ACTS CHAPTER 29

**DATE: 3/23/2011 Wed.**

**TEXT: Acts 28:30, 31**

**INTRODUCTION**

(Ask the congregation to turn with you to the 29th chapter of the Book of Acts)

Obviously, there is no 29th chapter of the Book of Acts

However, we are living in that time right now!

Actually we will be in **Acts 28:30, 31**

What I mean by this is, we are living in a time when the Holy Spirit is still active in the world

A time when God is still trying to win the lost to Jesus

A time when witnesses to the truth of the Gospel are still badly needed

As we look at the 2 closing verses of Acts, we see the Apostle Paul busily engaged in the work of witnessing

He lays down the pattern that we are to follow as we live out Acts Chapter 29 in our lives

You see, our Duty in these last days is that we busy ourselves with spreading the Gospel and in winning the lost to Christ

The sad thing is that so many are doing just the opposite!

 This is our Mandate, this is our Call and this is our Mission

(a Mandate is an official command or instruction from an authority)

Tonight, let's take a few minutes to look at these 2 verses and glean some lessons that will help us do the work of God in these last days

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “SCOPE” OF PAUL'S MINISTRY – v.30**

***“and received all that came in unto him,”***

**A.** Paul received “***all”*** who came to him

He didn't discriminate, but shared Christ with all who crossed his path

If someone will take a minute to look at the ministry of the great Apostle,

It is very apparent that Paul was a witness for Jesus

He shared the Gospel with both great and small that he might win some to Jesus

Turn to **I Corinthians 9:19-23**

→ **Acts 9:20** - The Jews in the synagogue

→ **Acts 9:29** - The Greeks

→ **Acts 13:14-19** - To both Jews and Gentiles in Antioch

→ **Acts 16:12-15** - To Lydia in Philippi

→ **Acts 16:23-33** - To the Philippian jailer and his family

→ **Acts 17:22-34** - To the Greeks in Athens

→ **Acts 24:22-25** - To Felix the governor

→ **Acts 26:1-32** - To King Agrippa

→ **Acts 27:22-29** - To some sailors on a ship

→ **Philippians 4:22** - To those of Caesar's household

**B.** Paul realized that every person he met was a candidate for salvation

Therefore, he did not discriminate, but reached out to all in the love of God

Paul certainly had a heart for the lost –

**Romans 9:3 – *“For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:”***

**Romans 10:1 *–“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved”***

**C.** What a lesson for us!

We must never forget that the fields ***“are white already to harvest”***

**John 4:35 – *“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest”***

And, that Jesus desires to save all men –

**II Peter 3:9 – *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”***

**II Corinthians 5:14 – *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:”***

**I Timothy 2:4 – “*Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”***

The door of salvation is open to ***“whosoever will”***

Therefore, we must reach out to all whom cross our path

No human is beyond the reach of God's great love for sinners!

They all need to hear, but they will need someone to tell them about Jesus

**Romans 10:13-17**

Is that preacher you?

**Ill.** Imagine being a salesman with a product that every person in the world needed. No matter who you met, they needed what you were selling. Not all would buy, but just knowing that everyone needed your product would give you great confidence in presenting it.

So it is with salvation

Every person who crosses our path needs to hear the message of salvation

Not all will receive it, but some will

Those who do, make it worth the effort

Whether they receive it or not, it still helps to know that they need it anyway

It isn't always easy to witness and the people we meet don't make it any easier,

But they all need Jesus and they all need to hear the Gospel

Just look for opportunities to share it

**Ill.** Dr. Hyles stopped into a restaurant to buy an inexpensive meal. A waitress approached him and in a rather abrupt voice demanded, "Can I help you?" "Yes, ma'am." "You want our special for the day?" "Yes, ma'am." "Coffee with your order?" "Yes, ma'am," he replied absent-mindedly, for his mind was occupied with other matters. Suddenly the uncongenial waitress flared up, exclaiming sarcastically, "Is that all you can say?" Before he could catch himself, he once again replied, "Yes, ma'am!" With a curse she stamped away in disgust and anger. When the food was ready, she almost threw it on the table and showed contempt with every action. After his meal he left the waitress a $50 tip. As he was paying the cashier, the discourteous waitress called, "Sir, you left this money on the table!" He replied "Isn't that the usual place to leave a tip?", smiling at her warmly. The girl blushed and then began to make apologies for her attitude. Bro. Hyles said cordially, "I figured you must have some heavy burdens on your heart or you wouldn't have been so easily upset. I thought a good tip might encourage you." By this time the girl was brokenhearted, and she told him of the many problems facing her. Before he left the restaurant, he was able to lead that waitress to the Lord!

Sinners are all around us, So finding people to witness to isn't a problem

You never know where God is working, so tell all you meet about our wonderful Savior

**THE “SCOPE” OF PAUL’S MINISTRY**

**II. THE “SCHEME” OF PAUL'S MINISTRY – v.31**

**A.** Paul spent his days pointing men to Jesus!

He knew that the greatest need of their soul was for a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ

Therefore, he didn't spend time talking about Paul's opinion,

He just pointed them to Jesus, the place where real help can be found!

This was a trait shared by many men in the early days of the church

→ Philip - **Acts 8:35**

→ Peter - **Acts 3:20**

→ The converts of Stephen - **Acts 11:20**

**B.** Our message isn't about this church, some denomination, or our personal opinions

Our message is about Jesus and His Death, Burial and Resurrection and His love for sinners

After all, it isn't our Persuasiveness, our Wit, our Wisdom or our Familiarity with Baptist doctrine that saves,

It is the Gospel of Christ and it alone that has the power of salvation

**Ill.** The Testimony of an Insurance Salesman (insert)

Notice what Paul says in **Romans 1:16 –**

***“I am not ashamed of the Gospel”***

There are times when you may have to be ashamed of your denomination or of your church,

But you never have to be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ

It never Changes, never Compromises, never Weakens and never Fails –

**Isaiah 55:11 – *“So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it”***

**C.** Let us learn that as we go through life, our highest duty before God and to our fellow man is to share the Gospel of a loving Savior with a lost and dying world

Let's point them to Jesus and then point them to Calvary

**THE “SCOPE” OF PAUL’S MINISTRY**

**THE “SCHEME” OF PAUL’S MINISTRY**

**III. THE “SUCCESS” OF PAUL'S MINISTRY – v.31**

**A.** The success of Paul's ministry did not lie in the number of conversions he obtained

He was successful because he was faithfully carrying out the Great Commission,

**Matthew 28:19, 20, Mark 16:15**

The Great Commission is a Call and a Command that is given to every Christian

**Ill.** As R. A. Torrey was preaching one day, he noticed a young lawyer in his audience to whom he had often presented the claims of the Gospel. At the close of the service he greeted the man and inquired if he had yet received the Lord. "Yes," said his friend. "I now consider myself a full- fledged Christian." Torrey was delighted, but then he added, "I suppose you are seeking to bring others to the Savior?" "No, I'm not," he replied. "I don't believe that's my business, it's yours. I feel called to practice law, not to preach." Torrey sat down with him and opened his Bible to the eighth chapter of Acts. Pointing to verse 4, he said, "Here, see what is said about the early Christians." His lawyer friend read aloud, "...they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." Stopping abruptly, he objected, "Oh, but those were just the apostles." "Please look at the first verse of the chapter." The lawyer was amazed to read, "...and they were ALL scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles." The evangelist reminded him that the Lord expects all His children in some way to tell others of His grace. "No matter what your regular work may be," said Torrey, "you should also be engage in witnessing."

**B.** The same truth applies to us as well

We may not see people saved every day

We may go months or even years and never personally lead a soul to Jesus

However, we are successful in the work if we are faithful to witness at every opportunity

Not all Christians are reapers

Some are planters, some are sent to water, but all are essential to the work of soul winning

Ultimately, it is God who decides who is a planter or a reaper,

**I Corinthians 3:6-8**

Our duty is to be faithful to share

**C.** Please do not misunderstand me, you may not be winning souls,

But be sure that you are witnessing as you go through life

Opportunities for witnessing abound!

Our duty is to be ready when one presents itself to us –

**I Peter 3:15 – *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”***

Never feel that you can't witness

All of Christ's Disciples were just ordinary men until He called them and changed them

Jesus took them as they were, saved them and placed them into His harvest

**Mark 4:20 – “*And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred”***

By His power, Jesus made them something they hadn't formerly been

By the way, He has done the same thing for every true child of God - **Acts 1:8**

The Holy Ghost is the source of soul winning power!

**CONCLUSION**

Shame on the Christian who simply won't witness

We need men and women who aren't afraid to stand up and tell a lost world about Jesus

If you are saved, you have a responsibility to the lost around you

Please get busy telling everybody before it is forever too late

What have you been doing to reach the lost around you?

If you haven't been sharing your faith and feel convicted about it, then I invite you to make it right this evening

God is looking for some people who will be His spokesmen in this day

As Acts 29 continues to unfold, will you be the one who will go for God into this lost world?

Will you share Jesus with the fallen?

**Closing Prayer**

**Invitation**

**THE “SCOPE” OF PAUL’S MINISTRY**

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