

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What did God use to help Paul introduce Him to the people at Melita?
2. Which of Paul's experiences is fulfillment of prophecy? (e.g. Mark 16:17,18)
3. What can we learn from Paul's faithfulness to the cause of Christ, despite seemingly impossible circumstances?
4. In what way did Paul's imprisonment result in the furtherance of the Gospel?

### SUMMARY:

For years Paul had a desire to take the gospel to Rome. His being taken there as a prisoner, did not prevent him from testifying for the Lord all along the way. The people of Melita, first believing Paul to be punished as a murderer, changed their minds when the snake's bite did not harm him. This incident is typical of Paul's experiences. Time after time when circumstances were against him, continued trust in God turned what seemed a total defeat into a glorious victory. Even as he was held prisoner, he was given the liberty to dwell in his own house. For two years he preached the gospel to all who came to him and wrote many letters to the churches. These letters are an important part of our Bible today.

### NOTES:

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**[SoF:15]** We believe that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is an invitation for everyone to live a life of abandonment to Him, Who loved us and gave Himself for us - surrendering His personal ambitions and possessions in an unreserved committal to take the proclamation of the Gospel throughout "all the world to every creature".

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #10

March 8, 2020

First Quarter

### PAUL MINISTERS IN ROME

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**LESSON TEXT:** *Acts 28:1-31*

**LESSON SETTING:** Paul's last leg of his journey. He ministers from his lodgings (jail).

**TIME:** Approximately 60 A.D.

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#### I. MINISTRY AT MELITA. Acts 28:1-10

- A. Hospitality. (vs. 2, 7) Hebrews 13:2
- B. God's Promises Fulfilled. (vs. 5, 8-9) Mark 16:17-18
- C. Criminal or God? (vs. 4-6) Acts 14:11-13, 18
- D. Healing Power. (vs. 8) Acts 16:18; 19:11-12

#### II. MINISTRY AT ROME. Acts 28:11-23

- A. Brotherly Love. (vs. 14-15) 2 Corinthians 12:15
- B. Prophecy Fulfilled. (vs. 16) Acts 23:11
- C. Bound for Sake of Christ. (vs. 20) Acts 12:5-6; 16:24
- D. Facing Opposition. (vs. 22) Acts 24:5; 1 Peter 4:14

#### III. RESPONSE TO PAUL'S MINISTRY. Acts 28:24-31

- A. Some Believed. (vs. 24) Acts 17:4; Luke 8:40
- B. Some Believed Not. (vs. 24) Acts 17:5; 19:9; 2 Peter 2:2
- C. Paul Continued to Preach. (vs. 31) Acts 4:20, 31; Ephesians 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 9:16-17

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *I AM NOT ASHAMED **[SoF:15]** OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST: FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH; TO THE JEW FIRST, AND ALSO TO THE GREEK.*

Romans 1:16

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Romans 8:1-39

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** 1 Samuel 26:1-12; 30:1-19

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Life and Writings of Paul

**TOPIC:** VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING

**INTRODUCTION:**

How does a child of God live victoriously in every circumstance of life? When a person can triumph over every obstacle that Satan places in his pathway he will be victorious. Paul was in prison in Rome, but in spite of this handicap, he preached the gospel. All of Satan's efforts were in vain; Paul was still the victor.

If we can continue in faith and go on—even when buffeted by the devil—we are conquerors, but if we can rejoice in the buffeting—through the trial or tribulation—we are more than conquerors.

Only a Christian that abides in Christ, and Christ abiding in him, can live a conqueror's life. Christ gives us the strength, the power to overcome the temptations, trials, etc., and also to rejoice in the fact that we are worthy to suffer for His sake. We also rejoice abundantly in the hope of life eternal. This earthly life is often so filled with sorrows and burdens that it would become unbearable but for the glorious hope of living forever with Christ and the joys of our heavenly home.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** No matter what the circumstances, the man who is moving in the will of God is truly victorious.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM THAT LOVED US.* Romans 8:37

The writer to the Romans reminds us that all flesh, with its pride, self-indulgence and vainglory is only a temporal thing, while the things of the Spirit shall endure forever. We are warned—and experience shows us—that the human mind would ever seek these things which have no eternal worth. *“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”* (Romans 8:6)

Our human mind would have us reason all the “angles.” Yet, what could be more reasonable than the plan of God? *“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”* (Romans 8:13)

If we yield this body, which is destined to death, into the service of Him that loved us, we also can be “more than conquerors.”

*“He that loveth his life shall lose it: and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.”* (John 12:25)

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 9 – 15**

M. David's Triumph over Self-interest. 1 Samuel 26:1-12

T. \*Law of the Spirit. Romans 8:1-6

W. \*Life in the Spirit. Romans 8:7-14

T. \*Liberty by the Spirit. Romans 8:15-21

F. \*Intercession of the Spirit. Romans 8:22-27

S. \*God's Provision and Purpose. Romans 8:28-34

S. \*God's Keeping Power. Romans 8:35-39

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