

Subject	Lessons from Acts	4428
		Acts 28
Title	7 Lessons from Acts 28	
Proposition	To study Acts 28 looking for lessons to help us follow the pattern of the New Testament church.	
Objective	So that we can be the kind of people God would have us to be.	

7 LESSONS FROM ACTS 28

Introduction:

1. The shipwrecked passengers and crew were all saved alive, fulfilling Paul's prophecy made at a moment when all hope had perished.
2. The population of Malta aided in the rescue, building a fire and 'receiving' them kindly.
 - 1) Paul was bitten by a snake (Acts 28:1-6).
 - 2) Hospitality was extended to the victims of shipwreck by the first man of the island.
 - 3) Paul miraculously provided many cures of the sick and suffering of Malta (Acts 28:7-10).
3. The voyage to Rome was continued after three months, ending very shortly at Puteoli, terminal port of the grain ship.
 - 1) Then by land, Paul soon arrived in Rome, being greeted by brethren on the way (Acts 28:11-16).
 - 2) As always, Paul sought and obtained first an interview with Jewish leaders who set a day to hear him a week later (Acts 28:17-22).
4. The Jews of Rome, as invariably throughout Paul's ministry, rejected Christ, despite the fact that some believed (Acts 28:23-28).
5. The Book of Acts is concluded by a brief summary of the two whole years of Paul's imprisonment; and the curtain rings down with Paul still in prison, because, when Luke wrote, the apostle's release, although pending, had not yet occurred (Acts 28:30-31) [Coffman].

DISCUSSION: One LESSON from Acts

1. A prophecy is fulfilled, but will NOT be fulfilled in the 1st Century (5, Mk 16.17-18).

- Acts 28:4-5** And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. (5) And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.
1. **Mark 16:17-18** And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; (18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.
 2. **Our Pentecostal friends love the passage from Mark where Jesus prophesies about those who follow Him taking up serpents.**
 - 1) **Jesus does indeed make that statement.**
 - 2) **Some want to take that last part of Mark out of our Bibles, but it belongs in it.**
 - 3) **Paul is one person whom the Lord allowed to pick up a serpent, right here in the last chapter of Acts.**
 - 4) **Thus, what Jesus said would happen DID HAPPEN.**
 - 5) **There is no necessity for that activity to continue on indefinitely!**

3. If someone is going to prove that it is God's will for men TODAY to pick up serpents, he will have to consider the totality of Bible teaching on such supernatural activity.
4. As with any other doctrine or topic of study, we must find all of the relevant passages and study them carefully!
5. I would suggest that the failing of the pentecostals is that have ignored the plainly presented TRUTH of 1 Corinthians 13.8-10.
 - 1) Let's read it: 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 **Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. (9) For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. (10) But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.**
 - 2) Paul lists the NINE spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12.8-10.
 - 3) In 13.8 Paul lists three of the nine and it seems obvious he is allowing them to represent all nine gifts rather than writing them out again.
 - 1- Prophecies shall fail.
 - 2- Tongues shall cease.
 - 3- Knowledge shall vanish away.
 - 4) In other words, these supernatural gifts are to be TEMPORARY and NOT PERMANENT.
 - 5) Understanding the PURPOSE of miracles is quite important.
 - 1- If we understand WHY the Lord used supernatural gifts, we can more easily understand why they were only TEMPORARY.
 - 2- One of the clearest statements of the PURPOSE for miracles (signs) is given in John 20:30-31 **And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: (31) But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.**
 - 3- John tells us that the reason he recorded the miracles Jesus did was to convince us to BELIEVE.
 - 4- That is also the reason God gave certain men the power to do miracles.
 - 5- It would open the minds of people to the true gospel message that person was teaching.
 - 6) But remember that verse 10 of 1 Corinthians 13 has a time element.
 - 1- **At a certain time** the partial gifts (miracles) would be done away.
 - 2- The time that would take place was **WHEN THAT WHICH IS PERFECT IS COME.**
 - 3- What is the PERFECT?—The only thing it could be is the completed WRITTEN revelation.
 - 4- No longer would the words of teachers be dependent upon the ability to do a miracle, but NOW, one could read it from inspired Scripture.
5. If those who continue to claim miraculous powers could be convinced to study this matter carefully and with an open mind, the truth might win them over.

One LESSON from Acts

2. Christians united, strongly IMPACT preaching of the word (15).

Acts 28:15 And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage.

1. Paul has finally arrived **so close** to the place he had been wanting to preach for a few years.
 - 1) In the 1st Century Rome was a very important place—Paul wanted to encourage the brethren there and seek to add to it by teaching Jews of Rome.
 - 2) Acts 2.10 lets us know that on Pentecost Day when the gospel was first preached there were some there from ROME.
 - 3) How wonderful it is that the gospel had already spread to Rome.
 - 4) Perhaps it reached Rome because those from Rome went back to their home and spread the saving message.
2. The **FIRST** thing Paul saw as he got near to Rome was a group of fellow-believers, which meant so very much to him.
 - 1) They had walked out 30 or 40 miles to greet Paul.
 - 2) That greeting party looked especially wonderful to this soldier of the cross who loved his brethren so much.
 - 3) He had been through the harrowing experience of a shipwreck and the Lord had delivered him now to brethren who would encourage him.
3. **TOOK COURAGE**, here, the sense of the expression is: *to be inspired with confidence—be given hope or courage.*
 - 1) Paul had written to these brethren the amazing **Book of Romans**.
 - 2) **Romans 1:8** *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.*
 - 3) **Romans 1:9** *For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;*
4. I am confident that Paul would likewise have been a great encouragement to these Christians at Rome-- **Romans 1:10-11** *Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. (11) For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;.*
5. The option that is available to every Christian is to **encourage** or **discourage** the preaching of the gospel.
 - 1) Sometime it would be well to consider which choice we have made.
 - 2) Are we happy with our choice?

One LESSON from Acts

3. Paul's **CONSTANT** target for evangelism was unbelieving Jews (17).

Acts 28:17 And it came to pass, that **after three days Paul called the chief of the Jews together**: and when they were come together, he said unto them, Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

1. Paul had been an **UNBELIEVING** Jew **BUT** he now was **IN CHRIST**—he understood where they were and he knew where they were headed.

2. Paul wanted to divert them away from the pathway to eternal punishment.
3. In verse 17 Paul was demonstrating GREAT LOVE by seeking to bless these unbelieving Jews with the most important gift they had ever received.
4. Notice verse 24... Acts 28:24 **And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.**
5. As you and I consider our own position IN CHRIST, is there some person or group of people that we used to be part of that we could TARGET with the beautiful gospel of Christ?

One LESSON from Acts

4. As was the case at Rome in the 1st Century, so TODAY (22).

Acts 28:22 **But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against.**

1. In the 1st Century the church of Christ was MISUNDERSTOOD!
2. In the 21st Century the church of Christ IS misunderstood!
3. There have been so many FALSE and HATEFUL statements made about the church of Christ.
4. In a world that claims to exalt pluralism and tolerance, a church that simply appeals that we GO BACK TO THE BIBLE is singled out as divisive and to be shunned.
5. HOW SAD!
 - 1) Can we work on a way to convince our lost friends and neighbors that our appeal is VALID?
 - 2) Can we seek to listen and understand how they have been misled and led astray from what the Bible actually teaches?
 - 3) Can we dedicate ourselves anew to understanding what the Bible teaches so that we can pass it on more effectively to others?
6. The message of Col 3.17 has to be explained in a clear and honest fashion with the sentiment of Ephesians 4:15 guiding us... **But speaking the truth in love...**

One LESSON from Acts

5. Even an INSPIRED APOSTLE was not always successful in converting the lost (24).

Acts 28:24 **And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.**

1. There is NO WAY to make someone accept and obey the gospel!
2. The FACT that only SOME believed the things that a person who had been guided into ALL TRUTH shows us we will not always be successful.
3. If we make the attempt to teach and we receive the same response Paul did, we still can keep on keeping on.
4. After all, Paul did tell the Corinthian saints— 1 Corinthians 3:6 **I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.**
 - 1) When we try to teach a lost person and they do not respond, surely they will hold on to some of what they learn from us.
 - 2) Another Christian may come along and build upon what has already been taught and then all can simply depend upon God to GIVE THE INCREASE!

One LESSON from Acts

6. Paul's view of INSPIRATION is seen (25).

Acts 28:25 And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,

1. Paul told those Jews that what Isaiah wrote down in Isaiah 6.9ff, was written with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
2. These words in Scripture are different from what we read on Facebook or from the newspaper.
3. These words came to us directly from God.
4. God communicated with His creation by means of words written down by Holy-Spirit-Inspired men!

One LESSON from Acts

7. FINAL words from a broken-hearted preacher (27).

Acts 28:27 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.

1. Rather than do a survey of what these Jews really wanted to hear and then telling them those things, Paul confronted those unbelieving Jews with TRUTH.
2. Regarding the Gospel of Christ, there is no OPTION of changing the message to suit the hearers.
3. Paul warned Timothy about doing this: 2 Timothy 4:1-2 **I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; (2) Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**
4. It is quite obvious that Paul was broken-hearted at the response of these Jews!
5. He loved them and wanted them to be saved.
6. All he could do was to preach the message God gave him and allow them to make their own decision about it.
7. His MO is repeated here in Rome just as always—He would turn to the Gentiles with the saving message— **Acts 28:28 Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.**

Conclusion:

1. We have considered 196 lessons from the Book of Acts.
2. I hope you will search the Book and find 196 of your own.
3. How blessed we are to have such an instructive Book of History in our Bibles!