

GOOD NEWS
for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#12)
Living AND *speaking* the truth,
though the world may *hate* you for it.

TELLING PEOPLE THE GOOD NEWS
WHEN THEY HAVE **NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE**

The two main passages with this focus are:

	CHAPTER IN ACTS	WHO WAS THE AUDIENCE	FOCUS OF THE GOOD NEWS
Already Looked At	14	Gentiles (no knowledge of the Bible)	GOD (some basic foundational issues)
Already Looked At	17b	Gentiles (no knowledge of the Bible); possibly others	GOD (foundational issues); JESUS

A few comments TODAY (Further insights may be found in other passages.)

FURTHER INSIGHTS FOUND IN OTHER PASSAGES.

- **Acts 27-28** – Paul spends quite some time with people who would *not* have been familiar with the Bible.
 - Here, we learn some important things... but *not* about Paul's message.
- **OTHER EXAMPLES?**
 - Quite often, Paul first went to people who were familiar with the Bible, and then others would join in.
 - In a few passages, there is not enough information to know how much they understood.

ACTS 27 & 28 – LIVING THE TRUTH
(NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT IT)

- Luke's main focus is describing how they got to Rome, *not* how Paul proclaimed the Good News.

And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, ...
Acts 27:1a (NASB)

HOWEVER:

- There are several instances of Paul interacting with unsaved people.
- We can learn something from these examples – mainly about basic God-honoring interpersonal relationships.

(ACTS 27 – ON THE BOAT)

PAUL – ABLE TO BE TRUSTED, EVEN AS A PRISONER

- His general conduct, as a prisoner, was such that it earned the respect and trust of the commander (the centurion) who was in charge.

The next day we arrived at the city of Sidon. Julius [the centurion] treated Paul kindly and allowed him to visit his friends and receive any care he needed.
Acts 27:3 (GW)

- By the time they reached Sidon, the commander knew that **he could trust Paul** to go visit his friends and *return to the boat!*
 - (Most prisoners would probably try to escape!)

PAUL'S GOD – ABLE TO BE TRUSTED, EVEN IN THE WORST OF CIRCUMSTANCES

- Though Paul mildly *rebuked* them for not listening to his previous warnings (27:9-20), he also *encouraged* them by telling them that God had promised to keep everyone alive.

Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, "Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you."
So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.
Acts 27:23-25 (NIV)

- By the time it was over, everyone knew that **the God Paul served could be trusted.**

ENCOURAGEMENT BASED ON GOD'S PROMISES

- The day before the shipwreck, Paul encouraged them to eat and get ready; and reminded them that God had promised to spare all their lives.
- Then he publicly, unashamedly **gave thanks to God** in front of them all.

After Paul said this, he took some bread, thanked God in front of everyone, broke it, and began to eat.

Everyone was encouraged and had something to eat.

Acts 27:35-36 (GW)

- These events would leave a lasting impression on the minds of the hearers. *The God of Paul was totally different from any "god" that the others might have followed.*

(ACTS 28 – ON THE ISLAND)

[SOME BACKGROUND OBSERVATIONS]

1. We are only told about what Paul did, not what he might have said.
 - Today, most people want to believe that Paul preached to the islanders; but the text doesn't say either way. (There might have also been a language barrier.)

The islanders showed us unusual kindness. ... the chief official of the island ... entertained us hospitably.

Acts 28:2a, 7b (NIV)

2. Kindness and hospitality are NOT proof of salvation!
 - The islanders had kindness and hospitality; yet they were fickle and superstitious idolaters!
 - Unsaved people can do humanitarian deeds (though they fail to honor God while doing so).

BEING A BLESSING TO ALL

- Paul was willing to work to help others, rather than lazily watching others do the work (v. 3).

Paul gathered a bundle of brushwood and put it on the fire.

Acts 28:3a (GW)

- Regardless of the people's response (good or bad), Paul was a blessing to them.

[The officer's] father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.

When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.

Acts 28:8-9 (NIV)

SUMMARY – Acts 27-28

- We do not know if any of the prisoners or islanders ever turned to Jesus. (Someday we will find out.)
- *But we do know that Paul was willing to LIVE the TRUTH under all circumstances...*

❖ *With integrity.* ❖ *In front of others.*

→ *This is the example we ought to follow!*



Then, if the world opposes us, it WON'T be due to sin on our part.



(LIVING the TRUTH, both in conduct and speech)

PRACTICAL BENEFITS OF FOLLOWING PAUL'S EXAMPLE

- **Expressing the Good News will become more natural.**
 - **BECAUSE:** You won't have to be transitioning back and forth between "not including God" and "including God" in what you do and say!
- **Your life will be more consistent and less hypocritical.**
- **It might have a beneficial effect on your interaction with the unsaved** (though this is not 100% guaranteed).
 - **BECAUSE:** It will remove unnecessary offenses caused by faulty character traits. (Then, if they still oppose you, it will be because they oppose Jesus.)

What if they don't want to listen? (1)

- **When people don't want to hear...** maybe it's time to tell someone else. (That's what Paul often did.)
 - **EXAMPLE:** Paul often went to the Jews first... but if they rejected the Good News, he moved on.

Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles."

Acts 13:46 (NIV)

(NOTE: Some people might begin with a hostile response... but change as God works in their lives.)

What if they don't want to listen? (2)

- You might not be able to say:
"Let me tell you about Jesus."

- There may still be things you can do.

Some of the things Paul did in Acts 27-28.

- ✓ Expressing one's own trust in God.
- ✓ Publicly giving thanks to God.
- ✓ Being a blessing to all who are present.

**The WORLD'S
LOVE for SIN... HOSTILITY to TRUTH**

- People don't always respond with hostility, but hostile responses are increasing.
➤ **WHY? BECAUSE:** we live in a world characterized by:
 - ✓ increasing LOVE for sin, and
 - ✓ increasing INTOLERANCE for truth.

**NOW I'M READY FOR YOU
TO SAY SOMETHING!**



THIS HOSTILITY IS NOT 100% OF THE TIME, BUT IT'S FREQUENCY IS INCREASING.

**The WORLD
has a LOVE AFFAIR with SIN.**

It wants to **PULL** the grossest of sins "out of the closet."

BECAUSE

It wants to **PUSH** every form of righteousness "into the closet."

- And close the door.
- And lock it shut.
- And chain it shut.
- And weld it shut.



WARNING!

**WE LIVE IN THE MOST INTOLERANT ERA
IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY.**

- No matter how you speak the truth, most people – especially the younger generation – will not tolerate it.
- They will accuse YOU of being:
 - ✓ INTOLERANT ✓ HYPOCRITICAL ✓ BIGOTED
 - ✓ JUDGMENTAL ✓ HATEFUL ✓ "PHOBIC"
 - ✓ UNLOVING ✓ AND SO MUCH MORE

*** They will do everything they can to SILENCE you. ***

**MANY* (NOT ALL) WILL
RESPOND THIS WAY.**

Brothers and sisters, **don't be surprised** if the world hates you.

1 John 3:13 (GW)

**WE DON'T
WANT TO
SEE IT!**

**WE DON'T
WANT TO
HEAR IT!**

**WE DON'T
WANT YOU TO
TALK ABOUT IT!**



*** (The number who respond this way is increasing.)**

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

**Follow
Paul's
example.**

If you do, you can rest assured that any hostility from the world is not your fault.

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me [Paul], or seen in me [Paul]--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Philip. 4:9 (NIV)

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