Men's Group 17th December 2013

Acts 27 – 28

We come to the last definite record of Paul's life, the journey to Rome and very brief notes on his life in Rome.

This extended journey probably extends through the Winter of 59 – 60 AD. This journey is narrated by Luke—"we", who was with Paul for this journey along with a couple of others.

The book describes two years spent in Rome taking us to 62 AD which is 2 years prior to Nero's great persecution and multiple executions of Christians in Rome in 64 AD.

We are told that there was a Christian congregation in Puteoli at that time, not a major population centre, so it seems that Christianity was probably fairly widespread at this time.

Whether Paul remained in Rome after AD 62 or, as many believe, he undertook further journeys and returned there later is not known.

As we come to the end of our study, perhaps a few questions are worthy of meditation:

- *What is the gospel message that Luke is trying to put across in this book?*
- *What motivated Paul to go to the extraordinary lengths of suffering that he did in order to propagate the message that he had once so despised?*
- *How, if at all, does the Christianity of the book of Acts differ from modern day Christianity as we practice it? Are such differences good, bad, inevitable, avoidable, what?*