The Book of Acts Lesson 52

Acts 28:16-24

“God’s Unstoppable Message”

I. It is a LIBERATING MESSAGE (28:16-20).

A. Liberates from circumstances (28:16)

1. Circumstances have a purpose - *Phil. 1:12*

a. unto the furtherance of the gospel

b. that in his tribulation the world could see Christ

c. even in your trials the world can see Christ

d. releases from the bondage of fear

e. that in all things the truth of Christ is preached

Ex. Message reaches the Philippian Jailer.

2. Circumstances do not hinder the Word - *2 Tim. 2:9-10*

a. the apostle while a prisoner at Rome, had the liberty of dwelling by himself.

1) in his own hired house, though held in chains, and guarded by a soldier

2) of receiving his friends

3) of preaching the Gospel to as many as would come to hear him

b. the Gospel was not restrained

c. or the apostle restrained from publishing it, both by word of mouth, and by writing

d. this was a great support to him under his troubles

e. the Gospel was the more spread through the bonds of the apostle, and met with great success

1) it became known in Caesar's palace

2) it was the means of the conversion of many soldiers

3) many became bolder to preach the Gospel of Christ

f. the Word of God had a free course, and was glorified

1) his own imprisonment was of comparatively little consequence.

2) What may befall us is of secondary importance if the gospel moves on in triumph

3) The grand thing is the triumph of truth on the earth.

g. The gospel was prospered.

1) it could not be imprisoned

2) it circulated with freedom, even when he who was appointed to preach it was in chains

*“Indeed, when God opens an effectual door, none can shut it, though there be many adversaries; and when he gives the word a commission, there is no stopping it; when it comes in power, it bears down all before it; it cannot be fettered and bound by men, though men may be fettered and bound for the sake of it.”*

B. Liberates from guilt (28:17-18) Rom. 8:1-2

1. Paul’s only “crime” was trusting in Jesus as the Messiah and His death, burial and resurrection as payment for his sin.

2. When we deny or choose to hold back the gospel message, we who are in Christ will live in continual guilt.

C. Liberates from revenge (28:19-20) Rom. 12:19

1. “Vengeance is mine saith the Lord.” ...leave it in His hands.

D. Liberating effect of the gospel. In WWII when the marines captured the island of Saipan, the Japanese ordered the inhabitants to kill themselves by jumping off a cliff. Hundreds of feet below were the rocks and waters of the beach. American translators yelled through bullhorns that if the inhabitants would come to the U. S. side, they would be spared. A few did. Most jumped. Many respond in the same way to the gospel today.

*1. Satan knows he is defeated and tells his followers to go down with him.*

*2. Many are jumping off cliffs today when they could be on their way to heaven.*

a. The cliff of pleasure.

b. The cliff of pride

c. The cliff of plenty

d. The cliff of passion

II. The gospel is an offensive message (28:22).

A. It speaks against RELIGIOUS PRIDE. Matt. 21:33-45

*1. Because God rejects the proud. Rom. 10:3*

*2. Because God receives the humble. Gal. 6:14*

B. It speaks against RELIGIOUS PLURALISM. Acts 4:1-22

*1. Because Pluralism denies the deity of Christ*

*2. Because Pluralism denies the cross of Christ*

*3. Illus. “To the unknown God”*

a. This world today is giving omen to the “unknown” gods of society and religious teachings.

C. It speaks against RACIAL PREJUDICE. Rom. 10:12

*1. Because there is unity in Christ. Gal. 3:28 “all one in Christ”*

a. We do not have the right to pick and choose who we share the message with.

b. We are to follow the Holy Spirit’s leading despite our preferences or our own comfort zone.

*2. Because there is victory in Christ. Eph. 2:11-19*

a. That all may know Him

b. In knowing Him, all will experience the power to overcome in this life

c. all have access by one Spirit unto the Father

*3. Because there is a new start in Christ. 1 Pet. 2:10*

a. Old things are passed away behold all things become new

III. The Gospel is an Enduring Message (28:22-24).

A. It Endures because it is a Scriptural message. (28:23) Jn. 10:35

1. Scripture from Moses

a. not the law of the ten commandments

b. but the five books of Moses

1) in which he wrote of Christ

2) and the types and sacrifices recorded

3) that his writings might be used in proof of Jesus, and the things of him

2. Scripture from the prophets

a. showing the prophecy of Isaiah and others

b. telling of how they foretold Jesus to come

3. The message endures.

a. When tragedy strikes, the Word of God endures.

b. When skeptics scoff, the Word endures.

c. When you doubt, the Word endures.

B. It Endures because it is a Solid message (28:24)

Note: It is not dependent on the opinion of man.

1. Solid despite the thoughts of men – Hammer of Doubt

2. Solid despite the words of men. – Hammer of Slander

3. Solid despite the actions of men. – Hammer of Oppression

4. When you base your life on the solid Rock of Christ, you won’t have to worry about life being moved. Luk. 6:46-49

a. Your salvation stays in place.

b. Your family stays in place.

c. Your mind stays in place.

` d. Your heart stays in place.

e. Your money stays in place.

C. It Endures because it is a Serious Message

**The Anvil**

Last eve I paused before a blacksmith’s door

and heard the anvil ring the vesper chime.

And looking in, I saw old hammers on the floor,

Worn by the beating years of time.

“How many anvils have you had,” said I,

“To wear and batter all these hammers so?”

“Just one,” said he, then with a twinkle in his eyes,

“The anvil wears the hammers out you know.”

And so I thought, the anvil of God’s word,

For ages skeptic blows have beat upon.

Yet though the noise of falling blows was heard

The anvil is unharmed—the hammers gone!

**Conclusion:** We once took it serious enough to receive Christ, but now the urgency of its power has become lost.

The Gospel is unstoppable, because the power of God is beyond our control. But, we however can cause there to be a lack of power in the right place... in our lives, in our church, in our community.