

SUNDAY RECAP | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look ahead. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

RECAP FOR: Sunday, July 22, 2018

Take me directly to:

1. [PREPARE for this Sunday](#)
2. [REFLECT on last Sunday](#)
3. [Further Reflection and Study](#) (resources, questions, etc.)
4. [Resources for Kids \(and Parents\)](#)
5. [Sermon Review](#)

PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Pre-Gathering Prayer//

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;

let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

—Psalm 95:1-2

// Call to Worship //

Leader: O God, we joyously come together to worship,

realizing we need not summon you into our midst,

for you are here. We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts, for you are there.

Congregation: We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see you;

our ears to be unstopped, that we may hear you;

our minds to be sensitive, that we may know you;

our hearts to be tender, that we may receive you.

Leader: Grant each one a blessing, O Lord, as each has need,

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: Dear heavenly Father, for the welcome we receive as we come into your presence, we praise you;

For the freedom to call you Abba, Father, we adore you;

For the assurance of your daily mercies and steadfast love, we worship you.

Congregation: There is no other god like you—none more worthy to be loved with all our heart and soul, mind and strength.

Leader: You know our weaknesses, and do not despise them.
You know our brokenness, and will not shame us.
You know our sorrows, and are filled with compassion.
You know our foolishness, and promise more grace.
With our eyes fixed on Jesus—the author and perfecter of our faith, we ask you to forgive us.
Forgive us for hurting people we love by our impatience and irritation, by our lack of listening and our un-kept promises.

Congregation: Forgive us for thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought, and thinking of others less compassionately than they deserve.

Leader: Forgive us for giving more power to what others say about us in public, than what you say about us in heaven.

Forgive us for being too busy to behold your beauty in your Word; meditate on your mercies in Christ, and hear you sing to us in the gospel.

Congregation: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on me.

// Assurance of Pardon //

Leader: In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,
we are assured that there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive,
no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal.

God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free.

Receive the forgiving love of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

// Passing of the Peace //

Were it not for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we would be standing here as disconnected individuals, but now, because of what Jesus has done for us, we are God's family-- brothers and sisters to one another. Realizing that great truth, let's take a moment to welcome one another here this morning.

// Benediction //

Leader: Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

—Colossians 3:17

Peace be with you!

Congregation: And also with you!

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Pre-Gathering Prayer//

Heavenly Father, we come to worship you today. We come to sing, pray, and listen. You always hear us. Help us to hear you. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

Leader: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us and we are his

Congregation: we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

Congregation: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

—Psalm 100

VBS Song: [Never Let Go of Me](#)

VBS Song: [Soon and Very Soon](#)

[Beautiful Things](#)

[Psalm 34 Taste and See](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

Just as God has extended Peace to us in Jesus Christ, let us also extend peace to one another. Please take a moment to greet those around you.

[Build Your Kingdom Here](#)

// Benediction //

Leader: As you go from this place, remember, you are the beloved children of God. He is in you and is going to speak through you to those around you. Go with confidence in our great God. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

Peace be with you!

Congregation: And also with you!

FURTHER REFLECTION & STUDY ([back to table of contents](#))

Scripture to Meditate On:

Acts 28:30–31

He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

Reflection Questions:

- In our Call To Worship we read from Psalm 100 which says, “Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.” Why is joyful singing an appropriate way to approach God? What gives you joy when you think about who God is?
- Has the Christian life felt to you like a *fight* and a *race*? How so? What has helped you continue on in the faith? When have you not persevered and given up and why?
- The book of Acts closes by telling us the message of the gospel continued to be proclaimed *boldly* and *without hindrance*. How does that give you hope in your life, for your friends who haven’t yet received faith, and for our church?
- Reflect back upon our time in the book of Acts (7 months!), what sticks out to you? What have you learned? What did you hear that are you still thinking about? Has it lead to any changes in your life?

Suggested Resources

Articles: [5 Ways God Meets Us When Our Faith is Weak](#) by Timothy Massaro
[Display the Gospel](#) by Jeff Vanderstelt
[Why Nothing Will Stop the Mission of God](#) by David Qaoud

Devotionals: [What’s the True Source of Powerful Evangelism](#) by Casey Lewis
[Too Good Not to Share](#) Our Daily Bread
[Jesus Will Finish the Mission](#) by John Piper

Video: [What is Missional Activity?](#) by Saturate

Books: [Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God](#) by JI Packer
[Everyday Church](#) by Timmis and Chester

RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents) ([back to table of contents](#))

Video: [Process: A Gospel Principle for Parents](#) with Paul Tripp

Read together:

Acts 28:30–31 He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

Questions for Kids

- Why do you think Paul was able to speak about Jesus with boldness and without hindrance?
- Do you think the message about Jesus is still being spoken with boldness and without hindrance? Where do you see that happening?
- Who do you know that you can share about Jesus and pray it will continue with boldness and without hindrance?

Pray

Father, remind us that you are in control of everything, including how people respond to hearing about Jesus. Help us to remember that and speak about Jesus with boldness. We pray for [friends, family, neighbors who don't know Jesus] and ask you to help us to tell them about how Jesus saves! And we pray that the gospel will continue to be good news to us and that we will share it with others as well. We love you Jesus! Amen.

Sermon Review ([back to table of contents](#))

Title: Unfinished Ending

Text: [Acts 28](#)

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/the-unfinished-ending/>

Podcast: <https://cccplainfield.org/subscribe-to-podcast>

Sermon Summary: The message of the book of Acts is: “The gospel cannot be stopped”

The ending of Acts can leave you feeling very unsatisfied because there are so many unanswered questions at the end of the book. But don't worry, there is good reason for it.

After a very exciting and near death sailing voyage in Acts 27, we pick up with Paul, Luke and others being welcomed onto the island that they shipwrecked into called Malta. They receive a wonderful welcome from other believers in Jesus in Malta, Puteoli, and Rome. After arriving in Rome Paul calls together the religious leaders there to tell them the backstory to why he is there and what he has been accused of by the Jewish leaders back in Jerusalem. They tell Paul they haven't received any letters from Jewish leaders concerning him and they would like to hear about this “sect” he speaks of. They gather again at a later date to hear Paul and he tells them how Jesus is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament and how God told him to take that message to the Jews, but they would reject him and he would then be sent to the Gentiles.

Then the book concludes with these two verses:

He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

-Acts 28:30-31

So we still wonder- did Paul stand before Caesar? Was he tried? Was he convicted or freed? We don't know from the book of Acts. Tradition tells us that Paul was eventually tried and executed in Rome, but Acts just leaves us hanging.

It might seem incomplete, but if we consider the purpose of the book of Acts, it may fit quite perfectly. The entire book of Acts is concerned with the movement of the Gospel. It is not a biography of Paul, or Peter, or anyone else, it is about the gospel moving from “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Consider that the first bookend and the ending creates the second book end by stating the gospel continued “boldly and without hindrance” (Acts 28:31). That describes the entire book. Jesus promised the gospel going to the end of the earth and it did so “boldly and without hindrance”. They killed the leaders. They imprisoned the preachers. They threatened the believers. And NOTHING could stop the gospel from continuing to move to the end of the earth. It started with 120 people, then in an instant went to 3,000 on the day of pentecost, then 5,000. And it continues to this day. There is no stopping the gospel.

We get a little more info on the end of Paul's life from his second letter to Timothy. In the last chapter of his last letter he reflects back on his life and says:

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18

[6] For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. [7] I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8] Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. [16] At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! [17] But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. [18] The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

There is a lot to consider in those words from Paul, but let's consider verse 7 and notice that he refers to the Christian life as a *fight* and a *race*. Why would he use those analogies? One reason is that the Christian life requires endurance. Paul has certainly had to *endure* many things- beatings, shipwreck, snakebite, desertion by friends, etc. What can get someone through such tough circumstances? Paul says two things: Christ's presence and Christ's presence (through others). In 2 Timothy 4:17 he told us that when everyone deserted him, the Lord stood by him and strengthened him. Then in Acts 28:15 Luke says that Paul took courage from the brothers that came out to meet them when they arrived in Rome. It was the presence of the Lord and the presence of the Lord in other human beings that helped him through. The presence of the Lord doesn't have to be this esoteric experience, but can be found in His people! When we find ourselves weary and needing strength, where can we turn, well one place is certainly to where the Lord's presence is- in His people. This is why the local church is such an important and spiritually nourishing place. Receive Christ. Receive Him in and through His people. May this unstoppable gospel grow in us and flow through us to each other and many who don't yet know Him. Amen.