

SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Acts: To Be Continued

TITLE: The End

DATE: June 5, 2016

PASTOR: Charlie Boyd

In Acts, Luke shows Jesus' friends continuing the kingdom mission that Jesus started in his earthly life and ministry. The Book of Acts is all about Jesus' followers continuing his mission in the world. We are the ones God has entrusted with carrying the message of Jesus forward.

In this message, we review the pattern and theme of the Book of Acts as we find ourselves at the end of the story. When we think of our own lives as a story inside God's story, we are empowered to passionately pursue life and mission with Jesus and move the Gospel forward where God has purposefully placed each of us.

Set-up of Acts 28:17-30:

- We find ourselves at the very end of the Book of Acts.
- **The end of a good story interprets the rest of the story.**
- **The most realistic way to think about your life is to think of it as a story.**
- If you were asked to tell the story of your life, how would you tell it? Most of us tell our stories in bullet points, in a factual, chronological way.
- Good stories are more than just the "facts of life". Good stories have purpose and meaning. They have reoccurring or unifying themes.
- The struggles and challenges that we have faced have a role in shaping our story. God uses these "detours" and "dead ends" to write a certain theme in our lives.
- **The most realistic way to think about your life is as a story inside a Story, God's Story.**
- Seeing your life as a story inside God's Story will do for you what it did for the first followers of Jesus:
 1. They understood God's *Why* for their lives.
 2. They saw their lives through a *Big Frame* that enabled them to face times of great hardship and trial as they trusted God even though they didn't always understand his purposes.
 3. They were not obsessed with getting to the "right" place. They only wanted to be headed in the right direction, and they leaned into the Holy Spirit to lead them.
- While writing the Book of Acts, Luke knows that persecution of Christians is on the rise.

- Luke wants to tell this story in a way that encourages followers of Jesus to persevere through trials and suffering, because he wants them to see that nothing can stop the Gospel from advancing and moving forward.
- When you see your life as a story inside God's Story, it empowers you to passionately pursue life and mission with Jesus and move the Gospel forward where God has purposefully placed you.

Summary of Acts:

- At the beginning of the book, Luke introduced us to the direction and pattern of the story: **Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**
- This verse gives us the outline for the entire Book of Acts. When Jesus gave his plan for world missions, his disciples understood his plan to be their *Why*.
- The disciples' *Why* is our *Why*. As followers of Jesus, God has given us our purpose: to tell others about Jesus by putting his life on display in our lives, so that the Gospel moves through us, from our home, to our neighborhood, school, and work, and to the people we come in contact with all over the world.
- To view a summary chart of the Book of Acts, visit our website, fellowshipgreenville.org/sermons

Application from Acts 28:17-30:

1. **Seeing your life as a story within God's story defines your God-given why.**
 2. **Living your life as a story within God's story helps you see everything that comes into your life through a Big Frame.**
 3. **Living your life as a story within God's story helps you not be obsessed with getting to the "right" place.**
- **The Gospel is unhindered because the Spirit is still working through all of us.**

For Discussion:

1. If you had to tell the story of your life up to this point, what would be the reoccurring theme or direction? How would you talk about the "detours" or "dead ends" that you have faced?
2. You are living in God's story, which means you have a part to play. Do you live that way? If not, what would it mean for you to live a totally unhindered life for the Gospel?

3. How can you put Jesus on display and carry the mission forward in your home? In your neighborhood and community? In your school or work and beyond?