

WE PREACH CHRIST

ACTS 28:30-31

Text:

Introduction:

As we look at the 2 closing verses of Acts, we see the Apostle Paul busily engaged in the work of witnessing. He lays down the pattern that we are to follow as we live in our day and time.

Our duty in these last days is that we busy ourselves with spreading the Gospel and in winning the lost to Jesus. That is our mandate, that is our call and that is our mission in this world.

Tonight, let's take a few minutes to look at these 2 verses and glean some lessons that will help us do the work of God in these last days.

1. THE SCOPE OF PAUL'S MINISTRY (VS. 30)

Acts 28:30

³⁰ And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

Paul received "all" who came to him. He didn't discriminate, but shared Christ with all who crossed his path. If one will take a minute to look at the ministry of the great Apostle, it becomes clear that Paul was a witness for Jesus. He shared the Gospel with both great and small that he might win some to Jesus.

- The Jews in the Synagogue (Acts 9:20)

Acts 9:20

²⁰ And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

- The Greeks (Acts 9:29)

Acts 9:29

²⁹ And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

- To both Jews and Gentiles in Antioch (Acts 13:14-19)

Acts 13:14-19

¹⁴ But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down. ¹⁵ And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, *Ye men and*

brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on. ¹⁶ Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with *his* hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience. ¹⁷ The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it. ¹⁸ And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness. ¹⁹ And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

- To Lydia in Philippi (Acts 16:12-15)

Acts 16:12-15

¹² And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, *and* a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days. ¹³ And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*. ¹⁴ And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard *us*: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. ¹⁵ And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us.

- To the Philippian jailor and his family (Acts 16:23-33)

Acts 16:23-33

²³ And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast *them* into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: ²⁴ Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. ²⁵ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. ²⁶ And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the

foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. ²⁷ And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. ²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. ²⁹ Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? ³¹ And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. ³² And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

- To the Greeks in Athens (Acts 17:22-34)

Acts 17:22-34

²² Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, *Ye* men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. ²³ For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. ²⁴ God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; ²⁵ Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; ²⁶ And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; ²⁷ That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: ²⁸ For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. ²⁹ Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. ³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now

commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead. ³² And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this *matter*. ³³ So Paul departed from among them. ³⁴ Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which *was* Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

- To Felix the Governor (Acts 24:22-25)

Acts 24:22-25

²² And when Felix heard these things, having more perfect knowledge of *that* way, he deferred them, and said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter. ²³ And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let *him* have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him. ²⁴ And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. ²⁵ And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

- To King Agrippa (Acts 26:1-32)
- To some sailors on a ship (Acts 27:22-29)

Acts 27:22-29

²² And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of *any man's* life among you, but of the ship. ²³ For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, ²⁴ Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

²⁵ Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. ²⁶ Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island. ²⁷ But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country; ²⁸ And sounded, and found *it* twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found *it* fifteen fathoms. ²⁹ Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

- To those of Caesar's household (Philippians 4:22)

Philippians 4:22

²² All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.

Paul realized that every person he met was a candidate for salvation. Therefore, he did not discriminate, but reached out to all.

We must never forget that the fields are white unto harvest, John 4:35. And, that Jesus desires to save all men - 2 Pet. 3:9; 2 Cor. 5:14; 1 Tim. 2:4. The door of salvation is open to whosoever will. Therefore, we must reach out to all whom cross our path.

2. THE SCHEME OF PAUL'S MINISTRY (VS. 31)

Acts 28:31

³¹ Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Paul spent his days pointing men to Jesus! He knew that the greatest need of their soul was for a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, he didn't spend time talking about Paul's opinion; he just pointed them to Jesus, the place where real help can be found!

Our message isn't about this church, our denomination, or our personal opinions.

Our message is about Jesus and His death, resurrection and love for sinners.

After all, it isn't our persuasiveness, our wit, our wisdom or our familiarity with Baptist doctrine that saves, it is the Gospel of Christ and that alone that has the power of salvation.

3. THE SUCCESS OF PAUL'S MINISTRY (VS. 31)

Acts 28:31

³¹ Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

The success of Paul's ministry did not lie in the number of conversions he obtained. He was successful because he was faithfully carrying out the Great Commission.

Success is not based on results but rather obedience.

Illustration:

As R. A. Torrey was preaching one day, he noticed a young lawyer in his audience to whom he had often presented the claims of the Gospel. At the close of the service he greeted the man and inquired if he had yet received the Lord. "Yes," said his friend. "I now consider myself a full-fledged Christian." Torrey was delighted, but then he added, "I suppose you are seeking to bring others to the Savior?" "No, I'm not," he replied. "I don't believe that's my business, it's yours. I feel called to practice law, not to preach." Torrey sat down with him and opened his Bible to the eighth chapter of Acts. Pointing to verse 4, he said, "Here, see what is said about the early Christians." His lawyer friend read aloud, "...they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word."

Stopping abruptly, he objected, "Oh, but those were just the apostles." "Please look at the first verse of the chapter." The lawyer was amazed to read, "...and they were ALL scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles." The evangelist reminded him that the Lord expects all His children in some way to tell others of His grace. "No matter what your regular work may be," said Torrey, "you should also engage in witnessing."

Close:

We need men and women who aren't afraid to stand up and tell a lost world about Jesus. If you are saved, you have a responsibility to the lost around you.

Please get busy telling everybody before it is forever too late