

Rome

I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

Romans 1:14-15



The Last First

The first arrival in Rome (Acts 28:11-16)

The first arrival in Rome

Paul (formerly Saul) had visions of conquering Rome
Not in a military sense

He wanted to win Rome for Christ

And he made it to Rome under house arrest

You can't keep a good message down



The First step in reaching the ends of the earth (Acts 28:11-16)

In spite of how he got there
Paul began to do
exactly what he had
came there to do.
Preach the gospel

People were interested in hearing

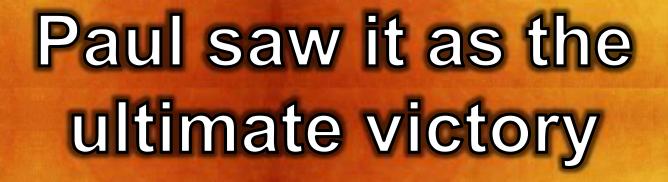


What changed?

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

While Paul was indeed winning Rome, His stationary position gave time for him to pen over half his letters that have become the core of the **New Testament**

Paul would not leave Rome, he describes his pending death to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:6-8)



I have fought the good fight

I have finished the race

I have kept the faith



Paul Understood

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

John 12:24



How we apply it to us?

Jesus told His disciples they were to be witnesses in all the world

At the first encounter with the Holy Spirit 3000 we saved

At the first miracle another 2000 were added

The first ministry closed with the number or disciples increasing rapidly

The first great persecution the gospel spread and "and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord"



The term Christian was born in Antioch where again a great number of people placed their faith in Christ

The first missionaries planted church after church not by pulling members for one to another but by bring people into a new relationship with Christ

At the first dispute the apostles made it perfectly clear nothing gets in the way of people coming to Christ



And here at the last first what do we see, people coming to Christ

Do You See It?

The church was born.....

not out of a desire to change the world not out of a desire to conquer the world not out of a desire to control the world

But out of Jesus' mission to save the world



I know who we were meant to be



A Passion for God and Compassion for People

To Be Continued....