

19th July 2026

Acts 28:11-31 sermon continues after recording ends

Uniquely, God has become human as the man Jesus Christ. Jesus bridges the gap between God and man. Jesus reconnects us to God and begins healing our twisted souls and darkened minds. There is a rescue, a salvation, that begins the moment you trust Jesus, and will certainly lead to an eternity of blessing.

But this kingdom comes to those who will listen. Which implies two very important things about the salvation Jesus brings.

a) Salvation comes as news from outside ourselves. Salvation is not about finding something good and strong enough inside ourselves to overcome the darkness. It is not something we can figure out by scientific investigation. Salvation is something God has done in Jesus. And he not only does the rescue but send us the message of the rescue- the good news, which is the gospel. That is why Paul coming to Rome is such a big deal. He is one of the apostles, the ambassadors of Jesus. Jesus is the King bringing God's kingdom into this world. He has appointed Paul as an ambassador or herald. And Paul has reached Rome, and is free to pass on the news of rescue, the message of salvation. That is significant this morning- if you are new to Christian things, you are hearing something you could not figure out- a message from God about how you can be rescued now and for eternity.

b) Salvation is by trusting the news about Jesus. Salvation comes to those who listen. This tells us that salvation is not received by what we do. It is not a matter of self discipline, to try and be better. it is not a matter of being more religious, adding in church attendance and prayer to impress

God. Salvation comes to those who hear the message about Jesus- who listen- and who trust that message as true in their hearts. Who say to God- I hear your message of love and rescue through Jesus. I know I am trapped in evil and brokenness. I need Jesus. I welcome him as my King and rescuer. I'm going to follow him. It's basically saying- yes I hear this message about Jesus. Yes I believe that it is true. Yes, I intend to live as if it is true. You could do that today.

Jesus brings salvation to all who will listen. His rescue is not something we could deduce or find for ourselves. It is a message of a rescue God has done for us. His rescue is not received by our efforts or performance. But by hearing and trusting the message, welcoming Jesus into our lives as King and rescuer.

Vv29-31 Jesus is the good news for everyone

³⁰ For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. ³¹ He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ – with all boldness and without hindrance! Paul welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed the kingdom of God, the good news of Jesus as King and rescuer.

Jesus is good news for everyone. If you have not known and received him, then you can receive him today. You can receive him as good news. As the one who brings forgiveness for the things you feel guilty for. As the one who removes all God's anger at the evil you have done. And as the Spirit giver, who pours the love and power of God into your heart by his Spirit. Receive Jesus. For those of us who have been Christians for a while, we might need reminding. If Christianity has become dry and burdensome, come back to hearing the good news and receiving Jesus in. Perhaps

allow yourself to hand over to Jesus your sins, your struggles, and remembering that he forgives your sins, and carries you in your struggles.

And having received Jesus, we're invited to be like Paul proclaiming Christ. We are Trojan horses for Christ in a world ruled by Satan. Wherever we go, though we are part of this world, we carry the Kingdom of God inside us. We bring Jesus the King and his good news of rescue in us. When we go to work, or school, or home, or running club, or art group, or shops, we carry the kingdom with us.

So are we known, like Paul, as those who welcome all, and who proclaim the kingdom of God and teach about Jesus? Our circumstances may not be perfect. Paul was under house arrest. Work can be hard. Home can be complicated. School can be frustrating. But we don't have to wait for perfect conditions to pass on the message of Jesus. In fact, he is good news in the mess of a broken world.

So as we reach the end of Acts, we see that the risen Jesus continues to grow God's kingdom by people proclaiming the message of Jesus- king and rescuer. We're invited to receive Jesus- as Debbie's baptism will proclaim she has. We're invited to proclaim Jesus- as Debbie will do in her baptism.