

## 1. Review

- The ship taking Paul and the other prisoners to Rome shipwrecked on the island of Malta.
- The terrifying shipwreck was actually God's plan to reach the people there with the Gospel through Paul's preaching.
- Just over 3 months after the shipwreck, Paul finally arrived in Rome and was put under house arrest while awaiting his trial before Caesar.

## 2. Text: Acts 28:17-31

### Acts 28:17-20

- In Rome, Paul again preached to the Jews first.
- Paul explained that he was a prisoner because he believed the hope of Israel - the Messiah - had already come!

### Acts 28:21-28

- Paul set a meeting day and, using the Scriptures, he spoke to them from morning until evening about the Kingdom of God and about Jesus.
- Some were persuaded to believe in Jesus as Messiah but others did not believe.
- God cannot heal people from the penalty of their sin if they do not turn to Him and believe in Jesus the Messiah.
- Paul went on to tell these Jewish leaders that this salvation from God has also been offered to the Gentiles, and they will accept it.

**Ephesians 3:1-7:** "When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles . . . assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending his grace to you Gentiles. As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me. As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets."

And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News."

- God is not harsh, cruel, and uncaring toward sinful people; He is kind, loving, merciful, and gracious and has provided a rescue plan through Jesus Christ.

**Titus 3:3-7:** “Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But —When God our Savior revealed his **kindness** and **love**, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his **mercy**. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his **grace** he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.”

### Acts 28:30-31

- Paul spent 2 years under house arrest waiting for his trial before Caesar by boldly proclaiming the **Kingdom** of **God** and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Paul likely lived around **8** more years after arriving in Rome (lived to around 70).

### Paul's life after arriving in Rome

60-62	Paul held under house arrest in Rome; preached Gospel to all visitors. Wrote Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, & Philemon. Traditions says he stood before Caesar (Nero) and was found innocent.
62	Paul released from prison in Rome.
62-66	Returned to visit churches in modern-day Greece & Turkey. Visited Crete and Spain. Wrote 1 Timothy and Titus.
67	Arrested
67-68	Imprisoned again in Rome Wrote 2 Timothy
68	Martyrdom in Rome

### 3. Application

Paul was **consumed** with the Gospel and the Kingdom of God. What are we most consumed with: Kingdom of God? Kingdom of earth? Kingdom of self?

Paul went through years and years of suffering and persecution because of his love and devotion to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Yet he lived with passion, fulfillment, and joy because he chose to be consumed with the Kingdom of God not the kingdom of man. God help us to go and do likewise.