

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 60: The End of the Beginning

READ Acts 28:16-31 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

As Luke closes his book of Acts, he does not deal with a number of unanswered questions, such as, was Paul found to be innocent at his trial? Or did Paul encourage and support the church at Rome? Instead, Luke finishes where he began: the clear, bold, and empowered proclamation of the gospel of Jesus. As Luke closes his book, he shows us that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel, whose offer of salvation is for everyone, Jew and Gentile alike. This gospel is the fundamental content of the teaching of the church and the unchanging task of Jesus' witnesses, whatever the challenges of their personal situation.

Main lesson: Christ will accomplish His Great Commission, despite hindrances, through the clear, bold, and empowered proclamation of the gospel by His people

Questions:

1. A. Why do you think Paul immediately called the Jewish leaders three days after starting his imprisonment in Rome (v. 17)? See Rom 1:16; 9:3.

B. From v. 23 explain with as much detail as possible what Paul said and did when the Jews gathered to hear him and what do you learn from this?
2. A. From vv. 26-27, where Paul quotes Isaiah the prophet, why did the Jews turn their backs on Jesus? See also Rom 11:13-15a, 25.

B. What would cause a Christian who has spiritual senses of faith, hope, and love, to lose their sensitivity?

C. What can a Christian do to restore their spiritual sensitivity? (Read Ps 51:10-12 and Rev 3:14-20)

3. Read Philippians 1:12-26 and 4:21-22 in light of Acts 28. What can we learn from Paul's perspective on his 2-year (v. 30) imprisonment in Rome?
4. What activity is Paul engaging in as Luke closes the book of Acts (vv. 30-31)?
5. How might Paul be a faithful servant of Jesus who is not ashamed of his Lord's return? See Jesus' parable of the talents (Matt 25:14-30).
6. During Paul's imprisonment he wrote what is known as the four prison epistles: Eph, Phil, Col, and Philemon. How did Paul make the most of his house arrest in Rome? What does his example teach about making the most of every ministry opportunity the Lord gives us?
7. What are your top three takeaways from having read the book of Acts? What lessons have been most meaningful?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: Christ for His continual work of gospel advance to both Jews and Gentiles

Thank: the Lord for calling you to participate in spreading the renown of Jesus

Pray: that you would gain more confidence and boldness in living and sharing Christ