

**June 9, 2024**  
**Acts 28:17-31 "Unshackled"**

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

These verses bring the book of Act to its climax, yet another rejection of the gospel by the Jews and yet another declaration by Paul to take the good news to the Gentiles.

Paul declared his innocence of charges that he damaged the Jews or their customs.  
Paul declared that the Roman authorities in Judea had thought him innocent as well.  
Paul's only recourse was to appeal to Caesar, the Jews refused to deal with him justly.

Paul's primary objective in calling the Jews there in Rome was to talk with them about the hope of Israel. Paul firmly believed that Jesus was the Messiah of Israel, that He was raised from the dead, He fulfilled the OT promises, and that He would return someday and establish Himself as the King of Israel and Lord of the nations.

Notice that **verse 29** is not included in our version today, this is not found in the best manuscripts and is considered an add-on. It probably was true that as they departed they left this meeting arguing among themselves.

Paul quotes **Isaiah 6:9-10**. Stubbornness of heart left them lost in their sin. The gospel would go to and be accepted by the Gentiles.

So, what happened after the two years? Perhaps Paul was executed or possibly no charges were filed in Rome and Paul was released. The Jews had no case and would be reluctant to go to Rome. Paul was most likely rearrested in the Aegean Sea area, removed to Rome and then executed during a second imprisonment at a later date.

During this two year period Paul wrote his prison epistles: **Ephesians**, **Philippians**, **Colossians**, and **Philemon**. While Paul was in Rome for these two years he was bound but the gospel was not. The gospel went from Jew to Gentile from Jerusalem to Rome. "Men may bind the preachers, but the gospel cannot be chained!" Gleaned from *Stanley D. Toussaint*

**Application:** "Whatever may have been the outcome of Paul's Roman imprisonment, Luke seems to have deliberately chosen to end his story where he did. He ended not on Paul but on the gospel, on the message of the kingdom. The word of God in Christ-not Peter, not Paul-is the real hero of Acts." *John B. Polhill* The hearing of the gospel requires a response, to not respond positively or at all is still a response.