

Acts 28:17-31  
*Earnest, Respectful, Forthright, Passionate & Enduring Proclamation  
of the Gospel in Rome*  
November 15, 2009  
**Sermon Outline**

Notes

**I. Introduction**

- A. What Does Being Controlled by the Our Love for Jesus Look Like? (2 Cor. 5:14-15)
- B. For Paul it Looked Like This...

**Philippians 1:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that **it has become known** throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more **bold** to speak the word without fear.

**Key Idea**

Genuine love of neighbor flows from a genuine love of God in Christ. Such a love will result in an earnest, respectful, bold and enduring proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and his kingdom.

**II. Paul in Rome**

**A. Respectful (To the Jews First)**

**Acts 28:17-20**

<sup>17</sup> After **three days** he called together the *local leaders of the Jews*<sup>i</sup>, and when they had gathered, he said to them, “Brothers, though I had done *nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers*, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the *Romans*.<sup>18</sup> When they had examined me, *they wished to set me at liberty*, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case.<sup>19</sup> But because the Jews objected, *I was compelled to appeal*

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<sup>i</sup> On the basis of information provided by Roman and Jewish historiographers (Suetonius, Tacitus, and Josephus), we can estimate that as many as forty thousand Jews lived in the imperial city in the middle of the first century. From inscriptions we know that there were at least ten synagogues in Rome with influential leaders. [Simon J. Kistemaker and William Hendriksen, vol. 17, *New Testament Commentary: Exposition of the Acts of the Apostles*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1953-2001), 957.]

<sup>ii</sup> Western Text – <sup>19</sup> “When the Jews objected *and were shouting ‘Away with our enemy!’*, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, not that I had any accusation against my people, *but that I might deliver my soul from death*.”

<sup>iii</sup> forthrightness. (2009). In *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*. Retrieved November 11, 2009, from <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/forthrightness>

to Caesar—though I had no charge to bring against my nation.<sup>ii 20</sup> For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since *it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.*”

### B. **Forthright**

**Definition:** free from ambiguity or evasiveness: going straight to the point<sup>iii</sup>

1. What was Paul’s point?
2. What was Paul’s proof?
3. What were the results?

**Acts 28:23-24** (Cf. Mt 4:23; Mt 9:35; Lk 4:43)

<sup>23</sup> When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.<sup>24</sup> And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.

### C. **Passionate/Bold** Warning

**Acts 25-28**

<sup>25</sup> And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: “**The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:** (Isaiah 6:9-10)

<sup>26</sup> “*Go to this people, and say, You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.<sup>27</sup> For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; **lest** they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.*”

<sup>28</sup> Therefore let it be known to you that **this salvation of God** has been sent to the **Gentiles**; they will listen.”

### D. **Enduring**

**Acts 28:3-6**

<sup>30</sup> He lived there **two whole years** at his own expense, and *welcomed all who came to him*,<sup>31</sup> **proclaiming the kingdom of God** and **teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ** with all boldness and without hindrance.

## IV. **Gospel Centered Thinking & Living**

### A. Respecting the Office

**1 Peter 3:14b-15**

Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,<sup>15</sup> but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet **do it with gentleness and respect**...

### B. Getting to the Point

**Mark 1:15**

“The time is fulfilled, and the *kingdom of God* is at hand; repent and believe in **the gospel**.”

### C. Bold Warning: The Ground of Faith & the Basis for Judgment is What We See! (Heb. 11:1)

1. Our Faith is Grounded on what we See

**2 Corinthians 4:6** (Eph. 1:18)

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” **has shone in our hearts** to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2. We are Judged Based on Our Rejection of What We See [**The Parable of the Tenants** (Matthew 21:33-44.)]

**Matthew 21:38** (Cf. Rom. 1:18ff)

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘**This is the heir**. Come, let us kill him and have *his inheritance*.’

### D. Bold Perseverance