

Acts 28:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Analysis

Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ—Acts ends not with Paul's fate but with his message. The participles κηρύσσων (kēryssōn, 'proclaiming, heralding') τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ (tēn basileian tou theou, 'the kingdom of God') and διδάσκων (didaskōn, 'teaching') τὰ περὶ τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ (ta peri tou kyriou Iēsou Christou, 'the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ') summarize Paul's entire ministry—and the church's mission.

With all confidence, no man forbidding him—The final phrase μετὰ πάσης παρρησίας ἀκωλύτως (meta pasēs parrēσίας akōlytōs, 'with all boldness, unhinderedly'). Παρρησία means 'boldness, openness, freedom of speech'—Paul held nothing back. Ἀκωλύτως is rare, emphatic: 'without hindrance, unimpeded.' Though chained, Paul preached freely in the empire's capital. The gospel had traveled from Jerusalem to Rome, from Jewish margins to empire's center, from persecution to bold proclamation. Acts ends mid-story because the story continues—in every believer who proclaims Christ 'with all confidence, no man forbidding.'

Historical Context

This conclusion (c. AD 62) marks 30 years since Jesus's resurrection. The gospel has spread from Jerusalem through Judea, Samaria, Asia Minor, Greece, and now to Rome—fulfilling Acts 1:8. Paul in Rome symbolizes Christianity's arrival at the

heart of imperial power. Within decades, the gospel would permeate the empire; within centuries, it would transform it. Luke's abrupt ending is theologically purposeful: Acts doesn't end because the mission doesn't end. Every generation continues the story, preaching the kingdom 'with all confidence, no man forbidding.' The final word ἀκωλύτως ('unhindered') declares that nothing—persecution, imprisonment, opposition—can stop the gospel.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Acts' open ending challenge you to see your own life as a continuation of the book's narrative of gospel advance?
2. What does it mean to preach 'with all confidence' in contexts that seem limiting or hostile, as Paul did from house arrest?
3. In what areas of life might you be allowing perceived hindrances to silence your gospel witness, when Paul's example calls for 'unhindered' proclamation?

Interlinear Text

κηρύσσων	τὴν	βασιλείαν	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	καὶ	διδάσκων	
proclaiming	the	kingdom	G3588	of God	and	teaching	
G2784	G3588	G932		G2316	G2532	G1321	
τὰ	περὶ	τοῦ	Κυρίου	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	μετὰ	πάσης
the things	concerning	the	Lord	Jesus	Christ	with	all
G3588	G4012	G3588	G2962	G2424	G5547	G3326	G3956
παρρησίας	ἀκωλύτως						
boldness	unhinderedly						
G3954	G209						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 4:29 (References Lord): And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

Acts 28:23 (Kingdom): And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

Matthew 4:23 (Kingdom): And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Acts 20:25 (Kingdom): And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

Acts 8:12 (Kingdom): But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

2 Timothy 4:17 (References Lord): Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

Acts 4:31 (References God): And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Philippians 1:14 (References Lord): And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Acts 5:42 (References Jesus): And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

Luke 8:1 (Kingdom): And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,