

“THE ROMAN MINISTRY”

I Timothy 6:11-16, Titus 3:1-11, Acts 28:17-31

September 27 & 28, 2025

WHAT IF you were given the blessing of discovering the cure for cancer? WHAT IF God blessed you with the treatment or the remedy that would eliminate every form of cancer in the human body? What would you do? Various cancers run rampant in our world today, and if God gave you the cure, the remedy to this deadly disease, what would you do with it?

Would you patent it and make billions of dollars in the production and sale of the remedy? Would you be the one to determine who gets to enjoy the remedy, picking and choosing the ones you wanted to receive the cure to cancer? Certainly your friends, and those family members who agree with you would receive it. But what of your enemies? What about those who have differing opinions than you do? What about those of different nationalities or cultures? What about those who just bug you? Would you share it with them if they were sick?

Or would you keep all the information to yourself? You could have full assurance that you would not have to worry about any cancer in your life. Though your family tree might be plagued with cancer in all your lines, would you hang on to this remedy as a secret for you only?

Or would you freely share the remedy to cancer with the general public, offering life and healing to everyone who suffered with this deadly disease? Would you be the one to bring life to billions of people as you freely gave the remedy to everyone suffering with cancer? What a dilemma you would be given - keep it, exploit it, limit the distribution of it, or freely give it to everyone? It would be a game changer for anyone, anywhere; whoever suffered with cancer could turn to the remedy you were given by God and find life and healing. What an amazing thing you could do for the whole human race!

Well, folks, **you have been given** the remedy to a much greater disease than cancer in the human body. It's the cancer of the human soul. It's called sin. We have been given by God, the

life-changing remedy to the cancer of sin through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's found in this book, called the Bible. It has already cured millions of people throughout the ages, and not one person has been lost when they have received this cure and followed the remedy throughout their lives. It has a 100% cure rate, and has been given to each of us. Every person who has received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior has found the remedy to the death producing cancer of sin. All of its side effects are stripped away, and new life is available to everyone who will receive it, claim it, and live by it.

So each one of us has been given this cure to the fatal destruction of sin. But what are we doing with it? Are we exploiting it for our own enrichment and personal gain? Are we determining who should and who should not have access to this marvelous cure? Are we looking at those around us and determining only the few that we deem important enough or righteous enough to receive this wonderful cure? Or are we just keeping it all to ourselves, seeing our own salvation as right for us, but not giving it to anyone else? Are we willing to let all those around us die from the curse of sin while we, with the remedy at hand to administer to them, watch as they pass into death for all eternity?

Friends, that is the situation we find ourselves in today, even right at this moment. We have the gift of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. But what are we doing with it?

Sadly it is one of the best kept secrets in our society. Though the cure for sin is available, ready for delivering a person from the ravages of Hell, we pick and choose who we will tell, making our own determination of who is and who isn't worthy of it being given to them.

But God desires that everyone hear about the remedy to sin. It is their decision as to what to do with that remedy, to accept it or to disregard it. But it is ours to share with those around us so that everyone may at least hear about it.

And that is the encouragement we have in our Scripture lessons today. Paul encouraged Timothy to “*pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession...*” (I Timothy 6:11-12). Timothy had been sent to the people of Ephesus in order to help them come to know Jesus Christ, and to help them claim Him as their Savior and Lord. It didn’t matter if they were Jew or Gentile, He was to live such an outstanding life that he preached a sermon everywhere he went. His life was to be a living testimony to the love and grace of Jesus Christ. And that’s what Timothy did; he lived his life for Jesus. And these are great words for us to have and hold in our lives, too, so that we also may live for Jesus.

And then Paul’s words to Titus go on to challenge us to live as witnesses for Jesus Christ, “...*so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone*” (Titus 3:8). As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to live such lives as to promote and advance the Salvation of Jesus to the whole world.

Since we have the cure for sin in the Salvation of Jesus, it is imperative that we be about the work of letting everyone know about it. There is nothing else in all this world that cures the soul from sin. And if left alone, every person without the cure of Jesus, dies eternally. Isn’t that enough to get you going to make sure that everyone knows about sin’s remedy?

Even as Paul got to Rome, he didn’t wait long to begin to tell others about the difference Jesus makes when we have Him as our Savior. Listen to this last segment of our study of the Book of Acts. This is Acts 28:11-31 (READ Acts 28:11-31).

Paul was certainly glad to see the brothers and sisters at Puteoli and Rome. He was encouraged to find believers already working in Italy for the sake of Jesus Christ. But the work

was not yet finished. There were so many yet to share the remedy to sin with. So he started with his fellow Jews, telling them why he was in Rome, and also what his purpose was - to help them to come to recognize and claim Jesus as the Messiah of God, sent to save all people from their sins.

Paul explains that it was his sharing of the remedy to the cancer of sin that got him into trouble, first with the Jews and then with the Romans. They arrested him because he promoted Jesus as God's fulfillment of His prophecies of a Savior who would provide the whole world with a way to come back into a relationship with God, through Him. Though many believed what he said, most did not accept Paul's teaching, and therefore he angered his Jewish brothers and sisters to the point that they desired him dead.

The Jews in Rome, however, had not received any news about such things. But they were interested in what Paul said about Jesus. They said, "*We want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect*" (Acts 28:22). This opened up the door for Paul to use the Scriptures to explain how God sent Jesus as the Messiah into the world to save all people from their sins. He gave them the remedy to sin's cancer, but the majority would not believe it. They decided that the remedy to the cancer of sin given to Paul by God through Jesus Christ was not what they wanted. They rejected his words and therefore rejected God's eternal remedy to sin.

Nonetheless, Paul was faithful to share the solution to sin's cancer with the Jewish people. Even as Paul told them that they were fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy, they became angry instead of hearing Isaiah's words and opening up their hearts. Paul told them, "*The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when He said through Isaiah the prophet;*

*'Go to this people and say, "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they*

*hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, understand with their hearts and turn and I would heal them””” (28:26-27).*

How true that is in our own world today. People will refuse to accept the remedy to sin’s cancer. People, just like the Jews there with Paul, will “*argue vigorously among themselves*” (Acts 28:29) in a way to try to make sense of the truth of Jesus. Some will humble themselves to the truth of God’s Word and follow Jesus. Many, however will not.

But Paul did not give up. Luke tells us, “*For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ - with all boldness and without hindrance!*” (28:30-31). He kept on seeking to share the cure for sin that God had given him through Jesus Christ.

Luke’s abrupt ending to the Book of Acts does not tell us of any other event in Paul’s life, so we don’t really know for sure what happened to him. “Luke does not give us details about Paul’s two years in Rome because he is not writing Paul’s biography. Some argue that Paul was executed at the end of his two-year detention and that Luke did not speak of his execution because to do so would have ruined his portrayal of the triumphant advance of the Gospel. Others argue that (1) Paul’s case never came to trial because the prosecutors failed to appear within the statutory eighteen-month period, and that (2) Luke expected his readers to understand that since a two-year period of detainment went beyond the statutory period for prosecution, Paul was released. But during the storm at sea, the angel of the Lord had assured Paul that he would stand trial before Caesar (27:24). Therefore, it seems proper to assume that Luke intended his readers to infer that Paul’s case, whatever its outcome, did come before the imperial court.”

“...Indeed, we are forced to look elsewhere for information about Paul’s Roman imprisonment and its aftermath. Accepting the Prison Epistles as having been written during his

Roman imprisonment, we may surmise that Paul fully expected to stand before Caesar's court and that, while he could not be certain about the outcome, he also expected to be released (Phil. 1:19-26; Philemon 22). There is little reason to doubt his intuition. Therefore we may date such a release somewhere around 63 AD. Accepting the Pastoral Epistles as genuine, we may believe that after Paul's release from this Roman imprisonment he continued his evangelistic work in the eastern portion of the empire (around the Aegean Sea) - perhaps even fulfilling his long-cherished desire to visit Spain (Rom. 15:23-24). And since 2 Timothy 4:6-18 speaks of an approaching second trial in a tone of resignation, we may conclude that Paul was rearrested about 67 AD and, according to tradition, beheaded at Rome by order of emperor Nero."<sup>1</sup>

So Luke's recounting of the Acts of the Apostles, shows how Christianity began in Jerusalem, and then extended throughout the known world through the work of diligent and faithful followers of Jesus Christ, who were intent upon telling everyone of the hope they have for the cure of the cancer of sin. We are beneficiaries of that great Good News. But it should not stop with us! We are also called to continue the spread of the Salvation of the world by Jesus.

You see, there are multiple groups that still need to hear about our Savior, Jesus. There's the plane, or train, or boat clubs. There are the folks at nursing homes. There are coaches and athletes that need to hear about Jesus. There children of all ages that need to learn about an alternative to the world's ways. There's the city government that needs to hear about the Salvation of Jesus. There's organizations, tavern leagues, bowling leagues, snow-mobile clubs, and other social groups that need to learn about the cure for the cancer of sin. University professors and teachers and students need to hear of the hope we have in Jesus. Road America and Whistling Straights need to hear the Good News about Jesus' cure for sin. Workers at

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<sup>1</sup> (Richard Longenecker, *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, [Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 1981] pg. 572)

Target, Walmart, Pranges, Meijer, Festival Foods, Piggly Wiggly, Johnsonville, Miesfelds, and every other business needs to hear about the hope for eternal life through Jesus Christ. The homeless, the helpless, the homebound, and the hospitalized need to learn about this cure for sin's cancer. The jailed and incarcerated need the hope of eternal life. There's so much work that needs to be done to let everyone know about the cure that Jesus gives to all those who will hear, accept, claim, and follow.

The job of sharing the Good News about Jesus Christ is not just the pastor's job, but it belongs to everyone who counts themselves a disciple of Jesus. Coming to church is not to be a secret society meeting, but a place where each one of us is energized to go out into the world and share the remedy to our worst problem - separation from a holy God because of sin.

We are not to even be in competition with other churches, but working alongside each other to let Jesus be known to our communities. Contrary to popular belief, it's not Lutherans, or Catholics, or Methodists, or Baptists, or Episcopalians, or Presbyterians, or Pentecostals, or Assembly of Gods, or any other denomination that will make it into heaven. IT IS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST WHO WILL FIND HIS CURE FOR SIN AND GAIN ETERNAL LIFE! And everyone should be involved in telling the Good News! Denomination has nothing to do with the cure of sin, EXCEPT that, as Christians, we are to reach out to those around us who have never heard, or have never received Jesus into their lives, and offer them the cure for sin. We need to be followers of Jesus first and foremost! So don't promote yourselves as Global Methodists, though that is the particular church you are a part of. You are Followers of Jesus Christ, given the chance to bring the cure to whole world's problem of sin. Please don't take that lightly or flippantly! You are a child of God, so live like it so others can see it!

You see, you are all missionaries to the part of the world that God has given to you to reach. You have your own sphere of influence that I will never see, but what God has given you to reach. You are the ones who are to love the ones in your mission field enough that you want them to be with you in heaven when this life ends and judgment determines our eternal destiny.

So don't be shy with your faith! Don't let the world silence your witness of Jesus Christ in your life. You be the ones to bring life to those around you with the cure for sin so that they might rejoice in that cure and learn to share it with their own sphere of influence. Let the love of Jesus Christ explode in our world today, beginning right here, right now, with each of you being His spokesman for the love of God.

But some of you will say to yourself, "But I don't know how." Well, there are discipleship classes starting all over this church. There are Bible studies taking place that can help you understand Jesus more so that you can tell others what you're learning. You have to be the one to make things happen. God is dependent upon YOU to finish His work. It doesn't matter if you are young or old, male or female, single or married, blond or brunette, white, black, yellow or brown skinned, whether English is your first or second or fourth language. You are just right to be a witness of Jesus Christ to those God has given you. Get excited about Jesus and watch what God can do with you. It's a life or death issue. So choose life!

Let's pray. Father, Thank You for Your word in the Book of Acts that helps us to see the immense importance for us to live our faith in Jesus before the whole world. Give us the courage and determination we need to live for You every moment of every day of our life so that those around us might find life in Jesus' cure for sin. Get us so excited about Your cure for death, that we freely share it with everyone, everywhere, at every moment. Let the revival begin today, Lord; TODAY! Through each one of us. This we pray in Jesus' Name. AMEN.