Witnesses to Christ

Paul Bears Witness at Rome
Lesson 22
Acts 28

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
May 29, 2016
Acts – Purpose

Transition to a new era in the plan of God
• O.T. – waiting for Christ to come for His redemptive work
• N.T. – waiting for Christ to come to rule

The life and work of Jesus Christ – the crux of history
• Holy Spirit replaces the Law
• Church replaces Israel
• A world-wide ministry
• A time of tribulation

The same salvation: justification by faith
A Surprise Ending

- Acts 21-26 – Paul’s trials and defense (2+ years)
- Acts 27 – Hurricane at sea (2+ weeks)
- Acts 28:1-16 – Waiting at Malta (3 months)
- Acts 28:17-31 – In Rome to see Caesar
- No appearance before Caesar (23:11; 27:24)
- A significant ending – the Word of God
  - The life of a minister – providence of God
  - The message of a minister – the Gospel
Malta (28:1-10)

- Malta – near Rome
- Barbarian kindness
- Barbarian “theology” – Divine retribution
- Paul’s healing ministry
- No witnessing?
- God’s providential care
On to Rome (28:11-16)

- Twin Brothers (Pollux and Castor)
- A south wind
- The brethren at Puteoli x 1 week
- Encouraged by Roman brethren
- Paul under house arrest
Paul’s Witness at Rome (28:17-31)

- Paul’s final defense
- “. . . wearing this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel.”
  - The Son of David on David’s throne eternally (Luke 1:30-33)
  - Remember mercy for Israel (Luke 1:54-55)
  - Remember His holy covenant (Luke 1:68-79)
  - A Savior, Christ the Lord . . . (Luke 2:10-14)
  - Salvation for Israel and the Gentiles (Luke 2:29-32)
- No accusations from Jerusalem
- Request to hear Paul
Paul’s Witness at Rome

- The Kingdom of God and Jesus – from Scripture
- The beginning and ending of Acts (1:3; 28:23, 31)
- Peter at Pentecost (2:25-36) – Christ, the King
- Philip in Samaria (8:12) – the Kingdom and Jesus Christ
- Paul and tribulations (14:22) – pathway to the Kingdom
- Paul at Ephesus (19:8) – persuading about the Kingdom
- Paul with the elders (20:25) – preaching the Kingdom
The Kingdom of God

- A Millennial Kingdom on the earth (Zech 14:9; Rev 20)
- An Eternal Kingdom on the new heaven and earth (Zech 9:9-10; Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15; Matt 6:10; 25:34)
- Metaphor for salvation (Luke 17:20-21)
- All three are true!
Why the Kingdom?

- It is the hope of the Everlasting Covenant
- It is entered by salvation (John 3:3, 5; Luke 18:18-26)
- It is entered by resurrection (Revelation 20:4-6)
- It is the final state of our salvation (Revelation 21-22)
- Salvation is for all of creation (Rom 8:19-25)
- The unrealized hope of Israel – Great Nation ruled by the Son of David on the Throne of David
Concerning Jesus

- The life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus
- From the Law of Moses and the Prophets
- A Kingdom of righteousness without competing authority (1 Cor 15:24; 2 Peter 3:13)
Rejection by and of Israel

- A present reality
- A reality from Sinai (7:42-43 and Amos 5:25)
- A judgment foretold by Isaiah (28:26-27; Isa 6:9-10)
- An enduring hope “all Israel will be saved” (Rom 11:25-29)
Paul Turns to the Gentiles

- Same message (28:31)
- Preaching to all . . .
Witnesses to Christ

- The New Covenant ministry
- The fullness of the Holy Spirit
- The message: Christ and His Kingdom
- Preach to all . . . to the ends of the earth