

**The Book of Acts – Chapter 28**  
**THE STORY CONTINUES...THROUGH US**  
**Dr. Larry Lamb – December 29, 2019**

**ACTS** tells us how the church grew, expanded its influence, felt the blast of distressing persecution, and grew from a small room in Jerusalem to the far reaches of Roman Empire in 30 years. Now, centuries later believers of every imaginable location, race, language, and styles meet weekly to remind one another the gospel of Jesus Christ still transforms people.

***Acts 1.8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

***Matthew 16.18** . . . I will build My church...*

~ **LOVE EVERYBODY AND KEEP ON MOVING**  
**IN FAITH, JOY, AND PURPOSE.** ~

***Acts 28.20** I asked you to come here today so we could get acquainted and so I could explain to you that I am bound with this chain because I believe that the hope of Israel—the Messiah—has already come.*

Pastor Chuck Swindoll made this observation of the consistent pattern in the book of Acts:

- Someone preaches the gospel to the Jews.
- A remnant believes while the majority rejects the good news.
- The Lord turns away from the Jews to focus on Gentiles.
- The nonbelieving Jews persecute the church.

*“The gospel is so simple that small children can understand it, and it is so profound that studies by the wisest theologians will never exhaust its riches.” - **CHARLES HODGE***

If Paul could talk to us, he might say this:

**1. Don't waste time.**

While Paul was in prison in Rome, he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. (The theme of Philippians is JOY written from prison.) He met with people and wrote letters to help churches.

**2. Don't be FEARFUL to speak up for Jesus.**

Christianity has never been popular and it's not ever going to be. The Bible wasn't written to make people comfortable; it was written to help people live confidently, holy, wise, secure, comforted, and victoriously until Jesus returns.

**3. Don't live a COMPROMISING life.**

Paul wrote these words to the church in Rome:

*Romans 12.2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

**4. Don't stop your PURSUIT of a life fully devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ.**

*2 Timothy 4.6-8 As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. 8 And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of His return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to His appearing.*

What a fitting life summation Paul had: All in, all the time, all for the great cause ever, the magnification of the RISEN SAVIOR who gave His all-in commitment on the cross. Because of Paul's grit . . .

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**SALVATION PRAYER**

Jesus, I find myself being drawn to You. I want You to be my Savior and Lord. I confess that my sin has separated me from You. Forgive me and cleanse me from sin. I ask You to live through me each day as I humble myself before You. Amen.