

## WORTH DYING FOR | Week of 9/18

Acts 28:11-31



**Last Week Summary:** *Paul reaches shore on Malta and is bitten by a snake as he puts wood on the beach fire. His miraculous protection from the snake's venom earned an audience with the islanders and the governor. He is able to share the gospel and minister to the people for three months. We learned: (1) God uses us, even in difficult circumstances; (2) Rather than a vacation of R&R, God might be calling us to a vacation of service; (3) God can redeem even the darkest of days and the most difficult people.*

### Questions:

1. Have you been in a situation where you've been encouragement to someone in difficult circumstances? How did they respond? Why did you do it and how did you feel? How could your kindness lead to an opportunity to share the Gospel? Who has been the greatest encouragement in your life? In your spiritual life?
2. Everyone has in their nature a desire to worship. What would you say ungodly people worship for protection?
3. In your life, have you sensed God's timing as you tried to accomplish something that seemed easy, but turned out difficult? Did you pray, with much better results? Can you give an example?
4. What does the Bible say about hospitality? See Hebrews 13:16, and John 13:34-35. What examples of hospitality have you received?
5. In Acts 28:26-27 Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah about people "hearing but not understanding, seeing but not perceiving, their hearts becoming calloused..." What would cause a Christian who has spiritual senses of faith, hope, and love, to lose their sensitivity? What can a Christian do to restore their spiritual sensitivity? Read Psalm 51:10-12, and Revelation 3:14-20.
6. What helped Paul remain faithful in his call? Romans 8:9-11,26,27. What can we do to stay steadfast as Paul?

7. What is one thing you are currently most hopeful about for yourself, family, or friends? If it doesn't happen, what can you do to maintain hope? What is the difference between hope and prayer?
8. Paul's travel plans do not go as planned, yet while in prison he looks ahead with hope. Read Philippians 1:19. What two factors was Paul counting on? How do these factors play into the way you hope and look ahead?
9. Read Philippians 1:21-23. What brought Paul to the place where he understood dying to be gain?
10. Read 2 Timothy 1:15, 4:9-11. Do you have a friend who would stick with you like this?
11. What is Paul's last written hope, expressed in 2 Tim. 4:18? Can we claim this hope for our own? Why?
12. Paul's life was full of excitement and challenges as the Holy Spirit guided him. Life can be difficult for you now or in the future. What can we take from Paul's life and his hope in Christ that will encourage us as we look ahead? What assurance do you get when you read Jeremiah 29:11?

**Next Steps:**

- I am thankful for those who have encouraged me in my spiritual journey.
- I will be an encouragement to others—especially those in God's family.
- I realize the importance of being with other Christians for strength and encouragement (both for them and for me) and will make it a priority in my life and the life of my family.
- With Christ's help, I will fight the good fight, run the race, keep the faith.
- I will remember my home is not this earthly kingdom, but a heavenly one.