

The End of the Beginning

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I. Introduction. Text: Acts 28.

II. The Holy Spirit was preparing the pagans on the islands of Malta to hear the gospel.

A. Pagans are pre-Christians—they have been prepared to hear the gospel by their empty lifestyle.

B. Signs of apostleship. (I Corinthians 12)

1. Paul survived a bite from a viper. These are signs that accompany those who believe in the risen Lord.

2. Paul healed Publius showing that he had the gift of healing.

C. There was a blending of medical healing from Luke and God's direct intervention.

III. Paul was bound by the Jews because of the hope of Israel.

A. The issue of the Messiah is still controversial among the Israelites.

B. The Apostle Paul expounded the Scriptures all day for the Jews explaining Jesus in the Old Testament.

C. However, people would deliberately close their minds because they did not want to hear what was being said as Isaiah predicted. (John 12, Isaiah 6)

D. The Jews did not want to change from what was comfortable to them.

IV. The Word was not hindered despite the condition of the church.

Application questions:

1. Should we expect to be able to survive a snakebite or heal a man as the Apostle did? Explain your answer.

2. In what ways have you found it difficult to change your mind regarding something important? How does this passage demonstrate the importance of an open mind?

3. How can the believer take comfort in the effectiveness of the Word demonstrated in this passage?
