

“THE BEGINNING OF THE ACTS OF THE CHURCH”

Acts 28:23-31

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INTRODUCTION

We could say that this is the end of the Book of Acts; but in another sense it is the beginning-- for the book concludes with the apostle Paul preaching and teaching concerning Jesus Christ **openly** and **boldly** and **without being hindered**. Jesus had told his disciples in 1:8 that they should take the gospel to the ends of the earth-- now that Paul had successfully reached Rome and was evangelizing in that city, there was no question but that the gospel would indeed reach even the most remote places of the earth. What an exciting climax to this book!

Some have wondered why Luke did not tell us the outcome of Paul’s trial, or why he did not describe the continuation of Paul’s ministry after his release from prison. I would suggest that this book is not about Paul, **it is about the continued work of the Holy Spirit**. And praise God, the Holy Spirit continues to work in his church and continues to spread his gospel throughout the world.

In this passage we see several important features:

- 1) the serious attempt at reaching the lost with the gospel of Christ (23-24)
 - 2) the solemn condemnation of those who refuse the gospel message (25-27)
 - 3) the satisfying continuation of gospel preaching to those who will listen (28-31)
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- I. THE SERIOUS ATTEMPT AT REACHING THE LOST WITH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST (23-24)
 - A. Reaching As Many As Possible
 - B. Reasoning Carefully
 1. Solemnly testifying concerning the kingdom
 2. Persuasively arguing concerning Jesus Christ
 3. Using the entire Scriptures for our authority
 4. Being persistent all day long
 - C. Recognizing that not all will believe (24)—not even an apostle and universal success!
 - II. THE SOLEMN CONDEMNATION OF THOSE WHO REFUSE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE (25-27)
 - A. Departing from the truth (25)
 - B. Rejecting the warning of the Holy Spirit
 - C. Fat Hearts, deaf ears, closed eyes
 - D. Hardened by the preached Word that could have saved them, and to the Saviour who could have healed them
 - III. THE SATISFYING CONTINUATION OF GOSPEL PREACHING TO THOSE WHO WILL LISTEN (28-31)
 - A. Salvation to the Gentiles (28) [**They will listen!**]
 - B. Willing to Pay to Preach the Gospel!
 - C. Willing to Preach to all who will come to listen

- D. Preaching and Teaching as the Main duties of the Man of God (31)
1. The Kingdom of God
 2. The Lord Jesus Christ
 3. Openness and Boldness
 4. Unhindered

CONCLUSION

Do we really need to leave the Book of Acts?

- Informative
- Instructive
- Exciting
- Challenging and Motivating
- Continuing