

## CFM 30 – Acts 22-28 “A minister and a witness”

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For this section of text there are a few points worthy of being highlighted:

- 1) Paul’s attitude in ch. 21:1-14 seems fatalistic. But, it is more likely his is just realizing that he has made enemies everywhere and wherever he goes, he is going to run into them no matter what. In order for him to live his religion and go to the Temple, he has to put himself in jeopardy with the Jews who are out to get him. He is unwilling to not live his religion, and he knows he has the trump card of Roman citizenship, so he is willing to try his luck because he is in jeopardy no matter where he goes.

I also have to wonder if Paul is feeling guilt over those whom he persecuted earlier as a Pharisee, like Stephen, and is willing to die a similar death, because maybe he feels he doesn’t deserve anything else.

- 2) The events of Ch. 21 sets the stage for ch. 22-24 and on.

Paul returns to Jerusalem and is warned by the Jews who have converted to Christianity that the Jewish Jews, those who have not converted to Christianity are accusing Paul of teaching people they do not need to obey the Law of Moses (v. 21). So the believers at Jerusalem tell Paul to go to the Temple and take four men who are under the Nazirite vow and pay their dues to end their vows as a show of good faith (v. 22-26).

The Jews who have converted to Christianity are trying to protect Paul, and also themselves from the Jews who have not converted.

Paul does this, but the Jewish Jews riot against him on the accusation that he is bringing Gentiles into the Temple (v. 27-36), which precipitates Roman captivity through a successive series of Roman political hands.

- 3) During the Roman captivity of ch. 23-28 is when Paul wrote his series of letters known as the epistles of Paul (e.g., Romans, Corinthians, Colossians, Ephesians, etc.)
- 4) The people in Acts 28:17-29 are those whom he is targeting in his epistle to the Romans. These are Jews living in Rome, whom Paul is trying to convince Jesus is their Messiah. He is not targeting Gentile Romans, but Jewish Romans.
- 5) The events surrounding Paul’s death are unknown. Tradition holds that Paul was executed by Nero shortly before Nero’s death.