

## “The Unhindered Gospel”

**Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.**

### Message Summary

Paul planted many churches all over Galatia and Macedonia and all points in between. He spent more than 2 years in prison because of his faith in Jesus Christ. He experienced much hardship and a treacherous shipwreck. But Paul finally fulfilled his desire to preach the Gospel in Rome (Romans 1:15). He went there to appeal to Caesar because he had been wrongly accused by his own countrymen of preaching against Moses and the Prophets. This servant of Jesus Christ was now a prisoner of Rome and his life was weighing in the balance.

But when we read the final verses of the book of Acts we don’t see Paul appealing to Caesar nor do we learn Paul’s fate. Rather, we see Paul preaching the Gospel to the Jews and to all who came to him. Why the shift in focus? The answer is simple. Even though Paul was in chains, the Gospel however, was not chained (2 Timothy 2:9)! As a matter of fact, the last word of the Greek text is unhindered. So in these final words of the book of Acts, rather than focusing on Paul and his appeal, we see Luke focus our attention on the unhindered Gospel.

This is the story of the book of Acts. From the moment Jesus gave His command to His disciples to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth, we see them do this through the power of the Holy Spirit. We see Jesus as the hero of the story. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. The whole story of Acts demonstrates Jesus using His disciples as a conduit through which He builds His kingdom and rules and reigns in the hearts of people. Jesus had promised them that He would build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18)!

With that said, the last sermon in the Upside Down series focused on challenging believers to live as a conduit through which Jesus’ Unhindered Gospel turns the world upside down. It is our prayer that each believer lives in such a way that this message of hope and grace saturates the culture and Jesus’ Kingdom is built up; not for our glory but for the glory of the only One worthy of worship and praise!

How will you live out these challenges? Will you demonstrate to your community that Jesus is the only hope for the world? Will you saturate your culture with the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Will you dedicate your resources, time, talents, and treasures, for the sake of the Kingdom? Will you offer the Gospel freely to all? As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine these questions and be prepared to discuss how you plan to apply these challenges to your life so that you might live as a conduit through which the Unhindered Gospel turns the world upside down!

### Message Outline

**Let’s live our lives as a conduit through which the Unhindered Gospel turns the world upside down!**

Four Challenges:

1. Let’s demonstrate the Gospel is the only hope for the world.
2. Let’s saturate our culture with the Gospel.
3. Let’s dedicate our resources to Kingdom building.
4. Let’s offer the Gospel freely to all.

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### **Group Discussion**

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Acts 28:17-31:

1. What does this passage say about God’s character?
2. What is God doing here? How does this passage fit in the overall narrative of the Bible?
3. What is God saying about me?
4. Where am I not living by faith? How do I return to faith?
5. How should I practice this in everyday life?

### **Weekly Prayer Focus**

- **Church:**
  - Pray that God would give us new believers and covenant members.
  - Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
  - Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
  - Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
  - Pray for the Missional Communities to establish their goals and objects and begin to live them out.
- **Local:**
  - Pray for the Friday Night Beach Bonfire Outreach.
  - Pray for revival to begin in the hearts of those who attend the Great Awakening Prayer gathering on August 30, 2015 at Village Baptist Church in Destin.
  - Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
  - Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- **Global:**
  - Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
  - Pray for the new believer in SEA and for those who have heard the Gospel.
  - Pray for A&M in SEA and their team as they seek to lead a church planting movement among the unreached.
  - Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger
  - Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay
  - Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.