

## ***“Paul’s Final Days”***

*Wednesday Evening Bible Class by Ray Reynolds (February 19, 2014)*

Introduction: Did you know that the lives of the Apostle Paul and the Emperor Nero overlapped for a short time in the city of Rome? In the seventh decade these two famous men lived in the same city. While Nero’s name was making headlines, Paul’s wasn’t. If you asked anyone in Rome in the AD 70’s, “Who will make the greatest impact on the world, Nero or Paul?” everyone would have picked Nero. Nero was married to Poppaea Sabina, erected a 120 foot tall statue of himself, and had temples built in his honor. People looked up to Nero, but looked down on Paul. Tradition says that Paul was common looking. Yet, it is he, not Nero that the world sees as one of the greatest of his generation. Let’s study about his final days together...

Discussion:

### ***I. Paul’s Life Includes Dynamic Ministry & Deep Struggles***

- A. We read of his tumultuous life (**II Corinthians 11:23-29**).
- B. We read of his treacherous journeys (**Acts 13-28**).
- C. We read of his tedious schedule (**Acts 18:3-4**).
- D. We read of his tireless work (**II Timothy 4:6-8**).
- E. We read of his troublesome ministry (**Acts 21:30-31**).

### ***II. Paul’s Life Includes Spiritual Direction & Supernatural Endurance***

- A. Paul’s secret doesn’t lie in his past (**Philippians 3:1-11**).
- B. Paul’s secret lies in his present and his future (**Philippians 4:8-13**).
- C. Paul reveals his secret to Timothy (**II Timothy 1:8-12**).
- D. Paul wants believers to follow in his steps (**I Corinthians 9:24-27, 11:1**).
- E. Paul’s life ended well, but Nero is another story (**II Timothy 4:6-8**).

Conclusion: Consider how Paul ended his life. Consider how Nero ended his life. Which would you choose? The great thing is that you and I can choose how we end our life! Are you fighting the good fight? Are you finishing the course? Are you running the race? Does God have you in His fold? The Book of Acts still continues and it is the story of the church!