



Grace Assembly Of God

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Reading Devotional

Scripture: Acts 28

Title: In His Time

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Summary of Chapter: Shipwrecked but faith intact, snake-bitten but not God-forsaken, Paul finally reached Rome as the servant of God and the prisoner of Rome. Despite the life-threatening events, God kept him alive for His holy purposes.

Key Verses (NLT):

How does it speak to me?

²³ So a time was set, and on that day a large number of people came to Paul's lodging. He explained and testified about the Kingdom of God and tried to persuade them about Jesus from the Scriptures. Using the law of Moses and the books of the prophets, he spoke to them from morning until evening. ²⁴ Some were persuaded by the things he said, but others did not believe.

Far from the expected rousing welcome of the Jews to his message of the Kingdom of God, Paul's audience was divided in their reception. Although Paul's expressed desire was for the turning of his kinsmen, the Israelites, to Christ, the time had not yet come for them to return *en masse* to God. Paul's disappointment was palpable but God's plan was for the Gentiles (you and me) to be saved and included in His Kingdom.

There have been times after I had taught or preached my heart out and could not see any direct or immediate results, it was disheartening. I have, however, learnt over the years to trust God that in His good and perfect time, the seed of His Word will germinate and grow. My responsibility is to discharge my duties faithfully with the best that I have and leave the rest of the outcome to God's wisdom and timing. Although, every now and then, I'm blessed when someone tells me how years ago something I said had spoken to him/her.

So like Paul, do not be discouraged when you are sowing the seed of God's love and Word and you do not perceive any result or response. "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary (Gal. 6:9)."

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult: How does knowing that God is sovereign help us when we are not able to see any results even though we are obeying God's command to preach the Gospel and to make disciples?

Youth: What does it mean to you to trust God's timing for what He wants to do in Your life? How does submitting to His wisdom and purpose help you day to day?

Child: Do you easily get impatient? How do you feel? What do you think your parents might want you to learn by waiting?

PRAYER

Praying Scripture: Our Father, we thank you for the apostle Paul, that he did not give up preaching the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ and of the Kingdom of God. We are recipients of his perseverance. Help us, too by the power of Your Spirit, to faithfully witness to Your Word and Your love to everyone you send us to, and to trust that in Your perfect time we will reap a good harvest of souls for Your glory.

Thanksgiving Prayer: I/We thank You for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)

Intercessory Prayer: I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)

Salvation Prayer: I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.