



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

December 18, 2011

How It Changes Everything!

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Acts 28:1-31 "Hell Won't Prevail"

You have an enemy and if he can't get you to go to hell he will bring hell to you. (Jn10:10/Matt16:13-20) But Jesus said...Hell won't prevail!

HOW TO FINISH STRONG:

Verses 1-6 **Keep a Godly Perspective**

- After the storm make sure you spend time on your own Malta ("Refuge"). (Mark 1:35)
- During times of recovery you must evaluate how you evaluate the events of life. (2Cor.10:4-5)
- You know you're making progress when you can shake off those things that would otherwise poison your life. (Heb.12:15)

Verses 7-16 **Trust God's Providence**

- God is perfect in love, infinite in wisdom and completely sovereign. (Rom.8:28)
- God makes sense even when He doesn't make sense. (Phil. 1:12-18) See Phil. 4:22 Caesar Household.
- God's power working in you, for you and through you is greater than anything you will ever face. (2Cor.8:9; 9:8)

Verses 17-31 **Make God Your Greatest Passion**

- The story of the universe already has a star and it's not you or me. (Heb. 1:3)

- The point of your life is to point to the beauty and glory of the person & work Jesus Christ. How? Turn your prison cell into a pulpit that proclaims the Gospel. (1Cor.10:31)
- There is not a better life investment or a more exciting adventure this side of heaven than being a part of a church (like DB) that is beholding God's beauty, reflecting His glory & redeeming people's lives for all eternity! (Acts 1:8; Matt. 16:18)



Growing

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- 1) If Luke had ended Acts at chapter twenty we would have had the false impression that if you serve God He will give you victory after victory. Instead from chapters 21-28 we have imprisonment, threatened loss of life, trials, false accusations, storm & ship wreck. As we conclude our study in the book of Acts what does this tell us about the work of God & the Christian life?
- 2) Whatever the capacity for evil & human suffering, the church has a greater capacity for healing & wholeness! How do these verses relate to that statement? (Acts 1:8; John 10:10; Matt. 16:13-20)
- 3) Read Acts 28:1-6. If I'm going to finish strong I must keep a Godly perspective. Explain. Why is it important that after the storm you spend time on your own Malta ("Refuge") & evaluate how you evaluate the events of your life? What things do you need to shake-off after the storm that will otherwise poison you (v5)? (Heb12:15)
- 4) Read Acts 28:7-16. If I'm going to finish strong I must trust God's providence. Explain. When it comes to life's circumstances why is it important to remember that God is perfect in love, infinite in wisdom, completely sovereign & He makes sense even when He doesn't make sense? (Rom8:28; Phil.1:12-18) What role does grace play? (2Cor.8:9; 9:8)
- 5) Read Acts 28:17-31. If I'm going to finish strong I must make God my greatest passion. Explain. What happens when we make ourselves rather than God the star of the story of the universe? What's the point of our lives and how is Paul demonstrating it? What are your thoughts on the last point on the notes? Make it your prayer for db.