

Courage to Carry On

Acts 28:11-31

Main Point:

Since we all need courage to witness for Christ, encourage one another for the sake of your Savior and His gospel mission.

1. We all need courage to fulfill our mission as Christ's witnesses.

2. Because we live in a world that is often hostile towards Christianity.

3. Because, even though some will reject us, the gospel is for everyone.

4. Because there is still plenty of work for us to do.

5. Therefore, encourage one another for the sake of Christ and His gospel mission.

Acts 23:11 11 But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome." (NKJV)

Ephesians 6:19-20 19 [Pray] for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. (NKJV)

Acts 1:8 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (NKJV)

Derek Thomas "The task given to the apostle is the same task given to the church today: to go and make disciples of all nations ..."

Dennis Johnson "In bringing this internal controversy to the Emperor's attention, Paul had no desire to cast his own people in a negative light, nor was he filing a countersuit against them for frivolous and false accusation (as was his right)."

John 1:11 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. (NKJV)

John 15:19 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (NKJV)

Acts 26:22-23 22 Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come— 23 that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the *Jewish* people and to the Gentiles." (NKJV)

Derek Thomas "The power needed to convert an individual from darkness to light lies in the Holy Spirit. He is the efficient or ultimate cause; but the Holy Spirit employs, as the means by which conversion is accomplished, the faithful and earnest exposition and application of the Word of God."

R. Kent Hughes "The same fire that melts wax hardens clay."

John 14:6 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (NKJV)

Romans 1:16 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (NKJV)

Dennis Johnson "Because the Lord's commission to carry salvation to the earth's ends was far from complete when Paul reached Rome, Luke's open-ended 'conclusion' implies a 'To Be Continued' that embraces the whole history and mission of the church until the return of Jesus from heaven ..."

Derek Thomas "Luke seems to have deliberately left the work in an unfinished state because the kingdom is not yet finished ... Rather than finish the book focused on Paul's death, therefore, Luke leaves it focused on the gospel and its unfinished mission to the world."