

Acts 28:1-16
Voyage To Rome

Introduction:

As we come to the end of Acts and yes the end of the Apostle Paul's ministry, we see quite the opposite of our current "prosperity gospel" that promises health and wealth in this life as the necessary proof of a living faith. This of course does not square with Jesus teaching that "in the world you will have tribulation" and the clear imperative that we must take up our cross and follow Him. (John 16:33; Matt. 10:38; 16:24) Paul never preached an erroneous health and wealth gospel or 'your best life now' or 'become a better you.' No, there was trial, suffering, and shipwreck. (I Peter 1:6, 7)

I. The Need For Hospitality

- A. God requires all Christians to show hospitality – I Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:8; Rom. 12:13**
- B. Maltese residents did not know the gospel although they did instinctively know the Law of God - Rom. 2:14-15, 26-27**
- C. Paul bitten by a viper**
 - 1. The islanders had a sense of Justice – Rom.12:19
 - 2. Luke records Paul's faith in surviving a poisonous snake bite – Acts 23:11; 27:24

II. The Purpose of Suffering: Why do Christians suffer?

- A. Five kinds of suffering:**
 - 1. Common suffering
 - a. Fallen in Adam – Job 5:6-7
 - b. Remember God in your youth – Eccl. 12:1-7
 - 2. Corrective Suffering
 - a. Christians at times go astray like sheep – Heb. 12:5-11
 - 3. Constructive Suffering – Rom5:3-5
 - 4. Christ-glorifying Suffering – John 9:3
 - 5. Providential Suffering – Job 2:9-10
- B. Paul' suffering predicted – Acts 9;15,16**

III. The Arrival At Rome

- A. Luke's log of travel**
- B. Paul encouraged by the Roman Christians – v.15**
 - 1. The Christians in Rome were supportive of Paul –
Turn To: Phil. 1:15-18
 - 2. The Christians visited Paul under house arrest by the Roman Officials

Conclusion:

- 1. *Paul's peace with God overcame his turmoil at Sea and Roman captivity – Phil. 4:4*
- 2. *Paul's faith in the Lord overcame the fears of Roman imprisonment and death. Paul's faith was as strong as Abraham's – Rom. 4:20; I Cor. 6:13*