

## “TIME TO REST”

Acts 28:17-22

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### INTRODUCTION

Paul had been through a great deal:

- An exhausting missionary journey spanning several years
- A long voyage to Jerusalem taking a significant offering to give to the poor Christians.
- Attack by jealous countrymen who desire to kill Paul
- Incarceration by Roman authorities and a trip to Caesarea to stand trial under Felix and Festus
- An appeal to Caesar to avoid the murderous intent of Jewish authorities
- A voyage to Rome to stand trial during which the ship was caught in a vicious storm lasting two weeks
- Shipwreck on the island of Malta, bitten by a poisonous snake, healing of and preaching to island residents
- A three-month wait on the island for good weather
- Conclusion of the trip and arrival in Italy
- Fellowship in Puteoli and an 140mile journey to Rome
- Imprisoned in a private home awaiting his trial

So after all of this, would anyone blame Paul for lying low for a while and taking it easy?

But that was not the nature of this apostle who would rather “spend and be spent” for the gospel of Jesus Christ. He only waited three days to get back to work again! He must’ve taken to heart Jesus’ exhortation to his disciples to “work while it is yet day, for the night comes, when no man can work.”

### BE BUSY IN SERVING GOD AND DON’T EVER STOP!

#### I. GATHERING THE JEWISH LEADERS (17)

- He knew that if he could reach the leaders he could reach the rest of the people.
- His policy was always to the Jew first and then to the Greeks.
- In this place he could not go into a Jewish synagogue, so he called the Jews to himself.
- Notice in God’s providence how He made it possible for Paul to have people come to his private rented quarters – even though Paul was imprisoned.

#### II. PRESENTING HIS DEFENSE (17b-20)

- Notice how gentle Paul was in talking to these Jews, “Men, brothers”, “our people”, “our fathers”
- Paul makes clear his loyalty to Judaism—“I have done nothing against the people or customs.”
- Paul confirmed the literal accuracy of the **prophecy of Agabus in 21:11**; this is *very significant in the argument concerning the continuation of prophetic utterances today!* He said, “I was delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.”

- The Romans were willing to release Paul when they acknowledged that there were no real grounds for executing him—see the decision of the commander Lysias, and the decisions of Felix, Festus, and Agrippa in 23:25-30; 24; 25; 26—esp. 26:32.
- Because of Jewish opposition and their determination to use a pretense to kill Paul, Paul had to appeal to Caesar.
- Paul is making no accusation against his nation. He is only defending his position.
- Therefore he wanted a personal audience with them so their information would be firsthand and not secondhand (20)

### III. WILLINGNESS TO HEAR PAUL’S EXPLANATION OF THE HOPE OF ISRAEL (21-22)

- A. No negative report about Paul has come to them (21)
  - No letters
  - No messages—official reports or personal communications
- B. Desire to hear from Paul—his own views
- C. The “heresy” of Christianity is spoken against everywhere—how can you paint a clearer and more favorable picture for us showing that we share the same “hope”?

### CONCLUSION

Paul is about to jump into another “hornet’s nest”! You would think he would get tired of doing this over and over again! But according to his own testimony on the next page of the New Testament, *“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”* (Rom. 1:16).

Once again he presents the Gospel to the Jew first; in our next and last study of the Book of Acts we will listen to his presentation and notice the Jewish response. For all Paul knew, this time he was spending in Rome could have been the end of his life. And yet he is still actively and energetically serving the Lord.

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