

To Be Continued . . . ?

Acts 28:17 Three days later he called together the leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, Paul said to them: "My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. 18 They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. 19 But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar — not that I had any charge to bring against my own people. 20 For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain." 21 They replied, "We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of the brothers who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you. 22 But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect." 23 They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. 24 Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. 25 They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet: 26 "Go to this people and say, 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.'" 27 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them." 28 "Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!"

I. Clearing the Air with the Jewish Church

- Paul wasted ___ time so that there would be ___ misunderstanding.
- He called together the Jewish _____ to tell _____ of the story. (He can't to go to _____ because of house arrest.)
- But these leaders in Rome had received _____ notice _____ Paul. They _____ want to hear about "this _____."
- "My heart is "the _____ of Israel" and that is _____ I am in chains." What was the hope of Israel?
- Paul spent an _____ teaching about the Kingdom of God and about Jesus and had the same _____ as previous times:
 - Some _____ and some _____ believe.
- But all of them seemed _____ at his reference to Isaiah and to the door opening for the _____.

Acts 28:30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. 31 Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. Waiting for His "Day in Court"

- Paul waited for _____ with _____ freedom.
- He never stopped _____ about _____.

III. Why Does Acts End Like This?

- Some think that there ____, or was to be, another _____ by Luke.
- Some think that the story is _____ - _____ and therefore we are still _____ the Book of the Acts, even today.

VI. What I Have Learned

About Paul . . .

- That he was incredibly _____ with moments of _____.
- That he knew his _____ and was _____ to it everywhere.
- That he was _____ and used his time _____.
(Philippians, Philemon, Ephesians, Colossians)
- That he had _____ and loved being _____ them.
- That he "went _____ of his _____." He was _____ and strategic but always _____ to the obvious plan of His Father.

About God . . .

- That He works _____ people and provides the _____ that we need to be effective.
- That He has a _____ and brings it to _____.
- That He cares for _____ people, _____.
- That evangelism and discipleship are _____ important.

About People . . .

- That without a source of _____, we are _____.
- That we cannot _____ ourselves-- we are without _____!
- God's Word is powerful and _____ people!

About Me . . .

- That one person can make a _____! I need to go "out of my way" for the sake of _____.
- That I need to be _____ to my calling and leave the _____ to God.