

Paul in Rome: A Strategy for Evangelism in the Great City

Acts 28: 16–31

1 *Paul entered Rome as a prisoner*

- a. He was allowed to live by himself in a private house
- b. He was chained to a guard (v. 20)

2 *Step 1:*

An explanatory meeting with the religious leadership

- a. He called the local Jewish leaders
- b. He declared his innocence and the injustice done
- c. He declared the verdict of the Roman governors
- d. He blamed the Jews for his need to appeal to Caesar
- e. He claimed he was imprisoned for the hope of Israel, the hope of the Messiah

- f. He was granted another session

16 When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him.

17 Three days later he called together the leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, Paul said to them: “My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans.

18 They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death.

19 But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar — not that I had any charge to bring against my own people.

20 For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.”

21 They replied, “We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of the brothers who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you.

22 But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect.”

3 Step 2:

A clear proclamation of the message

- a. He proclaimed the Kingdom of God and Jesus the Messiah
- b. He focused his message on the Scriptures
- c. The results
 - 1) Some were convinced
 - 2) Some disbelieved

4 Step 3:

A turning to those who would receive the gospel, the Gentiles

- a. Isaiah prophesied the rejection by the Jews
 - 1) Wilfully rejected
 - 2) Hardened their hearts
 - 3) Deafened their ears
 - 4) Closed their eyes
 - 5) Denied what they saw
 - 6) Refused understanding
 - 7) Fought conversion and healing
- b. Salvation was sent to the Gentiles
- c. The Jews departed — disagreeing among themselves

5 Step 4:

A mission of continued evangelism

- a. He welcomed all who came
- b. He preached the Kingdom of God
- c. He taught about the Lord Jesus
- d. He worked unhindered

23 They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.

24 Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe.

25 They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: “The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet:

26 Go to this people and say, ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

27 For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’

28 Therefore I want you to know that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!”

29 ** After he said this, the Jews left, arguing vigorously among themselves. (** *Not in NIV*)

30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him.

31 Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.