

A glowing cross is centered in the image, set against a blue sky filled with white, fluffy clouds. The cross has a bright, starburst-like glow emanating from its center, and the entire scene is bathed in a soft, blue light. The cross is slightly faded, allowing the text to be the primary focus.

The CHURCH Series

Part 20 – The END!

Coming to the End...

- Last week we looked at Paul's court defences before King Agrippa, Governors Festus and Felix.
- We reflected on the attitude of Paul all through this very challenging period and how he conducted himself.
- We reflected on ourselves and how we can take courage from Paul's example



The Last Chapters..

- Chapters 27 and 28 cover the journey of Paul as he is transported to Rome.
- There he will stand trial before Caesar.
- These chapters highlight both literal and spiritual lessons.
- As we read and reflect, let us allow our imagination and mind to paint a picture of Paul's ordeal.
- Here are key lessons from these chapters:



1. God's Sovereignty..

- Paul's journey was perilous, filled with storms, shipwrecks, and danger.
- Despite these trials, God had promised that Paul would reach Rome (*Acts 23:11*).
- This assures believers that God's purposes are not thwarted by external circumstances.
- Even in the midst of life's "storms," God is in control



2. Obedience...

- When Paul warned the centurion and the ship's officers that the voyage would end in disaster, they ignored him.
- They trusted in their experience and the prevailing winds rather than heeding God's warning (*Acts 27:9-12*).
- This teaches the importance of listening to God's guidance, especially when it contradicts human wisdom.
- It also highlights the need for Christians to be prayerful and help nonbelievers to navigate situations.



Leadership in Adversity....

- During the storm, Paul emerged as a leader.
- In *Acts 27:21-25*, when everyone had lost hope, Paul stood firm and reassured them, declaring that God had promised that they would be saved.
- His faith and courage gave others hope and were a source of inspiration.
- This shows how leaders can impact others, especially when they demonstrate unwavering faith in God.



Faith in God...

- God promised Paul that he would stand trial before Caesar and that all the people on the ship would survive (Acts 27:24).
- Paul's faith in this promise was steadfast, even when the situation appeared hopeless.
- This emphasizes the importance of trusting in God's promises, even when circumstances seem bleak.



Importance of Prayer

- In Acts 27:29, Paul and the crew prayed during the storm.
- The chapter shows that prayer is vital in times of crisis.
- When everything else fails, prayer connects us with God's power and wisdom.
- Those who pray have strong faith because it shows where their confidence actually is.



Relationships...

- When the ship was stranded, the soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners to prevent escape.
- Paul's life was spared because the centurion valued his life (Acts 27:42-43).
- God often uses others to protect His people, even when circumstances are dire.
- This teaches us that God can work through unexpected relationships to fulfill His purposes.



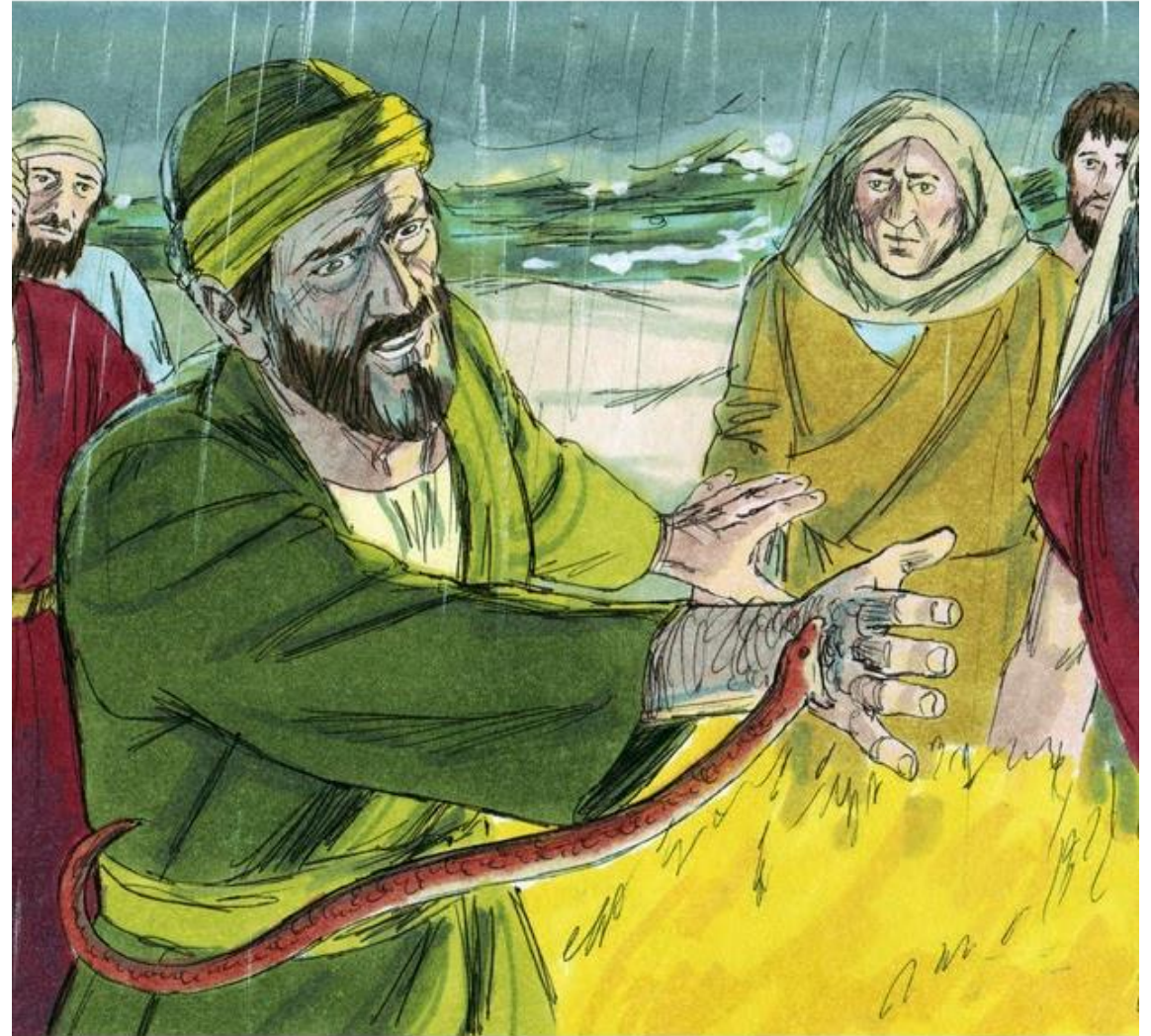
Chapter 28

Chapter 28



Protection...

- In Malta, Paul was bitten by a venomous snake, but he suffered no harm (Acts 28:3-6).
- This miracle demonstrated that God had a protective hand on Paul's life and work.
- This reminds believers that God can protect us from harm, even when danger seems imminent.
- The fire brought out the snake!



Presence...

- After the shipwreck, Paul was welcomed by the people of Malta, where he performed miraculous healings (Acts 28:8-9).
- This shows that God's presence and power are not limited to a particular place or situation.
- Even in unfamiliar places, God's work can continue through His servants.



Hospitality...

- The people of Malta showed kindness and hospitality to Paul and the shipwrecked crew (Acts 28:2).
- This teaches the value of showing hospitality, kindness, and compassion, particularly in times of need.
- Paul's ministry was supported by those who offered help, demonstrating that God works through the generosity and kindness of others.
- Hospitality is a state of one's heart!



Endurance...

- In Rome, Paul continued to preach the gospel even under house arrest (Acts 28:16, 23).
- He was not discouraged by his circumstances. T
- his is a reminder to persist in our calling, no matter how difficult the situation may be.
- Paul's patience and commitment to sharing the gospel serve as an example for all Christians



The Message...

- In Rome, Paul boldly declared the message of the kingdom of God and taught about Jesus Christ (Acts 28:31).
- His unwavering commitment to preaching the gospel, even in the face of imprisonment,
- shows that the message of the kingdom is central to the mission of the church.
- The Men, The Mission, The Message!



Reactions, Rejections, Revelations

- In Acts 28:23-28, Paul faces a mixed reaction from the Jewish leaders in Rome.
- Some believe, while others reject his message.
- This highlights a key truth about the gospel:
- it is divisive, and people's responses vary.
- Yet, as believers, we must remain faithful to proclaiming it, regardless of the outcome.



The End...

- The book of Acts ends with Paul continuing to preach boldly and without hindrance (Acts 28:31).
- Despite facing rejection, imprisonment, and hardships, the message of Jesus continues to spread.
- This assures Christians that God's word will endure, no matter the opposition.



ACTS - Summary

- The Power of the Holy Spirit
- Boldness in Proclaiming the Gospel
- Inclusive Nature of the Gospel
- The Role of Community and Fellowship
- The Importance of Prayer
- The Role of Leadership and Discipleship
- Persecution and Suffering for Christ
- The Mission of the Church
- The Sovereignty of God in Mission
- The Endurance of the Gospel

Conclusion...

- The Book of Acts is not just a historical account of the early church but a call to action for Christians today.
- It reminds believers of the centrality of the Holy Spirit in their lives, the necessity of boldness in sharing the gospel, and the importance of community, prayer, and perseverance in the face of opposition.
- Acts shows us that **the gospel is for all people**, and that the church's mission is to continue spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.
- The example of the apostles—especially Paul—serves as an enduring model of faith, leadership, and commitment to the call of God.



Family Time

- Lesson – We are called to be Witnesses to the Gospel everywhere we go.
- *⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*
- <https://youtu.be/jhcmzjwbvyk?si=jkADLdwT79MCf3Cc>
- Watch together with your family.

