen was empowered to preach Christ in the face of death.

Acts 13-28 – We've seen God use Paul and others to proclaim the good news of Jesus to Jews and non-Jews. Such a great work of God was accomplished through these every day ordinary men.

- People were saved in wicked cities like Ephesus and Corinth.
 - Q: Why?
 - A: Because the people of God were empowered by the Spirit of God to go and they went and they spoke about Jesus and many people are now in heaven because of it.
- Friendships were made, lives were healed.
 - Q: Why?
 - A: Because the people of God said yes to the work of God.
 - You think about the lives that had been changed and friendships that were made like Barnabas, Timothy, Silas, Aquila, Pricilla, and Lydia.

¹ Lusko, Levi. *I Declare War: 4 Keys to Winning the Battle with Yourself* (2018).

- Paul has seen God do the impossible by saving him from being ripped apart by an angry mob in Jerusalem, saving him and the other 270+ passengers from drowning at sea...
 - Q: Why?
 - A: Because he was God's servant and he followed Him faithfully.

As Paul has faithfully served God, He has been brought to this point in Acts 28:

- He has been falsely accused by the Jews in Jerusalem for bringing a Gentile into the temple area.
- He has already spent two years awaiting trial in Caesarea where he finally appealed to have his case heard before Caesar.
- On his way to Rome, he has been used by God to lead all 276 passengers to safety after it shipwrecked on the Island of Malta.

REVIEW NOTES FROM LAST WEEK:

Acts 28:1-10 – Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake, but it had no effect on him and God healed many people through Paul on the island.

OUTLINE:

Overview – The church empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 28 – Paul arrived and preached in Roman and to Caesar.

Today – Acts continues. The church is still empowered.

V. 11-16 – Paul encouraged (Paul was strengthened through other believers)

V. 17-29 – Paul's opportunity to speak to the Jews in Rome

V. 30-31 – Paul's house ministry in Rome

V. 11-16 – Paul encouraged

¹¹ After three months we sailed in an Alexandrian ship whose figurehead was the Twin Brothers, which had wintered at the island.

V. 11 -

I would imagine that the people of Malta were sad to see Paul leave. He had healed many people and no doubt preached the gospel to them.

- In fact V. 10 (**SLIDE**) says, ¹⁰ They also honored us in many ways; and when we departed, they provided such things as were necessary.²

*"You know, there are two kinds of people: those who leave a place better than they found it, and those who leave it worse."*³

-Chuck Smith (SLIDE)

APPLICATION

Q: What kind of people are we?

- Are we the kind of people who leave a place better than when we found it?
- Are people sad we're leaving because of the impact we have made on their lives for Jesus? Or are they glad to see us go?

² *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ac 28:10). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ Smith, Chuck. *The Book of Acts: An in-depth commentary*. 2013 The Word for Today.

In Verse 11, they boarded another Alexandrian ship.

- I would imagine each person who stepped foot on that ship from Paul's company had a brief reminder of what happened on the last ship they were on.
- But Paul had a job to do. A calling from God to fulfill. A purpose I from His creator and he wouldn't be deterred.

APPLICATION

I'm sure you all have been through some shipwrecks in your life. Storms that you never thought you would get through and maybe your hesitant to ever step back onto another boat again. But you know God wants you to.

- Maybe you've been hurt by a loved one, even a believer, and you don't want to open up your heart to them again, so you've put up walls that don't allow you to get close to them or anyone.
- Maybe it's some form of service that you've done for the body of Christ but you were burned somehow and don't want to serve anymore.
- Whatever it is, you got knocked down and you don't feel like getting back up.
 - I want to encourage you to get up.
 - God is bigger than this.
 - Trust in God who will give you the ability to stand.
 - And as you do, He will give you the power of the Holy Spirit to CONTINUE in what he has called you to.
 - Don't let Satan or your own doubts or fears rob you of all that God wants to do IN you and THROUGH you.
 - Step back onto that ship.

As Paul and his companions step onto that ship that would take them to Rome, Luke notes that the ships **figurehead was the Twin Brothers.**

"Twin Brothers" – In mythology this would have been referring to Castor and Pollux. Many seafarers worshipped them believing that they helped guide them on the ocean. A lot of sailors and fishermen are very superstitious.

Show map of travels. (**SLIDE-MAP**)

V. 12-15 – ¹² And landing at Syracuse (in Sicily), we stayed three days. ¹³ From there we circled round and reached Rhegium (Re-gee-um – at the toe of the boot of Italy). And after one day the south wind blew; and the next day we came to Puteoli (pew-tee-ol-ee), ¹⁴ where **we found brethren**, and were invited to stay with them seven days. And so we went toward Rome. ¹⁵ And from there, when **the brethren heard about us**, they came to meet us as far as Appii (App-ee-I) Forum and Three Inns. When Paul **saw** them, **he thanked God and took courage.**

The Appii Forum was a station about 43 miles from Rome on the famous Appian Way. The Three Inns (or the Three Taverns) was a station about 33 from Rome. (**SLIDE – MAP of Three Taverns**)

I don't want us to lose sight of what Paul has suffered in the past few years:

- Rejected by the Jews in Jerusalem
- Arrested by the Roman government
- He was held at Caesarea for 2 years
- He has just survived a shipwreck
- And bitten by a poisonous snake

Matthew 6:8 – Jesus said - ...your Father **knows what you need** before you ask Him.⁴

- God knows Paul could use some encouragement.
- Q: So what does God do?
- A: He puts believers in his path.

APPLICATION

God knows just what you need. Your needs have not gone unnoticed by Him.

Isn't it amazing that no matter where you go there are Christians there?

V. 14 – says ...(in Puteoli) **we found brethren...** V. 15 says when **the brethren heard about us**, they came to meet us as far as Appii (App-ee-I) Forum and Three Inns.

- No doubt these believers came at just the right time for Paul.
- The end of V. 15 says When Paul **saw** them, **he thanked God and took courage.**
- Q: And what was the result of their them?
- A: 1) He thanked God and 2) he **took courage**. He "was encouraged" (NIV), He "received new courage" (AMP).
 - Being around other believers does amazing things for your countenance and for your spirit. (Christian friend bringing me to Monster Truck rally when I was down)

Proverbs 27:17 (SLIDE)

¹⁷ As iron sharpens iron,
So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.⁵

APPLICATION

Don't miss the opportunities that God sends your way. Maybe He puts someone on your heart to call or text or send a card to. Don't miss those opportunities.

- Chances are God wants to use you as a vessel of mercy or encouragement to that believer.
 - We are all creatures who are fragile at best and can become easily discouraged.
 - But as **Prov. 25:11 (SLIDE)** says,

¹¹ A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold
In settings of silver.⁶

- In other words, a perfect word in a perfect moment is priceless.

Paul was strengthened by these other believers – so much so that he **thanked God and took courage**.

- When was the last time we thought about someone other than our self?
- When was the last time we went out of our way to encourage a fellow believer?

Remember when Jesus, in Matthew 25, talking about the separation between the sheep and the goats said - 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'⁷

⁴ [New American Standard Bible: 1995 update](#). (1995). (Mt 6:8). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

⁵ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Pr 27:17). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁶ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Pr 25:11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁷ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Mt 25:40). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

V. 16 – ¹⁶ Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him.

Can you imagine what this centurion would be feeling as he hands Paul over to the captain of the guard in Rome?

- This centurion had been with Paul for months.
 - He had seen Paul's faith in action.
 - He had seen Paul heal sick people on the Island of Malta.
 - He had heard Paul speak of Jesus.
 - He had seen believers house them and shower their love on Paul.
 - And now that time was coming to an end.
 - We are not told whether or not he gave his life to the Lord or not, but one thing is for sure – he would never forget what he had seen and heard from this man of God.

This basically starts a two-year period (as we will see in V. 31-32) when Paul is under house arrest and where he had a Roman soldier with him at all times. Obviously, there was a rotation for the guards. And these Guards are having to listen to Paul as he talks about Jesus and the scriptures with everyone who comes to visit him.

Philippians 1:12-14 (SLIDE) - 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, ¹³ so that **it has become evident to the whole palace guard**, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; ¹⁴ and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.⁸

Even though Paul is a prisoner he is being used by God to both the unbeliever and the believer.

APPLICATION

Some of you may feel chained in life right now. Maybe in a difficult marriage, a tough work situation, a rough environment at school, etc.

- My encouragement to you is to stand strong in the Lord.
- Be faithful to Him.
- Do what's right because it will speak to the unbeliever and it will encourage your fellow believers.
 - Use your pain and your trials as a microphone to speak of the love of Jesus. Let it be a platform by which you express how the power of God enables you to press on.
 - As you do that by faith, you will be surprised how many people it touches for the kingdom of God.

V. 17-29 – Paul's opportunity to speak to the Jews in Rome

V. 17-22:

¹⁷ And it came to pass after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together. So when they had come together, he said to them: "Men *and* brethren, though I have 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, ¹⁸ who, when they had examined me, wanted to let *me* go, because there was no cause for putting me to death. ¹⁹ But when the Jews spoke against *it*, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, not

⁸ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Php 1:12-14). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

that I had anything of which to accuse my nation. 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.”

²¹ Then they said to him, “We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren who came reported or spoken any evil of you. ²² But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere.”

Keep in mind that these are Jews Paul is speaking to, not Christians.

1. V. 17-20 - Paul called them together to tell them the real story of the charges that were brought against him and why he had appealed to Caesar.
2. V. 21 – The Jews never received any letters from Judea. Nor has anyone come to speak evil of him in Rome.
3. V. 22 – But they wanted to hear more about Jesus and Christianity (“this sect”).
 - What greater open door could have than that!

V. 23 – ²³ So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at *his* lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

Q: When Paul had been given the chance to tell them about why he thought Jesus was the Messiah, what did he use as proof?

A: The **Law of Moses and the Prophets**.

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (SLIDE – V. 15-16) - ¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you **a Prophet like me** from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, ¹⁶ according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’

(SLIDE V. 17-19) ¹⁷ “And the LORD said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. **18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you** from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. ¹⁹ And it shall be *that* whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require *it* of him.⁹

- Moses was the mediator between God and the people of Israel.
- Jesus became the ultimate mediator between God the Father and mankind:
1 Tim. 2:5-7 (SLIDE) - ⁵ For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, ⁷ for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.¹⁰

Isaiah 53 – prophecies about the suffering Servant (the Messiah) who would pay for the iniquities of others.

Isaiah 53:5 (SLIDE) –

⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions,

⁹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Dt 18:15–19). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

¹⁰ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (1 Ti 2:5–7). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

*He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.*¹¹

Psalm 22 – David gives a graphic description of crucifixion before it was ever invented. Which is the death that Jesus would die.

Daniel 9 – Prophesied about the Messiah who would come and be “cut off”.

Micah 5:2 – Prophesied that the Messiah about be born in Bethlehem (guess where Jesus was born?).

2 Samuel 7:12-16 Prophesied that the Messiah would be a descendant of David.

And as Paul goes through the **Law and the Prophets** in proving that Jesus was the Messiah God had promised:

V. 24 – ²⁴ And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.

How awesome it is that **some were persuaded**, but how sad it is that **some disbelieved**.

APPLICATION

Q: Which one are you?

Some people can have all the facts before them when it comes to the proof of the Bible, but still choose not to believe.

- Not necessarily because they don't believe it to be true, but because they don't like it.

V. 25-29:

²⁵ So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers,
²⁶ saying,

‘Go to this people and say:

“Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand;

And seeing you will see, and not perceive;

²⁷ *For the hearts of this people have grown dull.*

Their ears are hard of hearing,

And their eyes they have closed,

Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,

Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,

So that I should heal them.” ’

²⁸ “Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!” ²⁹ And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves.

¹¹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Is 53:5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

The sad part about that prophecy that Paul used from Isaiah is that it was originally given about their Jewish ancestors. It was at a time when the people of Israel were so caught up in their own sin and selfish desires that they refused to listen to God even when He sent prophets to them pleading for them to repent before He judged them.

- Paul sees that same stubbornness in the lives of these Jews he's speaking to and he gives them a warning by quoting this prophecy to them.

V. 30-31 – Paul's house ministry in Rome

³⁰ Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, ³¹ preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

Paul giving his life for the sake of the Gospel:

Most probably Paul was released in AD 63 and visited Spain and the Aegean area before his rearrest and death at the hands of Nero (c. AD 67).¹²

- Some have attributed Nero's hatred against Christians to Paul saying that after Paul's testimony before Nero and then Nero went crazy.

Acts seems to end quite abruptly.

- Some think that Luke may have recorded the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts as a record for Paul's defense before Nero.

But whatever the case may be, the book of Acts continues in your life and in mine. Stories of ordinary people who have been transformed by the Holy Spirit and empowered to all that God has called us to do.

*What was begun with so much heroism ought to be continued with ardent zeal, since we are assured that the same Lord is mighty still to carry on his heavenly designs.*¹³

-C.H. Spurgeon

Lyrics for Highlands on Hillsong United's new album (*People*).

Let this be our cry and prayer to God

BRIDGE (SLIDE)

Whatever I walk through

Wherever I am

Your Name can move mountains

Wherever I stand

And if ever I walk through

The valley of death

¹² Ellis, E. E. (1996). [Paul](#). In D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer, & D. J. Wiseman (Eds.), *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed., p. 881). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

¹³ Spurgeon, C. H. (1964). [The Interpreter: Spurgeon's Devotional Bible](#) (p. 676). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

I'll sing through the shadows
My song of ascent

CHORUS (SLIDE)

Oh (So) I will praise You on the mountain
(And) I will praise You
When the mountain's in my way
You're the summit where my feet are
So I will praise You in the valleys all the same
No less God within the shadows
No less faithful when the night leads me astray
(Cause) You're the heaven where my heart is
In the highlands and the heartache all the same

The Book of Acts continues in our lives.

- The same Holy Spirit continues to work in the lives of those who are His.

We must never lose sight of the words of Jesus – "...and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age."¹⁴

PRAY

CLOSING:

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (SLIDE) –

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.¹⁵ Even though we end our study in the book of Acts, in a very real way the book continues to be written.

The servants of God in the book of Acts that we have read for the last year and a half have long since died to be with the Savior, but God's work continues. Now we are the vessels of God's love and grace to this world.

END BLESSING:

Even in your affliction, may you never lose sight of the things not yet seen and may you press onward and upward in the call of God to be His bold servants - mighty in the strength and POWER of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁴ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Mt 28:20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

¹⁵ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (2 Co 4:16-18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

EXTRA NOTES:

INTRO:

- Even though many people believed, some did not and even persecuted him for proclaiming the name of Jesus. He had rocks thrown at him to the point he was left for dead, he was run out of cities, he had issues among fellow Christian workers (like Barnabas and John Mark), etc. But he had made some of the best relationships with other believers that he would never have made otherwise had he not obeyed God's call on his life. People like Barnabas, Timothy, Silas, Aquila, Pricilla, and Lydia.

V. 11 –

I know all of us have a purpose and a calling from God and I don't know what all the specifics are for each of us, but I do know in general what God wants from us – He wants us to love Him and to love others.

- And loving others makes us vulnerable.
 - It's a place that requires long suffering, kindness, and keeps no record of wrongs.

CASTOR AND POLLUX (Gk. *dioskouroi*, lit. 'sons of Zeus'). The sign of the Alexandrian ship in which Paul sailed from Malta to Puteoli on his way to Rome (Acts 28:11, AV). RV and RSV render 'The Twin Brothers'. According to Gk. mythology they were the sons of Leda. They were worshipped especially at Sparta and were regarded as the special protectors of sailors. Their images were probably fastened one on either side of the bow of the Vessel.

J. W. MEIKLEJOHN.¹⁶

V. 13 – Puteoli is the modern-day city of Naples, Italy.

V. 15 –

- Or how about Acts 9 before Saul had given his life to the Lord was persecuting the church and Jesus met him on the road and said, "**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?**"¹⁷

God takes it very personal how people treat His children.

¹⁶ Meiklejohn, J. W. (1996). [Castor and Pollux](#). In D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer, & D. J. Wiseman (Eds.), *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed., p. 178). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

¹⁷ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Ac 9:4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

THREE TAVERNS (Gk. *Treis Tabernai*). A station about 48 km. (30 mi.) south of Rome on the great Roman highway, the Appian Way. The Christians of the church at Rome met Paul here to encourage him as he came to stand trial in the imperial capital (Acts 28:15).¹⁸

Christians are never alone. (1) They have the consciousness of the unseen cloud of witnesses around and about them. (2) They have the consciousness of belonging to a worldwide fellowship. (3) They have the consciousness that wherever they go there is God. (4) They have the certainty that their risen Lord is with them.¹⁹

- When you give your heart to God you become part of His family.
- Christians are everywhere.
- Listen, God sent these believers to Paul.
 - When we move, what's one of our prayer requests – Lord help me find the church you want me to attend – to use my gifts to bless the body and to be blessed by the spiritual gifts of others.
 - There are believers where you're moving. How cool is that!?

V. 16 –

Application for those married to an unbeliever –

- They see you get up early and read your Bible.
- They hear you talk to your Christian friends about Jesus.
- They see your sacrificial love for them and for others.
 - Don't stop being with Jesus and living for Him just because you can't see fruit in your spouses life.
 - And don't live for Jesus JUST to see your spouse come to know Jesus.

e. The Caesarean and Roman imprisonment—Paul's death

Paul disembarked at Caesarea and, with a collection for the poor, arrived at Jerusalem at Pentecost (Acts 21:23f.; cf. 1 Cor. 16:3f.; 2 Cor. 9; Rom. 15:25ff.). Although he was careful to observe the Temple rituals, Jewish pilgrims from Ephesus, remembering 'the apostle to the Gentiles', accused him of violating the Temple and incited the crowds to riot. He was placed under arrest but was permitted to address the crowd and later the Sanhedrin.

To prevent his being lynched, Paul was removed to Caesarea, where *FELIX, the Roman governor, imprisoned him for 2 years (c. AD 58–60, Acts 23–26). At that time Festus, Felix's successor, indicated that he might give Paul to the Jews for trial. Knowing the outcome of such a 'trial', Paul, as a Roman citizen, appealed to Caesar. After a moving interview before the governor and his guests, King Agrippa and Bernice, he was sent under guard to Rome. Thus, under circumstances hardly anticipated, the risen Christ fulfilled the apostle's dream and his own word to Paul: 'You must bear witness also at Rome' (Acts 23:11). Paul had a stormy sea-voyage and, after being wrecked, spent the winter on Malta (c. AD 61). He reached Rome in the spring and spent the next 2 years under house-arrest 'teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ quite openly' (Acts 28:31). Here the

¹⁸ Myers, A. C. (1987). In *The Erdmans Bible dictionary* (p. 1002). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

¹⁹ Barclay, W. (2003). *The Acts of the Apostles* (3rd ed. fully rev. and updated., p. 225). Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press.

story of Acts ends, and the rest of Paul's life must be pieced together from other sources. (A helpful survey of the apostolic age, and Paul's place in it, is F. F. Bruce, *New Testament History*, 1969.)

Most probably Paul was released in AD 63 and visited Spain and the Aegean area before his rearrest and death at the hands of Nero (c. AD 67). *1 Clement* (5. 5–7; ?AD 95), the Muratorian Canon (c. AD 170), and the apocryphal (Vercelli) *Acts of Peter* (1.3; c. AD 200) witness to a journey to Spain; and the Pastoral Epistles appear to involve a post-Acts ministry in the East. To the end Paul fought the good fight, finished the course and kept the faith. His crown awaits him (cf. 2 Tim. 4:7f.).²⁰

²⁰ Ellis, E. E. (1996). [Paul](#). In D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer, & D. J. Wiseman (Eds.), *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed., p. 881). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.