

PAUL IS A PRISONER – BUT GOD’S WORD IS FREE!

Acts 21:31-33 & 22:30 & 23:23-24 & 24:1-27 & 25:2-11 & 27:1 & 28:14-30

21:31 The people were **trying** to **kill** Paul in **Jerusalem**. 32 So the **Roman commander** came running – 33 and the commander **arrested** Paul. 22:30 The **Jews** were **accusing** Paul. 23:23-24 So the commander **sent** Paul to the Roman **Governor** in **Caesarea** [a Roman **city over 100 kilometers northwest** of Jerusalem]. 24:1 The **Jewish High Priest** and a **lawyer also** went to Caesarea. 2 The lawyer said to the Governor, 5 “Paul **makes trouble everywhere** in the **world**.” 13 Paul **answered**, “That is not **true**. The Jews **cannot prove** it – I did not make trouble.”

27 But the Governor **kept** Paul in **prison** for 2 years. **Then** there was a new governor. 25:2 The High Priests accused Paul **again**. 8 Then Paul answered, “I **have done nothing bad** – not **against** the Jewish **law** – not against God’s **temple** – not against the Roman **Emperor Caesar**. 11 So, Governor, you cannot **hand me over** to the Jewish **court**.”

Paul said, “I **appeal** to Emperor Caesar – I **want** to go to Caesar’s court in **Rome**.” 12 The Governor said, “To Caesar you will go.” 27:1-2 So Paul and **other** prisoners got on a **ship**. 28:14 [Finally, **after** a **very bad storm** and a **shipwreck**] Paul got to Rome.

28:16 In Rome, Paul **could live** in a [**rented**] house – but a **soldier guarded** Paul. 17 Three days **later**, Paul **invited** the Jewish **leaders** to his house. 23 **From morning to evening** Paul talked **about** God’s **kingdom**. Paul talked about Jesus. He said: The **Old Testament** says that Jesus is the **Messiah**.

24 **Some** Jewish leaders **believed** in Jesus. Some Jewish leaders did not believe in Jesus. 25 The Jewish leaders **argued** with **each other**.

Paul said to the Jewish leaders:

26 ‘You will **listen** and listen [to God’s Word], but you will **never understand**.

You will look and look [for God], but you will never see.

27 Your **hearts** are **hard**.

You **hear only** a **little**.

You have **closed** your eyes.

So you don’t see – you don’t hear – you don’t understand.

So you do not **repent** – and God does not **save** you.’

28 “So I want you Jewish leaders to **know** this: God has sent his **salvation** to the **Gentiles** – God will save Gentiles. And the Gentiles will listen!”

30 For two years Paul lived in his rented house. He **welcomed everyone** who came to his house. **Boldly** and **freely** he **told** about God’s kingdom – and he **taught** about Jesus.

THE **END** of **Acts**

ABOUT 3 YEARS LATER, PAUL WRITES ...

2 Timothy 4: 6-8

6 “It is time for me to die – I will leave this earth and go to heaven. 7 I fought hard for Jesus. I finished the race. I believed God’s Word – I kept my faith in Jesus.

8 So, on the Day of Judgment, God will give me the Crown of Goodness – but not only to me. The Crown of Goodness is for everyone – it is for all people who believe in Jesus – for all people who eagerly wait for Jesus to come back to earth.”

CONTENT QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who arrested Paul? (chapter 21 verse 33 – Acts 21:31)
- Where did the Roman commander send Paul? (chapter 23 verses 23-24)
- Who accused Paul? (chapter 24 verses 1-5)
- Did Paul do **anything** bad? (chapter 24 verse 13 & chapter 25 verse 8)
- Who did Paul appeal to? Where did Paul want to go? (verse 11)
- Where did Paul live in Rome? (chapter 28 verse 16) Was Paul free?
- What could Paul do? (verse 17) Who did Paul invite to his house?
- What did Paul talk about with the Jewish leaders? (verse 23)
- Did all the Jewish leaders believe in Jesus? (verse 24)
- What did Paul say about the Jewish leaders? (verses 26-27)

What big opportunity did the Jewish leaders lose?

Why is it important to listen carefully to God's Word?

- So what will God do? (verse 28)
- What will the Gentiles do? (verse 28)

What big opportunity do Gentiles have now?

- What did Paul do for 2 years? (verse 30)

Was Paul free? (chapter 28 verse 16)

Was the message about Jesus free? (chapter 28 verse 30)

THINK ABOUT THIS:

- The story about Paul ends here – the Bible doesn't tell us what happened to Paul.
But, what in this story is more important than Paul?
- What part of the story is not ending?
What is just beginning?
Jesus' story is beginning to spread to the whole world!
God's Word is free! God's Word can go anywhere!
- So, who is God focusing on now?
Now, God is focusing on Gentiles – God loves Gentiles too.
So now, Gentiles everywhere can become members of God's family.
God's arms are wide open to everyone!

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Paul | パウロ（イエスの話を国々に広げ、新約聖書の4分の一を書いた人） |
| prisoner | 囚人 |
| God's word | 神様のことば、聖書 |
| free | 自由、自由にさせる |
| try | 試みる、やろうとする |
| kill | 殺す |
| Jerusalem | エルサレム（イスラエルの都、南王国ユダの都） |
| so | だから、それで、それに従って、そのためには、そんなに |
| Roman | ローマ（帝国）の |
| commander | 軍の司令官 |
| arrest | 逮捕する |
| Jew | ユダヤ人（イスラエル人） |
| accuse | 責める |
| send - sent - sent | 見送る、送る、使いにやる |
| governor | 総督 |
| Caesarea | カイセリア（エルサレムから80キロ離れた地中海に面するローマの市） |
| city | 市 |
| over | の上を、の上に、より |
| kilometer | キロメートル |
| northwest | 北西 |
| Jewish | ユダヤ人、ユダヤ教、ユダヤ人の文化 |
| High Priest | 大祭司 |
| lawyer | 弁護士 |
| also | も、それに |
| make (trouble) | 引き起こす、起こす |
| trouble | 問題、迷惑 |
| trouble | 問題、迷惑、面倒、苦勞、悩み、困難、患い、困る、困らせる |
| everywhere | いたるところ |
| world | 世、世界 |

| | |
|--|---|
| answer | 答える、答え |
| TRUE | 真実 |
| cannot | わけにはいけない、できない |
| prove | 証明する、証拠をあげる |
| but | しかし |
| keep - kept - kept keep (a promise) | そのままにする、取っておく、残す、(約束や戒めを) 守る、保つ、持つ、守る、大切に する、抑える |
| prison | 牢獄 |
| then | そして、その場合、その時、そしたら |
| again | また、もう一度 |
| have done | したことがある |
| nothing | 何もない、何でもない、無 |
| bad | 悪い |
| against | に対して、に反して、逆らう |
| law | 法律 |
| temple | 神殿 |
| Emperor | 皇帝 |
| Caesar | カエサル |
| hand over | 引き渡す |
| court | 裁判所 |
| appeal | 上訴する |
| want | 欲しい、欲しがる、望む、求める、やりたい |
| Rome | ローマ（市） |
| other | 他の、他 |
| ship | 船 |
| finally | やっと、最後に |
| after | の後、ののち |
| very | 非常に |
| storm | 嵐 |
| shipwreck | 難破 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| can - could | できる |
| live | 生きる、住む |
| rent | (お金を払って) 借りる |
| soldier | 兵士 |
| guard | 守る、番をする、見張り |
| later | あとで、その後 |
| invite | 招待する |
| leader | 指導者、リーダー |
| from...to... | ～から～まで |
| morning | 朝 |
| evening | 夕方 |
| about | について、約 |
| kingdom | 王国 |
| Old Testament | 旧約聖書（イエス・キリスト以前の聖書の話） |
| Messiah | メシア、メシア＝キリスト、メシヤは神に任命された方、救い主、王、大祭司 |
| some | ある分、何人か、いくらか |
| believe | 信じる |
| argue | 言い争う |
| each other | 互いに、互い |
| listen | 耳を傾ける、(わざと) 聞く、（注目して）聞く、聞き入れる、聞き従う、に聞く |
| never | 決して、一度も～ない |
| understand - understood - understood | 理解する |
| heart is hard | 頑固な、頑な |
| hear - heard - heard | 聞く、聞こえる [pronunciation = heer - hrd - hrd] |
| only | だけ、のみ、ただ、ひとりの、ただ一人の、ただ一つの |
| little | 小さい、少ない |
| close (pronounce: kloze) | 閉める、閉まる |
| repent | 悔い改める |
| save | 救う、助ける |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| know - knew - known | 知る |
| salvation | 救い、（永遠の）救い |
| Gentile | 異邦人（ユダヤ人でない人） |
| welcome | 歓迎する、迎える |
| everyone | 皆 |
| boldly | 大胆に |
| freely | 自由に |
| tell - told - told | 命じる、伝える |
| teach - taught - taught | 教える |
| end | 果て、終える、最後、終わり |
| Acts | 使徒言行録、使徒の働き |
| write - wrote - written | 書く |
| time | 時間、間、時代、～回 |
| die | 死ぬ |
| leave - left - left | 去る、離れる |
| earth | 地、地球 |
| heaven | 天国 |
| fight - fought - fought | 戦う、喧嘩する、戦うこと、反対する |
| hard / harder / hardest | 一生懸命 |
| finish | 終える |
| race | (信仰、人生などの) レース、コース |
| faith | 信仰 （信仰＝信じること・神様を信じるこ と） |
| Day of Judgment | 裁きの日 |
| Crown of Goodness | 良さの冠（義の冠） |
| all | すべて |
| eagerly | 切に |
| wait | 待つ |
| come back - came back - come back | 戻って来る |
| _____ | |

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| anything | なんでも |
| opportunity | 機会、契機 |
| lose - lost - lost | 失う |
| why | |
| important | 大切、重要な、大事な、重大、優れる、えらい（人） |
| carefully | |
| now | 今、もう、さて、それで |
| message | 伝言、メッセージ |
| think - thought - thought | 思う、考える |
| happen | 起こる |
| more | もっと、～より |
| than | より |
| part | 部分、分 |
| just | ちょうど、ぴったり、ただ、だけ、ジャスト |
| beginning | 初め、始まり |
| spread | 広まる、広がる |
| whole | 全部、すべて、全体 |
| anywhere | |
| focus | 注目する、集中する |
| too | ～すぎる、あまりに、も |
| become - became - became | になる、なる |
| member | メンバー、一員 |
| family | 家族 |
| arms | 腕、手 |
| wide | 広い |
| open | 開く |