

Welcoming All

May 2, 2021

Acts 28:1-31



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

1

30 Paul lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him,
31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

Acts 28:30-31



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

2

1 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when He was taken up, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. 3 To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:1-3



EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH

3

Three timeless lessons from Acts:

God's promises stand

God's power prevails

God's proclamation invites



EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH

4

1 After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. 2 The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold. 3 When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand.

...



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

5

4 When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live.” 5 He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.

...



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

6

6 They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

Acts 28:1-6



EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH

7

11 After three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the island, a ship of Alexandria, with the twin gods as a figurehead. 12 Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. 13 And from there we made a circuit and arrived at Rhegium (Rhe-gee-um). And after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli (puh-tee-uh-loy). 14 There we found brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome....



EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH

8

15 And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage. 16 And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who guarded him.

Acts 28:11-16



EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH

9

“The Lord stood at Paul’s side and said, ‘Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also.’”

Acts 23:11



EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH

10

Acts 1:8

...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

God's promises stand,

and...

God's power prevails



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

11

...I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

12

...I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:3-5



EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH

13

17 After three days Paul called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, “Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. 18 When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case.

...



EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH

14

19 But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I had no charge to bring against my nation. 20 For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.” 21 And they said to him, “We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you.

...



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

15

22 But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.”

Acts 28:17-22



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

16

23 When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.

24 And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieve.

...



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

17

25 And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

26 " 'Go to this people, and say,
"You will indeed hear but never understand,
and you will indeed see but never perceive."

...



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

18

27 For this people's heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed;
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them.'

...



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

19

28 Therefore let it be known to you that this
salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles;
they will listen."

Acts 28:23-28



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

20

6 When they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power...

Acts 1:6-7



EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH

21

29 Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Luke 2:29-32



EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH

22

...and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Luke 3:6



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

23

God's promises stand

God's power prevails

God's proclamation invites



**EMPOWERED PROCLAMATION
THAT GROWS THE CHURCH**

24