

Parson to Person

ACTS 28 PART 1

“Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta. And the natives showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold. But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, ‘No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live.’ But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days. And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed. They also honored us in many ways; and when we departed, they provided such things as were necessary.

After three months we sailed in an Alexandrian ship whose figurehead was the Twin Brothers, which had wintered at the island. And landing at Syracuse, we stayed three days. From there we circled round and reached Rhegium. And after one day the south wind blew; and the next day we came to Puteoli, where we found brethren, and were invited to stay with them seven days. And so we went toward Rome. And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us as far as Appii Forum and Three Inns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him” (Acts 28:1–16 NKJV).

In the sovereign plan of God there are no accidents and no mistakes. Man may make plans, make mistakes, outright rebel, or think to thwart the purposes of God – but God wins – He always wins.

Within the study of Paul’s journey to Rome (Acts 27), we have learned many things. In the conclusion (Acts 28:1–16), we’ll see a bit more.

We have recognized that there is good reason to have this historical inclusion in the Bible. It provides a record of the nautical journey: geographically, historically, naturally and supernaturally. However, there is so much more.

Today in review we will notice:

- (1) The sovereign providential care of God.
- (2) God’s handiwork with men. (How He uses our trials)
- (3) The profound testimony of Paul and how God used him to influence others with the Gospel.
- (4) The way Paul suffered with comparison to others on the journey.
- (5) The temptations of self-preservation. (A call to others-centered living)
- (6) The fear and comfort we face amidst natural disaster.
- (7) The fear and comfort we face when enduring spiritual warfare.
- (8) How trials and afflictions effect our value system.
- (9) That God leads, directs, protects and accomplishes all His desire with and in His own. God can be trusted!

I love you all, Pastor Paul