

## *Acts 2 Study and Discussion Questions*

### *Lesson One: Paul's Imprisonment and Trials – Acts 21:17 – Acts 28*

*Unless otherwise noted, all questions in this and subsequent lessons refer to the underlined Scripture references listed at the beginning of each of the five sections within the lesson (often given as readings).*

*As a result of Paul's missionary ministry, many Gentiles had been converted to Christianity ("the Way"). However, Paul knew that it was also important for him to maintain his relationship with the Jewish church in Jerusalem, where the Apostles still had an important presence. At the conclusion of his third missionary journey, he traveled to Jerusalem (as referenced in this lesson) with a monetary offering from the Gentile congregations. The gift bore testimony to the unity between Jewish and Gentile Christians at a time when Jewish sentiment against the Roman Empire was near a peak.*

Read Acts 21:17-39.

- 1) Of what offense had the Jews accused Paul (include verses numbers with your answer)? Was the accusation true or false? Compare Numbers 6:2, 5, 18 and Acts 18:18, 24:12-16 with Galatians 3:23-25.
  
- 2) What request did James and the elders make of Paul, hoping to remove the rumors of offense?
  
- 3) Compare Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 9:22 with Paul's actions in Acts 21:26. Those with whom we share the gospel are likely to have cultural and/or religious practices that differ from our own. What kinds of cultural or religious compromises have you made (or would you make) willingly for the sake of reaching others with the Gospel?

Read Acts 21:40-23:11.

- 4) When Paul addressed the violent crowd in Acts 22:2-21, how did he emphasize the things he had in common with them? By contrast, what did the crowd seem to find especially offensive in his message?

- 5) Consider Acts 23:11 in the context of Acts 19:21 and Romans 15:23-29 (written by Paul just before he went to Jerusalem and was arrested). Imagine yourself in Paul's place when the Lord spoke to him (Acts 23:11) and give reasons why God's presence and His promise must have been greatly encouraging.
  
- 6) From your own recent experience, give a specific example of the Lord encouraging you by His presence and with one or more of His promises?

Read Acts 23:12-24:27.

- 7) From Acts 23:12-35, describe the providentially ordained circumstances by which the Lord upheld His promise that Paul would live long enough to go to Rome.
  
- 8) What was the Roman commander's conclusion about the charges against Paul (include verse number)?
  
- 9) What conclusions can you draw from Acts 24 about Paul's motives in addressing Felix? What example or warning can you take from these for your own life?

Read Acts 25-26.

- 10) Compare Acts 26:6-7 with 23:6 and 28:20b. According to Paul, why did the Jews bring charges against him? Using any general Bible knowledge you have, try to explain what Paul meant.

**11)** Paul shared his conversion story repeatedly (22:6-16 and 26:12-18).

**a)** Why do you think he did this?

**b)** Consider and write out a brief summary of Jesus' work and authority in your own life and be prepared for the Lord to give you an opportunity to share it with a nonbeliever this week.

Read Acts 27-28.

**12)** List Paul's exemplary actions and attitudes throughout his journey to Rome and shipwreck and tell which one or more you should imitate in your own present circumstances.

**13)** Describe the circumstances and length of Paul's imprisonment in Rome (include verse numbers).

**14)** According to Acts 9:15-16; 22:14-15, and 26:16-18, what was Paul commissioned to do? List all the ways in which he fulfilled this commission during his arrest in Jerusalem, his two-year imprisonment in Caesarea, his journey to Rome, and his confinement in Rome.

**15)** No one knows for sure why the book of Acts ends abruptly. Based on your study of the book, what suggestions can you make (consider Acts 1:1, 8)?