

College & Next Gen Pastor, Jon Christman

Series: *The Word of God Continues to Spread and Flourish*

Sermon Title: The Gospel to the Ends of the Earth - Acts 28:16-31

Big Idea: Through Christians God sends the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

Fall Term – Week 12 of 12 (Last Week of the Fall Term, Startup again January 4)



Ice breaker: Acts ends like a season finale that sets up the next chapter. If your life right now were a TV season, how would the finale end (missionally, vocationally, academically, relationally)? A cliffhanger? A breakthrough? A surprise twist?

Acts 28:16-31, Read and Reflect: ¹⁶ When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him. ¹⁷ Three days later he called together the local Jewish leaders. When they had assembled, Paul said to them: “My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. ¹⁸ They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. ¹⁹ The Jews objected, so I was compelled to make an appeal to Caesar. I certainly did not intend to bring any charge against my own people. ²⁰ For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.” ²¹ They replied, “We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of our people who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you. ²² But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect.” ²³ They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. ²⁴ Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. ²⁵ They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: “The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet: ²⁶ “Go to this people and say, “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.” ²⁷ For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.” ²⁸ “Therefore I want you to know that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!” ^[29] ³⁰ For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. ³¹ He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

Sermon and Scripture Application Discussion:

- 1. The book of Acts** (Read Acts 1:8, Acts 12:24, Acts 28:30–31). Over the past 10 months, we have read, seen, heard, and felt and tasted this truth: The Word of God continues to spread and flourish. What is one way God has convicted or redirected you? Share a moment from the past year when God used Scripture (especially Acts) to change a decision, attitude, or priority.
- 2. To the Jew: A burdened, not bitter, heart** (Read Acts 28:17–23). Paul had been mistreated by Jewish leaders, yet his heart was still open and burdened for them. It’s good that Paul didn’t presume a lack of interest in the gospel from others or deem them beyond the gospel’s reach. We, like Paul, must open our mouths and speak – even if it’s under threat of insult, shaming, spite, outrage, social out casting, loss of job, or worse (1 Peter 2:12; 3:16, 4:14).
 - Who are you tempted to write off as uninterested or beyond reach?
 - Tell a story of prayer and reaching out to a difficult person when eventually you saw God work.



3. Where's Jesus? Seeing Christ in all of Scripture (Read Acts 28:23; Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 9:6–7; Micah 5:2).

Pastor Jon compared reading Scripture to “Where’s Waldo”—Jesus appears on every page.

- How has seeing Christ in the Old Testament increased your trust in Him or clarified the gospel?
- Share a moment when an Old Testament passage suddenly “lit up” with a deeper glimpse of Jesus.

4. Some were convinced; others would not believe (Read Acts 28:24–27; Isaiah 6:9–10).

- Where might you currently be resisting something God has been saying to you? What would it look like to respond with repentance and openness instead of resistance?
- Share a time when you initially resisted God’s Word but later surrendered—and what changed.

5. To the Gentile (Read Acts 28:28; John 10:16). Knowing God has people who *will* respond to the gospel—how does that give you courage to speak about Jesus on your campus, in your workplace, or in your neighborhood? Share a story (from COS, missions, or personal life) where someone surprisingly responded to the gospel.

6. With all boldness and without hindrance (Read Acts 28:30–31; Ephesians 6:19–20; 2 Timothy 2:9).

The greatest hindrance to the gospel is “silent Christians.” – JC

- Where are you most tempted to stay silent, and what would Spirit-filled boldness look like?
- Share a time you took a risk in speaking about Christ, even if it felt awkward, and how God used it.

7. This is your time. (Read Matthew 28:18–20; Romans 10:14–15). Through Christians God sends the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. As we have seen in Acts, in his mysterious and awesome will, and power, sovereignty, and grace, he has chosen to use us as his instruments to deliver his gospel to people who have never heard. Will you join him? The Word of God will continue to spread and flourish. Will it spread in you? And through you in Wayne and beyond? - JC

- If Nov 30, 2025 is a “marker” for our church, what is one concrete step of witness, obedience, or sacrifice God is calling you to?
- Share one action you would like to take in the Christmas season toward bringing Christ to someone.

Closing Prayer: Lord, we pray that the gospel of Jesus Christ will reach others through us, and as a church we will go boldly and without hindrance, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to proclaim Christ.

Faith in Action: Merry Christmas! Christmas at Church of the Saviour (www.coswayne.org/christmas).

- December 6, 9:30 AM, Women’s Christmas Gathering, Building A
- December 13, 4:30 PM & 7 PM, A Song for the King Concert Series, Sanctuary
- December 14, 4:30 PM, A Song for the King Concert Series, Sanctuary
- December 24, 3 PM & 5PM Modern; 8 PM Cookies and Hot Cocoa Bar; 9 PM Traditional
- Giving Tuesday: Global Partners in northern India; Christmas Collection: Roxborough Home for Women.