

Paul in Rome
Acts 28:16-31

- I. The Nature of Paul's "Chains"
 - A. Relative Liberty
 1. Own rented home
 2. Able to receive delegations
 - B. Period of Two Years
 - C. Final Testimony to Jewish "mixed" reception and Gentile mission
 1. Place of Isaiah 6 and Paul's Commission
 2. Salvation for the World (v. 28)

- II. Paul's Connections in Rome – Romans 16
 - A. 26 mentioned by name
 - B. House Churches
 - C. Spread across Social Strata

- III. Ministry in Rome
 - A. To the Jewish Community
 - he calls the leaders to himself, unable to go the synagogue because of his house arrest
 - B. To the Church (Welcoming/Hearty Embrace...Preaching...Teaching)
 1. Ministry in Teaching and Preaching (v. 31)
 2. Ministry in Writing
 - a. The Prison Epistles
 - i. Philippians
 - ii. Ephesians
 - iii. Colossians
 - iv. Philemon
 - b. The Pastoral Epistles
 - i. Titus
 - ii. 1 and 2 Timothy

- IV. What do these Epistles Teach Us about Paul?
 - A. Philemon
 1. Written to a man in Laodecean region
 2. Concerns this run-away slave, now a convert in the Church at Rome
 - the Law – Deuteronomy 23:15-16
 3. Paul's Circumstances
 - a. Paul, the aged – v.9
 - b. Paul, the prisoner – v.9
 - c. Paul's companions – v.24
 4. Authority – order or appeal – v.8
 5. Substitution – the life of the Savior in the life of his people: v. 18-20
 - Let me benefit (onesimi) from you

B. 2 Timothy

1. Written to Timothy in Ephesus
2. A “Final Word” to the Young Apprentice Leader
3. Paul’s circumstances
 - a. In prison – 1:8
 - b. Abandoned by colleagues – 1:15; 4:9-13
 - Note, Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus, with Ephesians 6:21-22
 - Mark made it to Rome – Colossians 4:10-11
 - c. Now charged as a Roman “criminal” – 2:9-10
 - This is Paul’s second imprisonment – 4:16-17
4. Paul’s Execution
 - a. Paul was released from his initial house arrest, perhaps because the time for trial, usually 18 months, had elapsed, but more likely because the charges were found to be spurious and in the eyes of Roman courts related only to Jewish problems. He is later re-arrested and executed in connection with the Neronian persecution of the Christians which began after the Great Fire of Rome in July of 64 A.D. The persecution was instigated in late 65 after Nero grew weary of being blamed for the fire and searched for a scapegoat.
 - i. Tacitus on the Neronian Persecution
 - ii. Clement and Eusebius, as well as Origen affirm his execution under Nero
 - b. Prepared for execution and martyrdom – 4:6-8
 - Vaticanus and the Ostian Way
 - Executed at the third mile stone on Aquae Salviae
 - Burial - St. Paul’s Outside the Walls, under the altar. Second largest church in Rome, after St. Peter’s. Excavations unearthed the tomb in 2002 and in 2006 it was made open for public view, including the two large marble slabs that covered the tomb, bearing the inscription Paulo Apostolo Mart – Paul, Apostle and Martyr.