



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

## Preaching the Word (Homiletics)

### Lesson #7

#### **B. Examples of New Testament Sermons**

#### **6. Paul's Message to the Jews in Rome (Acts 28:16-31)**

For a long time, Paul had wanted to visit Rome, the chief city of the Roman Empire, and share the Gospel with the Christians, the Jews, and the Gentiles there. When he finally did reach Rome, he went there as a prisoner awaiting a hearing before Caesar. **“But Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him”** (Acts 28:16).

Paul invited the Jews in Rome to visit him at his lodging so that he could explain to them that he had been imprisoned because of his testimony concerning Jesus. He wanted these Jews to know the full story of how Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah and their Savior. So **“many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening”** (Acts 28:23). This was more like an extended Bible class rather than a sermon, for no doubt they asked him many questions as he referred to Old Testament promises concerning the Messiah and showed how Jesus was the fulfillment of these prophecies. We can be sure that his message centered on Jesus' birth, life, teaching, suffering and death, and His glorious resurrection.

Paul's teaching divided the Jews into two groups. **“And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved...They did not agree among themselves”** (Acts 28: 24-25). Before they left, Paul warned them by quoting a passage from the prophet Isaiah about the danger of hardening their hearts against the Gospel. They should not think that the Good News of Jesus would disappear if they did not accept it. Paul said: **“Let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it”** (Acts 28:28). The Gospel of Christ will continue its march through the world. When some turn away from it, it goes out to others who will listen. This continues on and on until Jesus returns as Judge of living and dead. **“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation”** (Isaiah 52:7).

#### **Questions**

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1. Whom did Paul invite to his lodging in Rome?
2. What was the subject matter of his discussions with them?
3. In what way did his audience divide into two groups?
4. Whose fault was it that some did not believe what he said?
5. Why were others brought to faith?
6. What makes the feet of missionaries so beautiful?