



**Sermon Text: Acts 28:17-31**

*Sermon Date: January 27, 2019*

Arriving at the end of Acts, we discovered that it isn't really the end. Luke doesn't finish the story because the story of the gospel isn't finished. The mission continues until the King returns. Therefore, this final picture of Paul gives us insight into how we are to continue living out the mission of the gospel.

### **ALL DAY**

The first thing we notice about Paul is that he was focused on the gospel all day long. He immediately meets with the Jewish leaders in Rome to tell them about the 'hope of Israel.' He then spends all day—'from morning till evening'—arguing that Jesus is the Messiah. And even when the Jews reject the gospel, Paul continues proclaiming the Kingdom of God to anyone who will listen over the next two years. The last image Luke wants imprinted on our minds is Paul faithfully sharing the gospel all day long.

### **ALL SCRIPTURE**

Secondly, we noticed that Paul's witness was focused on the Scriptures. He sought to convince the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah from the Law of Moses and the Prophets. In both his gospel and Acts, Luke concludes by prioritizing the exposition of Scripture and emphasizing that Jesus is the center of the Bible. This is how we continue the mission, by devoting ourselves to God's Word—opening the Bible, explaining texts, and showing people Christ.

### **ALL PEOPLE**

The third aspect of Paul's life we noticed is that he ministered to all people. He sought to convince both Jews and Gentiles, Roman Kings like Agrippa and runaway slaves like Onesimus (Philemon 10)—anyone and everyone—that Jesus is our only Savior.

### **THREE TAKEAWAYS FROM ACTS**

As we closed out the book, Pastor Justin emphasized three takeaways from the book.

- **Be Bold.** In Acts we see God use ordinary and unworthy people—recovering cowards and blasphemers. And within forty years, these people turn the world upside down because the Holy Spirit came upon them. Our boldness is not rooted in us, but in the God in us. God empowers His people by His Spirit to accomplish His mission.
- **Be Confident.** God always accomplishes His purposes. The very last words of Acts are “without hindrance.” While Paul may be hindered, the gospel is not; it never will be. God's kingdom will prevail.
- **Be Faithful.** Paul was consumed with love for Jesus. Wherever he was, Paul was telling people about Christ. We must do the same. Let's be faithful to share the gospel wherever God has placed us.

While Acts ends, the story of the gospel doesn't. Jesus called His people to be His witness to the ends of the earth, but Rome was not the end of the earth. It was the center of the world. Jesus' mission remains unfinished; the ends of the earth remain unreached. God invites us to continue the story—in our homes, our work, our schools, our neighborhood, and among all nations. Let us, then, 'make disciples everywhere by exalting Christ in everything.'

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?
2. What are the big takeaways for you personally as we conclude our series on Acts?
3. Where has God strategically placed you in your life right now? How can you be a faithful witness to Christ there?