

**“The Kingdom of God is Not Bound”**  
*Sermon Notes*

➤ **Expect to succeed in our mission to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ**

*\* So be faithfully on mission...*

1. In all periods of life (28:30)
2. In all places: both locally and globally (28:30)
3. To all people (28:30)
4. To proclaim the King and his Kingdom (28:31)
5. In the power of the Spirit behind true revival (28:31)

**Next Week:** Begin new series, *Rend the Heavens: A Biblical Theology of Revival*, in Psalm 119 “Give Me Life According To Your Word: Personal Revival”

**MEFC Study Guide**  
For the week of Mar 2nd - 8th

**Context**

1. This brings our study of the book of Acts to a close. Review some major themes which we have learned about in Acts. Pastor Dave, on the initial sermon on June 4 of 2023 proposed the following outline and main themes:

Author:

Recipient:

Purpose:

Outline:

- I. Introduction - "You Will Be My Witnesses... (1:1-11)
- II. In Jerusalem (1:12-6:7)
- III. And in all Judea & Samaria (6:8-9:31)
- IV. And to the end of the earth..."
  - Gentile Inclusion (9:32-12:25)
  - 1st Missionary Journey (13:1-15:35)
  - 2nd Missionary Journey (15:36-18:23)
  - 3rd Missionary Journey (18:24-21:16)
  - Paul's Arrest & Rome (21:17-28:31)

Why Acts?:

\*Because we want to be full-tilt faithful to...

1. The whole counsel of God (20:27)
  2. Local and global evangelism (1:8)
  3. The nature of true revival (3:20)
  4. Gospel unity amid doctrinal and practical diversity (1:6; 2:43; 4:32; 5:29; 6:1-7; 16:15)
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2. What just immediately happened before Acts 28:30-31 in Luke's record (see Acts 28:11-28)? Summarized what already took place in Paul's ministry in Rome.

## Observation

3. What do you learn about the main “characters” (Paul, Jesus the King, the Kingdom of God)? How does Luke describe them, not just here but throughout all of Acts?
  - a. What mission did Jesus send Paul on? (See Acts 9:15; 20:21-24; 22:15; 26:16-18, 23; 27:23-25)
  
  - b. In Acts 1:1 Luke writes, “1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.” Only 11 verses cover the post-resurrection life of Jesus, up through his ascension. However, how could Acts be rightly understood or titled as *The Acts of the Lord Jesus*, rather than *The Acts of the Apostles*?
  
  - c. What is the Kingdom of God? How have you heard it defined?

Some people think the Kingdom is Heaven—where we go after death. Others believe it’s the church—the people of God today. Some focus on ethics—like good deeds and social action. Others see it as God’s rule—his power and authority. Some spiritualize the Kingdom to “God’s rule in one’s heart.”

Patrick Schreiner proposes this definition: “The kingdom is the King’s power over the King’s people in the King’s place.” Graeme Goldsworthy proposes this definition: “God’s people, in God’s place, under God’s rule.” How are these definitions more comprehensive and helpful?

4. What are possible reasons why Luke doesn’t finish Paul’s story? If one theological purpose of Acts is to record the expansion of the Kingdom of God, through the power of the King sending the Holy Spirit (see Acts 1:3-8; 28:30-31), how does that explain this ending?

5. Is time, place, or context significant in the events that happen?
  - a. Paul was in prison for four years total. Two in Caesarea. Then two in Rome. Imagine what that was like? What did Paul do to stay on mission during those two years in Rome?
  - b. Rome: What the importance of “*proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance*” in the capital city?
  - c. What is the significance of Paul welcoming all who came to him?
6. What surprises you in this text?
7. What is the main point or theme in this closing summary of Acts?

### **Meaning**

8. What does the passage reveal about God, the King and the Kingdom?
9. What does this passage reveal about God’s people — that is, what do you learn from the life of Paul? How does a faithful minister expel his duties?
10. Summarize the meaning of this passage in one sentence in your own words:

