

# Acts 28:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

## Analysis

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**For the heart of this people is waxed gross** (ἐπαχύνθη, epachynthē, 'has become dull/thickened')—Paul quotes Isaiah 6:9-10, Jesus' most-cited Old Testament text explaining Jewish rejection. The triple problem—gross hearts, dull ears, closed eyes—depicts willful spiritual insensitivity, not divine causation. **Lest they should see... and hear... and understand... and should be converted, and I should heal them.**

This 'lest' (μήποτε, mēpote) is tragic irony: they avoid healing by rejecting the means of healing. The Greek ἐπιστρέψωσιν (epistrepsōsin, 'be converted') means 'turn back'—they refused the very repentance that would bring God's healing. Paul's final word to Roman Jews diagnosed their fatal pattern: the veil remains when Christ is rejected (2 Corinthians 3:14-16).

## Historical Context

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Acts concludes (AD 61-62) with Paul under house arrest, teaching all who came (28:30-31). His final statement to Roman Jewish leaders explained why Gentiles predominantly filled the church. Isaiah's prophecy provided biblical framework for understanding Israel's rejection and Gentile inclusion in God's purposes.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What spiritual 'dullness' might you be cultivating by avoiding uncomfortable biblical truth?
2. How does understanding judicial hardening inform your evangelism to those who persistently reject the gospel?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐπαχύνθη γὰρ ἡ καρδία τοῦ λαοῦ τούτου καὶ τοῖς  
**is waxed gross** **For** <sup>G3588</sup> **the heart** <sup>G3588</sup> **people** **of this** **and** <sup>G3588</sup>  
G3975 G1063 G2588 G2992 G5127 G2532

ὥσιν βαρέως ἀκούσωσιν καὶ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοῖς αὐτούς  
**ears** **are dull** **hear** **and** <sup>G3588</sup> **eyes** **their**  
G3775 G917 G191 G2532 G3788 G846

ἐκάμυσαν· μήποτε ἴδωσιν τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς καὶ τοῖς  
**have they closed** **lest** **they should see** <sup>G3588</sup> **eyes** **and** <sup>G3588</sup>  
G2576 G3379 G1492 G3788 G2532

ὥσιν ἀκούσωσιν καὶ τῇ καρδίᾳ συνῶσιν καὶ  
**ears** **hear** **and** <sup>G3588</sup> **the heart** **understand** **and**  
G3775 G191 G2532 G2588 G4920 G2532

ἐπιστρέψωσιν καὶ ἰάσωμαι αὐτούς  
**should be converted** **and** **I should heal** **their**  
G1994 G2532 G2390 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 6:10** (Parallel theme): Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

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