

Daily Bible Readings

Our Read-Ahead for: 27 November 2022

Paul Evangelizes in Rome

Monday: Will They Listen to Me? (Exodus 6:6–13)

Tuesday: I Told You So! (Deuteronomy 1:41–45)

Wednesday: Charged to Teach (Deuteronomy 4:5–14)

Thursday: The Voice of Discipline (Deuteronomy 4:32–40)

Friday: The Word Is Very Near (Deuteronomy 30:6–14)

Saturday: We Would Like to Hear (Acts 28:16–22)

Sunday: Teaching Boldly and without Hindrance (Acts 28:23–31)

Paul Evangelizes in Rome

Bible Background • Acts 28:16–31

Printed Text • Acts 28:23–31

Devotional Reading • Deuteronomy 4:32–40

Keep in Mind: *“Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.”* (Acts 28:28, KJV)

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **SUMMARIZE** the points of Paul’s Gospel message; **BE CONFIDENT** in our ability to use Scripture to bring others to knowledge of Christ; and **IDENTIFY** ways we can tell resistant listeners about Christ.

In Focus

Sometimes challenging circumstances can make it difficult to carry out our commitments. At such times, we need to persevere in faith despite the difficulties we experience. In today’s lesson, Paul is confined but keeps his commitment to share the Gospel, which leads to souls coming to Christ.

Focal Verses

Acts 28:23-31

23 When they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging, to whom he expounded and testified the Kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the Law of Moses and out of the Prophets, from morning until evening.

24 Some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

25 When they were unable to agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had spoken one word: “Well spoke the Holy Ghost through Isaiah the prophet unto our fathers,

26 saying, ‘Go unto this people and say, “Hearing, ye shall hear and shall not understand; and seeing, ye shall see and not perceive.

27 The heart of this people has waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”

28 “Be it known therefore unto you that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.”

29 When he had said these words, the Jews departed and had great reasoning among themselves.

30 Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house and received all who came in unto him,

31 preaching the Kingdom of God and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

The Lesson

I. The People, Places and Times

Background: Finally, after a 2,000-mile journey that started in Caesarea, Paul arrived in Rome. He was permitted to live in his own quarters under house arrest or with a light chain. The Jews were back; the decree of Claudius expelling them from the city had expired (Acts 18:2). Paul met with Rome’s Jewish leaders. He explained to them that he was bound because of the hope of Israel, which is the Messiah. He grabbed their attention because they wanted to know more about Jesus. There was a great dispute about Jesus’ claim to be the Messiah. They agreed to listen to Paul’s presentation of the Gospel.

Rome. Rome was the capital city of the Roman Empire, with a population exceeded over a million people. The people of Rome were wealthy, literate, and artistic. The Romans worshiped some of the emperors and many pagan gods. Jews who believed started the Roman church during Pentecost (Acts 2:41–47). They spread the Gospel on their return to Rome and the church grew. Paul wrote a letter to the Romans while in Corinth, to encourage the believers. After taking money to Jerusalem for the poor Christians there, he desired to visit the Roman believers on his way to Spain (Romans 15:23–28), it did not happen as he had planned. Years later, Paul was taken to Rome as a prisoner.

II. In Depth

1. Paul Shares the Gospel with the Jews (Acts 28:23–25a)
2. The Jews Turn Away (Acts 28:25b–27)
3. Paul Preaches to the Gentiles (Acts 28: 28–31)

III. Take Aways

IV. Closing Prayer