

WE ARE ALL WITNESSES

THE BOOK OF ACTS

The Final Word

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | Acts 28:1–31

ICE BREAKER:

What is an exciting thing (big or small) happening in your life currently?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

In Acts 28, Paul finally arrives at Rome despite some dramatic situations! In this chapter, Paul meets many different people along the way, and as he arrives, some believing, some not believing, and some believing very wrongly. List the people and how they interacted with Paul.

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

Throughout the entirety of Acts, nothing has been able to prevent Paul from spreading the Gospel. The Gospel of Jesus clarifies who Jesus is and what He has accomplished in his Death and Resurrection. But, the Gospel can be clouded by deeply held, and deeply wrong, assumptions about life and god(s). Describe the barriers that both the islanders and some of the Jews in Rome had to the Gospel.

How does Paul (and Luke as he writes Acts) work to correct and clarify the gospel message of Jesus? How does the variety of people's obstacles to the Gospel challenge us to better know the people around us?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

It's been said that our fallen hearts are ceaseless factories of idols. Though we may not have statues of idols for those 'gods' to give us success, money, beauty, etc. We can still idolize success, money, beauty, sports, etc. How can properly 'ordered affections' prevent us from turning even good things into 'god' things — from wanting good gifts more than loving the Giver of all good gifts?

What is an area in your own life where you might be tempted to look to something other than God for ultimate security or meaning? How can the Gospel rightly arrange what we love?

With a renewed Gospel perspective on life, pray for the ability to see our trials and obstacles as opportunities for others to embrace the freedom of the Gospel. Pray for courageous faith, for open doors, and for open hearts as we are all witnesses of Jesus together.

PARENTING MOMENT:

Read Acts 28:30-31. Paul finally made it to Rome and is proclaiming Jesus there after years of trying to get to Rome. Paul remained faithful to the Lord, even when life did not go the way he planned. Talk to your kids about how we live boldly for Jesus even when things are not going the way we plan. Pray about how you as a family, can be bold witnesses this year with your friends, family, and extracurriculars.

FURTHER STUDY:

The Book of Acts chronicles the birth and growth of the early church. With that as historical background, the Book of James was one of the first letters in the Bible written to that young church. As we begin a series in the book of James next week, read all five chapters of James in one sitting for an overview of that letter, a letter penned by a leader within the early church who was also the brother of Jesus.