

Sermon Date: April 13, 2014
Paul Arrives in Rome – Acts 28:1-22
Doug McBride

Read Acts 28:1-22

1. How is Paul received by the natives in Malta (v. 2)?

2. In Acts 28:2-10, Luke is intentional in giving his readers a picture of believers and non-believers working side-by-side and living in community. Doug referenced the following verse: “Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles... Live such good lives among unbelievers that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us” (1 Peter 2:11-12). How might this be a good model for how we can coexist with non-believers in our own lives? Think through some examples of how this might look in your life?

Paul’s Arrival in Rome

In order to gain some perspective about Paul’s heart for the church in Rome, see the following introduction to the book of Romans which was written from Corinth several years earlier than his visit (Acts 28:15):

It is believed that the church in Rome was not founded by Paul, but rather the gospel message was initially carried to Rome by converts at Pentecost or converts of Paul or, perhaps that other apostles founded the church there. Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:2) in particular were Jewish Christians originally expelled from Rome (Acts 18:2) but who later returned there (Romans 16:3). Paul was eager to visit and minister to this church which was already widely known (Romans 1:8), so he wrote the letter to prepare the way for his visit (Romans 15:14-17). It is widely believed that Paul wrote Romans from Corinth. From there he went to Jerusalem intending to continue on to Rome and Spain (Romans 15:24). These plans were changed by his arrest in Jerusalem (Acts 21:27+). Paul does indeed make his way to Rome, not as a free man, but as a man in chains (Acts 28:20).

3. Who greets Paul as he arrives in Rome (v. 15)? What is Paul’s reaction?

N.T. Wright comments “the believers have come several miles to meet Paul at two towns further south (v. 15) and for Paul this is a real sign of God’s grace and blessing. They had read his letter; they have been waiting for him; they are here to welcome him.”

