

*the book of*  
**ACTS**

**28**

*The account of the growth of the Church*

<sup>23</sup> There are four men with us who have made a vow.

<sup>24</sup> Take these men, join in their purification rites and pay their expenses, so that they can have their heads shaved. Then everyone will know there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself are living in obedience to the law.

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Acts 21:23 & 24

<sup>6</sup> Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, “My brothers, I am a Pharisee, descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead.” <sup>7</sup> When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.

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Acts 23:6 & 7

The Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”

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Acts 23:11





0 150 300 Miles  
0 150 300 Kilometers

**PAUL'S TRIP TO ROME**  
● City  
← Paul's route

<sup>23</sup> But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, <sup>24</sup> I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

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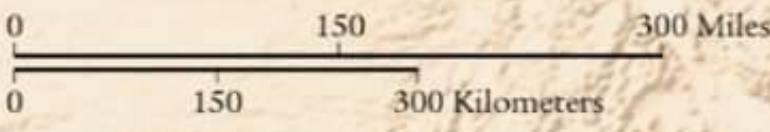
Romans 15:23 & 24

<sup>31</sup> Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received by the Lord's people there, <sup>32</sup> so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed.

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Romans 15:31 & 32





**PAUL'S TRIP TO ROME**  
● City  
← Paul's route



<sup>17</sup> Three days later he called together the local Jewish leaders. 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. <sup>18</sup> They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. <sup>19</sup> The Jews objected, so I was compelled to make an appeal to Caesar. I certainly did not intend to bring any charge against my own people. <sup>20</sup> 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.”

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Acts 28:17- 20

<sup>21</sup> They replied, “We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of our people who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you. <sup>22</sup> But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect.”

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Acts 28:21- 22

<sup>23</sup> They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. <sup>24</sup> Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe.

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Acts 28:23- 24

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

<sup>26</sup> ““Go to this people and say,  
You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.”

<sup>27</sup> For this people’s heart has become calloused;  
they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.

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Acts 28:25- 27

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts  
and turn, and I would heal them.”

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

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Acts 28:27- 28

<sup>30</sup> For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. <sup>31</sup> He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

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Acts 28:30- 31



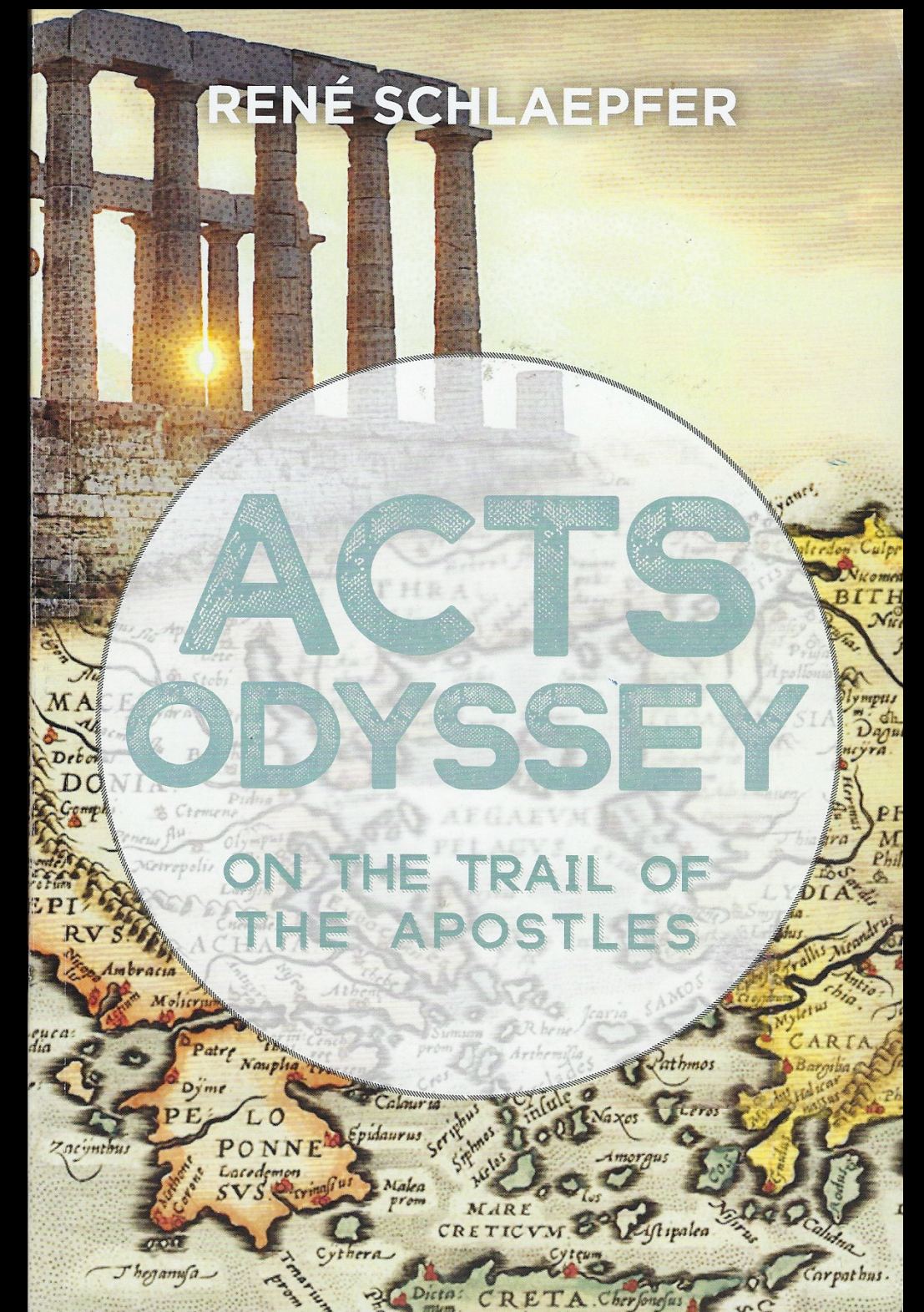


# WHAT CAN WE TAKE AWAY FROM THIS PASSAGE?

1. The Gospel cannot be stopped

“Paul sees Rome, a place like nothing that had ever before existed. This was the heart of an empire that stretched from Africa to England and governed over 50 million people. Paul knows that if the Jesus movement catches fire here, it will spread through merchants and statesmen to ports of call everywhere—to *the very ends of the earth*. And he’s exactly right.”

*Acts Odyssey*, Rene Schaeffer, p. 277





<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. ***But God's word is not chained.***

2 Timothy 2:8 & 9



“Though Acts comes to an abrupt end, Luke’s conclusion is a summary of the whole book, with the gospel being taken to both Jew and Gentile. Does the Holy Spirit want to communicate to us through this conclusion something about what we should be doing with the gospel? Lloyd Ogilvie thinks so: *“The abrupt ending leaves us with the challenge and opportunity to allow the Spirit to write the next chapter in the Book of Acts today in and through us!”*”

*NIV Application Commentary*

# WHAT CAN WE TAKE AWAY FROM THIS PASSAGE?

1. The Gospel cannot be stopped
2. Don't be that guy who *would not believe*

“Christianity is a statement which, if false, it is of no importance, and, if true is of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.”





# WHAT CAN WE TAKE AWAY FROM THIS PASSAGE?

1. The Gospel cannot be stopped
2. Don't be that guy who *would not believe*
3. No matter what you're going through . . . know that God will never abandon you and is at work in and through you.

