



Title | Trying to Convince
Series | The Church That Changed the World
Text | Acts 28:17-31
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Sermon Notes

Acts 28:17 After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, “Brothers, though I had 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. **18** When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. **19** But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I had no charge to bring against my nation. **20** For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.” **21** And they said to him, “We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you. **22** But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.” **23** When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. **24** And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. **25** And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: **26** “Go to this people, and say, “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.” **27** For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’ **28** Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.” **29 30** He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, **31** proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance. *ESV*

Big Idea:

Acts 27:24

And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.

ESV

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Acts 28:17-31. What do you think motivated Paul to summon the Jewish leaders in Rome?

Tuesday:

Paul had previously been persecuted, stoned, beaten, run out of town, falsely accused, and targeted for assassination by Jewish leaders. Jewish leaders had tried desperately to cancel Paul. Is Paul's painful history with Jewish leaders reflected in his conversation with them in Acts 28:17-31? How does Paul treat them? How is this an example for us?

Wednesday:

In Acts 28:22, the Jewish leaders ask to hear Paul's views concerning Jesus. To what extent do you think Paul's attitude toward them contributed to their openness? Read Colossians 4:3. Would you be willing to pray regularly that God would open to you a door that you might share the gospel with someone?

Thursday:

In Acts 28:23, it is clear that Paul is trying to convince the Jewish leaders that Jesus is their saving Messiah. He evangelizes them. From Acts 28:17-31, identify aspects of Paul's evangelism that are worth following today.

Friday:

Acts 28:24 summarizes the responses to Paul. What does this suggest about the relationship between believing and being convinced? How does this relate to Ephesians 2:8-9? What does it take for a person to receive eternal salvation?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, please open a door to me that I may share the gospel with someone. Help me to lead with the hope that is in me. Amen.

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