

Back to Jerusalem

Acts 21 (Pg. 1,026)

Paul understood the Spirit of God was leading him to Rome (19:21) to share the Gospel of Jesus. But before he went west to Rome, he and his companions would go east to Jerusalem. They wanted to deliver the gift of financial support to the believers who were suffering from famine and the resulting poverty.

A. Warning 21:4-14

The believers urged them to NOT return to Jerusalem. Was this warning from the Holy Spirit?

Suffering is never easy, but the Holy Spirit reveals that his persecution would result in many **hearing the Gospel**.

B. Willingness 21:13-14

Paul understood that for the Christian, to live is Christ and to die is gain (Philippians 1:21)! Nothing else ultimately matters for eternity.

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”
-Jim Elliot

Application: *We will all **give an account** of our lives to God. God help us to view the challenges and opportunities, even the risks of life, with an eternal perspective.*

C. Welcome

21:17-26

In chapter 10 Peter received a vision from God—3 times—revealing that Jesus died to offer forgiveness and salvation to all people, under the Old Testament Law or not.

It was extremely hard for them to separate the work of Christ from their obedience to the Law. The Law has to do with what people do. Salvation has to do with what **Jesus did on the cross**.

Knowing how legalistic the Jews in Jerusalem were, they welcomed Paul with instructions to demonstrate his reverence to the Law.

People made vows from time to time to grow in their devotion to God. This one involved ritual cleansing, seven days set apart, and an offering.

D. Warrant 21:27-35

Paul did not undermine the Old Testament Law. Rather, he proclaimed a righteousness that comes by faith—apart from the Law. No one is able to keep the whole Law. The Law reveals to everyone the **need for a Savior**.

Next time we'll read Paul's *Witness* regarding his Gospel ministry.