THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE IS WAXED GROSS
Acts 28:26-31

Paul -- prison in Rome. 60 yrs old. In ministry for about 30 yrs

Nero -- 25 yrs old ...murderous man.

Rome: Population: 2 million within 10 miles radius...Half of population slaves.

People poverty stricken...Professional men, manufacturers ... slaves

Acts 28:23...expounded and testified the kingdom of God, ...material from Romans and Hebrews. Theme: kingdom of God.


Acts 28:25 After that Paul had spoken one word. One last shot ...Is 6:9-10, a passage of condemnation & final judgment of God toward Jews.
Is 6:6-10; Mt 13:14; Mk 4:12; Lk 8:10; Jn 12:40, Acts 28:26-27; Rom 11:8

Acts 28:26 Saying, Go ... Go to Jews ...You will hear what I say but not understand. You will observe but won’t perceive the meaning

Hearing: physically hear; And shall not understand: not comprehend meaning; Seeing ye shall see. physical eyesight ; not perceive: not understand meaning. Won’t impact life.

Acts 28:27 heart: center of being; Waxed gross to thicken, callous, make stupid, fat; dull: heavy, with difficulty; spiritual perception.

    Adam Clarke: …half asleep while the salvation of God is preached…

...eyes have they closed; eyes of mind. Spiritual eyes; Closed: shut down any and all ability to see and understand spiritual truth.

    Adam Clarke: they have totally and obstinately resisted the truth of God, and shut their eyes against the light.

2 Cor 4:4

See with their eyes: personal knowledge Hear with their ears: to attend to; to obediently hear… Understand with their heart: to put it all together in their heart. Have truth connect with heart. Converted: be turned to God. Heal them. Cure them of spiritual disease.

Description of unconverted:

  ❖ Heart insensitive to things of God.

  ❖ No desire to listen to Biblical truth..
No spiritual perception of Biblical truth.

- No new nature
- No spiritual healing

**Acts 28:28** Salvation/spiritual available to Gentiles, as well. They will accept and believe truth concerning Christ.

FF Bruce: *In Acts as in the Pauline letters, while the order of preaching the gospel is ‘to the Jew first and also to the Greek’ (Rom. 1:16), the order of its reception is ‘by the Gentile first.’*

Acts 13:46; 18:6; 19:8-10

**Acts 28**

F.H.Chase, *The narrative reaches a solemn climax – rejection on the one side, unchecked success and hope on the other.*

**Acts 28:29** **Great reasoning among themselves:** Lots of discussion & debate.

**Acts 28:30** *In his own hired house*—found place & rented it. Phil. 4:18 ... *received all that came in unto him*, Even though a prisoner, allowed visitors


**Acts 28:31** **Preaching the kingdom of God:** proclaiming, heralding the rule of God in the hearts of men; *Teaching those things* ... discipling; *Confidence*—freedom of spirit, openly, boldly, without any reservations.

While in Rome Paul wrote at least 6 letters:

- Ephesians, April A.D. 61
- 2 Timothy, May A.D. 61
- Philippians, A.D. 62
- Colossians, A.D. 62
- Philemon, A.D. 62
- Hebrews, spring of A.D. 63

*no man forbidding him.* Last Greek word in the Acts. *Akolutos*—Without hindrance.

G.C.Morgan: *In proportion as we are so, the one word forever describing the Church will be the word with which this book ends, unhindered!*