

Theme: You can restrain the messenger – but you can’t restrain the message! The gospel will go out into all the world in fulfillment of Christ’s Command.

Introduction: How would you fare in a land where it is illegal to become or be a Christian?

Background:

- How does Luke choose to conclude the book of the Acts of the Apostles?
- A picture of God’s providence

I. Rome – At Last!

A. A Dangerous Journey

1. A circuitous route
2. To God be the glory

B. Against The Forces of Evil

1. Satan is a deadly enemy!
2. The Storm - The sea is picture of ancient chaos

NOTE: God will overrule the forces of nature and the spiritual forces of darkness to bring His Gospel to the nations. His servants will go wherever He sends them – *however* He sends them.

C. With Much Encouragement

II. In Chains! To Testify.

- 2 ½ years in transit!
- 2 more years in chains.

A. Enriched by his chains – Ephesians 1:15-22; Philippians 2:8-11;
Colossians 1:15-20, 2:9

B. Enhanced by Suffering

1. Paul would suffer for the *advancement of the gospel*
Colossians.1:24-27; Philippians.1:12-14; Ephesians 3:13
2. His suffering would validate, enhance, add gravity and weight to the message he preached.
 - His call to live a life worthy of the gospel was enhanced by the life he lived in chains.

NOTE: Are we willing to suffer for what we believe?

II. In Chains! To Testify. (continued)

C. Unhindered by his Chains

1. His “charge” is the Hope of Israel.
2. No word from Jerusalem concerning him.
3. He preaches the gospel.
4. Some believed – many did not! (Isaiah 9:9,10)

III. To the End of the Earth!

A. The gospel to the nations

1. Rome – the cultural, political, military center - of the world.
2. Christ’s command was being followed – and his promise being fulfilled.
3. Going forth with all boldness and without hindrance!

NOTHING WILL STOP ITS PROGRESS!!

B. Is this “The End”???

- What happened to Paul???
- It isn’t about Paul!
- It is about the Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God – who came into the world to save sinners. Who came to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many!

IV. Writing Our Chapter

1. What chapter are we on?? (John 21:25)
2. What “chains” do we have? (Philippians 1:27)
3. What kind of chapter are you writing!