

# Acts 28 – 22 November 2020

## “Paul’s Passion...Til The End”

### Introduction

\*Paul has been arrested in Jerusalem & sent to Rome for trial before Caesar Nero

\*Today is the culmination of Paul’s journeys for the Lord as he finished his sea-faring journey to Rome

\*What is Paul’s legacy? What has he left behind for us to follow? How do you encapsulate his passion?

\*Paul told the Corinthians to “be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ”.

\*As we wrap up the book of Acts, consider Paul’s passion he’s leaving behind for us to follow

### **Today, 3 parts to Paul’s passion**

We pick up the story as Paul, the soldiers and the rest are shipwrecked on the island of Melita during their voyage from Israel to Rome.

# **1<sup>st</sup> part of Paul's passion – [RISK] Redeeming Inconveniences to Show the Kingdom (Vs 1-10)**

Read Vs 1-2

1. They find the Islanders kind to all 276 of them.
2. It seems Paul is forced into circumstances more often than he makes his own, maybe you can relate

Read Vs 3

1. Paul worked; he wasn't expecting to be served
2. That he didn't see the viper leads some to think that poor eye sight was Paul's 'thorn in the flesh'.

Read Vs 4-6

1. Oh the fickleness of man to live thinking your circumstances are reflection of ur standing w/ God
  - a. One moment they think you're God & the next you're dirt.
  - b. Life's events don't happen in accordance w/ what we deserve, or it would be all BAD!
    - i. Tower of Siloam example from Luke 13:4

2. There's another passage we can now put in context based on Paul's venomous attack.
  - a. Turn to Mark 16:15-18
  - b. As you're preaching the Gospel, God will sustain you thru the dangers inherent to spreading the Gospel worldwide
  - c. This is not to be a test to prove God.

Read Vs 7-10

1. Paul, always willing to show kindness, prays for the leader's father to be healed of dysentery.
2. Paul is using this whole horrible trip to Rome, with all of its troubles, to show the kingdom of God to those he meets.
  - a. In all situations, Paul uses them to point people to the grace and love of God.
  - b. Turn to II Cor 12:7-10
    - i. He is who he is, b/c of God's power thru him
    - ii. Use your trouble in life to show others your satisfaction in Christ & His kingdom

## **2<sup>nd</sup> part of Paul's passion – [MEEK] Mutual Encouragement to Edify the Kingdom (Vs 11-16)**

Read Vs 11-14

1. Paul is always looking to find the Christians & encourage them. Already written Romans to them.
2. Stayed w/ them for 1 week, strengthening & edifying them for the work ahead.

Read Vs 15

1. Paul has invested so much into their lives, that they're responding and encouraging him.
2. Once we're saved, that's just the beginning of the experience.
  - a. Invest in each other to build them up
  - b. Help each other be worshippers of God not worshippers of self and stuff.

Read Vs 16

1. Paul given liberty in Rome – many Christians would come to him here. (Think of Acts 20)

### **3<sup>rd</sup> part of Paul's passion – [SEEK] Swaying Everyone to Expand the Kingdom (Vs 17-31)**

Read Vs 17-19

1. Paul goes back to his passion for seeking and saving the lost, starting w/ his family the Jews.
2. He's saying, the Jews & Romans couldn't agree, that's why he appealed to Caesar & am here

Read Vs 20

1. He wants them to clearly understand that his teaching, which caused the trouble in Jerusalem, was b/c of his belief in Messiah.
2. Messiah was (& still is) known as Hope of Israel.

Read Vs 21-22

1. These Jews have heard that the Christians are bad, but they've not heard of Paul.
2. Acts 19 at Ephesus – 7 sons of Sceva – “Jesus I know & Paul I know, but who are you?”
  - a. Don't worry about being famous on earth, you want to be famous in hell.

## Read Vs 23

1. Notice Paul used the OT to persuade them about Jesus, not just his opinion or feelings
2. They're willing to listen from morning - night, this isn't just John 3:16 but bad & good news.

## Read Vs 24-25a

1. Paul is willing to teach until "they departed".
  - a. Preach as long as they're willing to listen.
2. The Word will have its results of dividing

## Read Vs 25b-28

1. Paul ends he's discussion of salvation thru Jesus by making them jealous that the Gentiles will receive Jesus
2. It's ok to have people understand that you're not going to come back and beg them to get saved
3. Ok for them to know burden is on them now.

## Read Vs 29

1. This caused the Jews to think even more so!

## Read Vs 30-31

1. This is his lifestyle; this is he desire.
2. He's comfortable doing this every day. R you?
3. During these 2 years he wrote Eph, Phil, Col, Plm (60-61 AD)
4. Released & continues teaching 4 yrs while writing I Tim and Titus (62-66)
5. Rearrested in 67 AD where he writes II Tim and is executed

## Conclusion

Is what Paul dedicated his life to worthy? Is Jesus Christ worthy to spend every waking minute thinking about Him? Yes

Be like Paul!

1. Take a **RISK**: **Redeem Inconveniences to Show others the Kingdom**
- a. Show everyone you're satisfied in Christ regardless of your circumstances
2. Be **MEEK**: **Mutually Encourage to Edify the Kingdom**
- a. Strengthen and help each other, we need it
3. **SEEK** the lost: **Sway Everyone to Expand the Kingdom**
- a. Always be ready to offer God's grace just as someone offered God's love & grace to you

*I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God from the Book of Acts*