

## Chapter 12

# Paul's First Roman Imprisonment (2 Years)

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## A. References

1. Acts 28:14-31
2. Romans
3. Philemon
4. Colossians
5. Ephesians
6. Philippians

## B. There were Christians at Rome.

1. Acts 28:14-15 – “. . . And so we went toward Rome.  
15 And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us as far as Appii Forum and Three Inns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.”
2. Romans 6:3-15

## C. Luke's Account of Paul's First Roman Imprisonment. Acts 28:16-31

1. The centurion delivered the other prisoner to the captain of the guard but permitted Paul to “Dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him.”  
**Acts 28:16**
2. Paul met with the leaders of the Jews. **Acts 28:17** – “And it came to pass after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together. So when they had come together, he said to them: “Men and brethren, though I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans,
  - a. Had been in Rome 3 days. **Acts 28:17**
  - b. Explained the background of his current situation. **Acts 28:17-20**
  - c. The Jews had not hear from the Jews in Judea. **Acts 28:21**
  - d. The chief Jews wanted to hear more about “this sect.” Acts 28:22
    1. They scheduled a second meeting with Paul at his place of lodging. **Acts 28:23**
    2. Many attended the meeting. **Acts 28:23**
    3. **Acts 28:24** – “And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.”
    4. They departed when Paul quoted from the prophet, Isaiah (Isaiah 6:9-10). **Acts 28:25-27**
    5. Paul had given the Jews something to think about. Acts 28:29

- e. **Acts 28:30-31** – “ Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him,  
31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.”

**D. During the First Roman Imprisonment, Paul Wrote:**

- 1. Philemon
- 2. Colossians
- 3. Ephesians
- 4. Philippians

**E. During the First Roman Imprisonment as Recorded in Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, and Philippians.**

- 1. **Philemon 8:9** – “Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting,  
9 yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you -- being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ .”
- 2. **Colossians 4:2-4** – “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;  
3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,  
4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”
- 3. Ephesians
  - a. **Ephesians 3:1** – “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles.”
  - b. **Ephesians 4:1** – “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called.”
  - c. **Ephesians 6:18-20** – “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints --  
19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,  
20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”
- 4. Philippians
  - a. **Philippians 1:7** – “Just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.”

- b. **Philippians 1:12-16** – “But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,  
 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;  
 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.  
 15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill:  
 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains.”

#### F. Paul's Expectation of Being Released.

1. **Philemon 22** – “But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you.”
2. **Philippians 1:23-27** – “For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.  
 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.  
 25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,  
 26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.  
 27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”

#### G. Paul's Companions During the First Roman Imprisonment.

1. Luke. **Acts 28:16** – “And when we . . .”
2. Timothy
  - a. **Philemon 1**
  - b. **Colossians 1:1**
3. Epaphras (His visit to Rome occasioned he writing of Colossians)
  - a. **Philemon 23**
  - b. **Colossians 1:3-8; 4:12-13**
4. Onesimus and Tychicus
  - a. Onesimus delivered the letter to Philemon. **Philemon 1**
  - b. Tychicus delivered letters to the Colossians and Ephesians.
    - 1, **Colossians 4:7-9**
    2. **Ephesians 6:21-22**
5. Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke and Jesus (Justus)
  - a. **Philippians 2:25-30; 4:18, 22**

- b. Brought a gift from the Philippians
- c. Became sick and nearly died.
- d. Delivered the epistle to the Philippians.

H. **Paul's Preaching During the first Roman Imprisonment.**

- 1. **Philemon 10** – “I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains.”
- 2. Ephesians
  - a. **Ephesians 3:1-9**
  - b. **Ephesians 6:18-20** – “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints --  
19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,  
20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
- 3. Philippians
  - a. **Philippians 1:7** – “Just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.
  - b. **Philippians 1:12-20**

I. **Paul Maintained Great Faith and Joy in Suffering.**

- 1. **Colossians 1:24** – “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church.”
- 2. **Ephesians 3:13** – “Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.”
- 3. Philippians
  - a. **Philippians 1:19-25**
  - b. **Philippians 2:12, 16-18**
  - c. **Philippians 3:4-16; 20-21**
  - d. **Philippians 4:11-13**

J. **Paul's Love and Care for the churches.**

- 1. Colossians
  - a. **Colossians 1:1-9**
  - b. **Colossians 2:1-5**
  - c. **Colossians 4:15-17**
- 2. Paul constantly demonstrated love and care for the churches.

### K. Paul's Warnings Against Judiazers

1. **Philippians 1:15-16** – “Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill:  
16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;
2. **Philippians 3:1-3** – “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.  
2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!  
3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,
3. **Philippians 3:18-29** – “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:  
19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame -- who set their mind on earthly things.