



8 Dec – 14 Dec

Monday
8 Dec

☐ Acts 20:4 to 22:30

Paul and several companions now resume the third evangelistic journey (which began in Acts 18:23) by leaving Macedonia and moving east through Turkey. The journey ends in Acts 21:16, and the story immediately shifts to show how Paul ended up at Rome—a long-time desire being fulfilled. Chapter 22 is one of the three accounts of his conversion in Acts (see also chapters 9 and 26). Note what Paul believed about the washing away of his sins in Acts 22:16.

Tuesday
9 Dec

☐ Acts 23:1 to 25:27

In chapter 23, Paul continues to defend himself by bringing up the resurrection in order to divide his accusers against one another! In Acts 23:31, he is taken on a journey that ends in Caesarea for more trials and persecution. Amidst more accusations in chapter 24, Paul makes another inspired defense as an apostle of Christ (see Matthew 10:16-20). In chapter 25, Paul makes his appeal unto Caesar, one of his rights as a freeborn Roman citizen, thus guaranteeing a trip to Rome.

Wednesday
10 Dec

☐ Acts 26:1 to 28:31

The events leading to the voyage to Rome continue in chapter 26 as Paul defends himself before Herod Agrippa, the last mentioned Herod in the Bible (descendants of Esau). Chapter 27 records the voyage and the shipwreck. This is not one of the shipwrecks of II Corinthians 11:25 because II Corinthians was written several years before this. Chapter 28 shows how Paul finally got to Rome. Remember the “prosperous journey” he had requested of them to petition for in their prayers (Romans 1:10)? The date is in the early 60's. Luke now finishes writing Acts, and Paul writes his four “prison epistles.”

Thursday
11 Dec

☐ Philemon 1-25

This one-chapter book fills in several historical details and teaches that the product of the gospel is a *brother* (in Christ).

Thursday 11 Dec (cont.)	☐ Colossians 1:1 to 4:18	Philemon was from Colosse, and since Paul was sending Onesimus back to Colosse, he used the occasion to send a letter to the church there as well. The theme of this letter is, “Christ is the Basis of the Risen Life.” As you read, note the emphasis he places on Christ (1:13-2:7), threats to the risen life (2:8-23), his description of the risen life (3:1-4:6), and examples of people who were living the risen life (4:7-18).
Friday 12 Dec	☐ Ephesians 1:1 to 6:24	Colosse and Ephesus were close together, so it was also appropriate to send a letter there with Tychicus and Onesimus (6:21,22; Colossians 4:7-9). This letter is often called the “twin” of Colossians, as it places as much emphasis on the “body” as Colossians does on the “head.” Chapter 1 speaks of the one head. Chapter 2 reveals the one new man. Chapter 3 tells us of the one family. Chapter 4 shows how the one body works. Chapter 5 portrays the one bride. Chapter 6 challenges the one army.
Saturday 13 Dec	☐ Philippians 1:1 to 4:23	The first three prison epistles say nothing about Paul's anticipation that he would be released soon, but he rather asks the readers to pray for him while he is in bonds. However, in Philippians, the epistle of joy, Paul does expect to be released soon. Thus, this letter was written later than the others.
Sunday 14 Dec	☐ Hebrews 1:1 to 4:13	<p>Chapter 1 tells us of the spread of the gospel. Chapter 2 stresses the power of example. Chapter 3 teaches us to pay the price to be like Christ. Chapter 4 teaches us how to think.</p> <p>Although this book does not name its author, there is the possibility that Paul wrote it, too, just after his imprisonment ended. If he did write it, it means that he wrote exactly 100 chapters of the New Testament. The major theme of this book is that we cannot prevent apostasy unless we constantly focus on Christ by taking His word seriously. In Hebrews 1:1-3:6, we have a lesson which shows the superiority of Christ over creation, angels, man, and Moses.</p> <p>In Hebrews 3:7-4:13, we have a lesson on “rest”—the Canaan rest, the rest of God after creation, the Sabbath rest, and the rest that remains—heaven.</p>