



Acts 28:1–16—Paul On Malta

September 8

REVIEW: [Acts \(10–28\)](#)

CONTEXT: Enroute to his trial in Rome (see Acts 25:11 and 26:26:32) Paul's prison ship made an unexpected stop in Malta. (Malta is an island in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea, most recently a British colony, and a pleasant place to visit under usual circumstances). Having forewarned of danger, Paul and the other prisoner are spared from harm because of the favour of a centurion (thus fulfilling a dream). Though not the sailors plan, Paul features prominently in God's plan for Malta.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Acts 26 and 1 Pet 3:15)

- What is a testimony (what is it not)?
- How is Acts 26 an encouragement for us to testify to our faith in Jesus Christ?
- What instruction and wisdom does 1 Pet 3:15 offer us?
- What is the place of reason in apologetics?
- Other?

REVIEW: Acts 27:13–44

READ: Acts 28:1–16

QUESTIONS:

1. **How does God sometimes make shipwreck of our plans to accomplish His purposes?** (see Isa 55:8–9). Can you share a time when this was so, what you learned and what the outcome was?
2. What ways were the Maltese shown to be kind in this passage? **Why do even kind people need Christ?**
3. **Have you ever had an encounter with a [poisonous] snake?**
4. **How is Paul's protection a fulfilment of Acts 27:25?** (What about Acts 26:17). **How can it be misguided to claim Mk 16:18 today? In what way does God watch over His people?**
5. **What is the relationship between miracles and witness/testimony in the Gospels and Acts?** (e.g. the viper and the healing). **What purpose did the miracles serve?**

6. *V. 4– In Paul's day there was a general thought that bad came to those who had done bad things (a Karma-like thought). The book of Job challenges this idea, as does Jesus in Lk 13:1–5.*
7. **Why are we not to become the object of worship (c.f. Rev 22:9; Acts 10:26). How can Christians be wrongly worshipped today?**
8. Does it strike you as odd that no mention of preaching or faith is mentioned, only deeds and gratitude? Why?
9. **What was God's purpose in bringing Paul to Malta?**
10. *Today in Malta there is a bay named after Paul along with early sites linked to his travels. Since this time a Christian presence has existed on the island to the present.*

NEXT TIME: Sept 15, Col 3:1–17, The New Self