

The Way

Growth of the Church

Lesson 15: Paul Arrested, Imprisoned and Sent to Rome

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We've Been)

Paul's Life Summary...

- **CONVERSION (34AD)** Conversion/Commission to take the Gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 9)
- **PREPARING (34-48AD)** Training for ministry, serving, and preaching locally – Arabia, Damascus, Jerusalem, Caesarea, Tarsus, Antioch (Acts 9-12)
- **PLANTING and WATERING (48-57AD)** Paul's 3 missionary journeys taking the Gospel to plant churches (Acts 13-21)
- **FINISHING (57-66AD)** Ministry in Jerusalem and Rome...preaching, writing, and preparing the next generation to carry the Gospel forward

BIG Idea

Although we'll wrap up Paul's ministry today, it's important to understand the 4 Phases of his spiritual journey: Conversion, Preparing, Planting and Watering, and Finishing.

This was not an overnight, highlight reel of a life. This was an overtime development and maturity in His life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The last phase we're moving into today is the finishing part. Paul has approximately ten years of preparing the next generation for ministry.

Acts 20:24 (ESV) "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."



Information (What You Need to Know)

How does Paul finish his life and ministry?

■ **Paul is arrested in Jerusalem and imprisoned in Caesarea**

- ✓ Paul reported to the Jerusalem church about the Gentiles who had believed
Acts 21:19 (NLT) Paul gave a detailed account of the things God had accomplished among the Gentiles through his ministry.
- ✓ The leaders at Jerusalem warned Paul about what others were saying about him
Acts 21:21 (NLT) But the Jewish believers here in Jerusalem have been told that you are teaching all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn their backs on the laws of Moses. They've heard that you teach them not to circumcise their children or follow other Jewish customs.
- ✓ Paul was taken by a mob, falsely accused, nearly killed, and imprisoned
Acts 21:30 (NLT) The whole city was rocked by these accusations, and a great riot followed. Paul was grabbed and dragged out of the Temple, and immediately the gates were closed behind him. **31** As they were trying to kill him, word reached the commander of the Roman regiment that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. **32** He immediately called out his soldiers and officers and ran down among the crowd. When the mob saw the commander and the troops coming, they stopped beating Paul.
- ✓ Paul was put in prison, but the Lord assured him he would go to Rome
Acts 23:11 (NLT) That night the Lord appeared to Paul and said, "Be encouraged, Paul. Just as you have been a witness to me here in Jerusalem, you must preach the Good News in Rome as well."
- ✓ Paul is sent to Caesarea and imprisoned for 2 years
Acts 24:27 (NLT) After two years went by in this way, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And because Felix wanted to gain favor with the Jewish people, he left Paul in prison.

■ **Paul is sent to Rome**

- ✓ After being passed around by government officials (Festus, Agrippa) and Paul making his defense, he was shipped to Rome as a prisoner
Acts 27:1 (NLT) When the time came, we set sail for Italy. Paul and several other prisoners were placed in the custody of a Roman officer named Julius, a captain of the Imperial Regiment.
- ✓ Paul experienced a treacherous journey to Rome via ship - storms, shipwrecks, starvation, danger, and even miracles (read Acts 27-28:10)

- ✓ After the shipwreck and three months on the island of Malta, Paul finally arrives in Rome

Acts 28:11 (NLT) It was three months after the shipwreck that we set sail on another ship that had wintered at the island...**12** Our first stop was Syracuse, where we stayed three days. **13** From there we sailed across to Rhegium. A day later a south wind began blowing, so the following day we sailed up the coast to Puteoli. **14** There we found some believers, who invited us to spend a week with them. And so we came to Rome.

■ **Paul taught in Rome**

- ✓ He was under house arrest

Acts 28:16 (NLT) When we arrived in Rome, Paul was permitted to have his own private lodging, though he was guarded by a soldier.

- ✓ He preached to a large crowd at his home

Acts 28:23 (NLT) So a time was set, and on that day a large number of people came to Paul's lodging. He explained and testified about the Kingdom of God and tried to persuade them about Jesus from the Scriptures. Using the law of Moses and the books of the prophets, he spoke to them from morning until evening. **24** Some were persuaded by the things he said, but others did not believe.

- ✓ For two years, Paul welcomed people where he would proclaim Jesus to them

Acts 28:30 (NLT) For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, **31** boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him.

- ✓ Paul also wrote many letters to churches while in Rome (Ephesians, Philippians, Philemon, Colossians)

■ **Paul is released, arrested again, and then killed**

- ✓ After being held as a prisoner for 2 years in Rome, he was released

“Luke doesn't tell us about this in Acts. However, some things which Paul wrote to Timothy and Titus clearly indicate that he was.” – Firm Foundations

- ✓ After his release, he continued his work of preaching God's Word to people

“During this time the Holy Spirit guided Paul to write 1 Timothy and Titus. They had been appointed by Paul to take care of churches.” – Firm Foundations

- ✓ After a time of preaching to unbelievers and teaching God's children, Paul was again arrested and put in Rome's famous Mamertine prison (wrote 2 Timothy)

✓ Paul was martyred (66AD)

“The Bible does not say what happened to Paul, but we understand through the writings of early Christians that he was beheaded by the command of a very wicked Roman emperor, Nero.” – Firm Foundations

Application (What You Need To Do):

Paul's Final Advice...

- Be faithful in preaching the word in all seasons of life

2 Timothy 4:2 (ESV) ...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

- Don't teach what people want to hear, but what the Word clearly declares

2 Timothy 4:3 (ESV) For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

- Finish well

2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

- Rejoice in the hope of eternal life with the Lord

2 Timothy 4:8 (ESV) Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.