

I. Introduction: Paul was stranded on the Island of Malta for 3 months, where he was bit by a poisonous snake, healed the governor's father, and eventually reached his destination.

- A. Paul didn't let up as he approached the finish of his Apostolic ministry, he kept preaching Jesus until the end. He exhibited a life faithfully testifying about Christ.

II. Finishing Strong (Acts 28:1-16).

A. The Serpent's Attack (**Acts 28:1-6**).

1. Paul and the crew came to the beach and were warming themselves by a fire, when the Apostle was bit by a venomous snake, but miraculously was unaffected.

B. The Sickness Alleviated (**Acts 28:7-10**).

1. Paul stayed at the home of a Roman official named Publius, and healed his father of a serious disease, resulting in many other people seeking to be healed as well.

C. The Summit Apprehended (**Acts 28:11-16**).

1. After three months of waiting, Paul finally began the last leg of his journey to Rome, where he would stand before Nero and testify to his faith in Jesus.

III. Conclusion: Paul arrived in Rome just as Jesus had told him, but he did not know how his life would end, so he continued faithfully preaching Jesus with strength and courage.

Questions About: Finishing Strong

1. What will you do when the storm is over? How do you pick up the pieces of your life? How do you finish strong? What if you found more difficulty after the storm? More resistance?
2. What happened when Paul and the others finally reached the beach? (**Acts 28:1-6**) What does the name Malta mean? (**v. 1**) How did the people show them “unusual kindness”? (**v. 2**)
3. What happened to Paul when he had gathered some sticks for the fire? (**Acts 28:1-6**) Why did the people say he was bit? (**v. 4**) What did they say about him after he survived? (**v. 6**)
4. Who did they meet on the Island after the bonfire? (**Acts 28:7-10**) Who was Publius? (**v. 7**) How did Paul help Publius’ father? (**v. 8**) How did the islanders respond? (**v. 9**)
5. What was the result of Paul’s stay on Malta? (**Acts 28:7-10**) What does tradition tell us about Publius? How did the people of Malta respond to Paul and his friends when they left? (**v. 10**)
6. When did they finally leave the Island for Italy? (**Acts 28:11-16**) Where did they first stop? (**v. 12**) Where did they finally put into port? (**v. 13**) Who did they find in Puteoli? (**v. 14**)
7. What kind of welcome did Paul receive as he approached Rome? (**Acts 28:11-16**) How did their reception encourage him? (**v. 15**) Why might Paul have been nervous?
8. Who was Paul handed over to when he finally got to Rome? (**Acts 28:11-16**) How was Paul uncertain of his future? How are we supposed to live in light of uncertainty?

Prayer

1. Will you pray God would help you to faithfully serve Jesus no matter the circumstances?
2. Will you pray God might grant you wisdom and determination to finish strong for Him?