

### Sermon Notes

Wi-Fi password for westwoodguestsecured: westwoodguest

#### “And So We Came to Rome”

Acts 28:11-31 (pew Bible pgs. 937-938)

Most of us like resolution. We want our stories, books and movies to reach the end all tidied up, with the villain vanquished, the hero winning, and everyone living happily ever after. But if you are a Star Wars fan, you know this is not the case in galaxy far, far away. Since 1977, episode after episode, followers of the force have been left to wonder what comes next. How will the ongoing conflict between the Jedi and the Sith come to an end? (to be continued...)

As we come to the end of Acts, we find no happy-ever-after ending. Tony Merida says, “If you like complete closure and prefer happily-ever-after conclusions, then you might be disappointed with the ending of Acts.” Acts ends with a lot of loose ends. We don’t know how Paul’s imprisonment ends. We don’t know what happened with his appeal to Caesar. We don’t know how long he stayed in Rome. We don’t know when and how he ultimately died. What we do find at the end Acts is an ongoing story, a big fat ‘to be continued’.

Why? Because Luke isn’t giving us the story of Paul or Peter or the Apostles. Acts describes the ongoing work of the Lord Jesus accomplished by the Spirit. It is about the growth of God’s kingdom and the unhindered growth of the gospel.

Today we see Paul and traveling companions finally come to Rome. But Rome is not the end of Paul’s mission, because Rome is not the end of Christ’s commission. We are living in the continuation of that story. As we see Paul reach Rome, we find timeless truths that can be applied to our lives as we live out the gospel story.

None of us are the Apostle Paul, but like Paul, when we live in the reality that we are saved by grace, commissioned by Christ, sustained for a purpose, and assured of victory in the end.....

We can see every circumstance of our lives as a gospel opportunity.

We should see the whole of God’s word as the gospel story.

We can rest in the reality of the unhindered growth of God’s kingdom.

Applications

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Applications

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## Weekly Discipleship Guide

### Sunday

*In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:*

I never knew:	I was challenged:
I was reminded:	I was convicted:
A question I still have:	A truth I could share:

**Know**

### Monday

*Spend some time today doing the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.  
 Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.  
 Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

**Know > Be**

### Tuesday

*In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.  
 Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.  
 (May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)  
 Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

**Be**

### Wednesday

*Think about this week's questions for group discussion:*

Read Philippians 1:12-26 together, in light of Acts 28. What can we learn from Paul's perspective on his imprisonment in Rome?

Why do you think we are often tempted to doubt the power of the gospel? What does this passage teach about the ultimate triumph of the gospel?

Do you typically view your own life as a part of this same story we have followed through the Book of Acts? How does that perspective change the way we view and live our lives?

**Be > Do**

### Thursday

*In your journal, spend some time considering the following:*

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?  
 How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

**Do**

\*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

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#### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor  
**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor  
**Jim Fulp:** Counseling Pastor  
**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students & Discipleship  
**Katie Austin:** Children's Ministry Coordinator

#### Contact Us

336.599.1982  
 westwoodroxboro@gmail.com  
 www.westwoodfamily.org

#### Upcoming Events

Nov 11 - Veteran's Day  
 Nov 15 - Membership Class  
 Nov 18 - GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays  
 Nov 26 - Thanksgiving Meal & Communion  
 Nov 28 & 29 - Church Office Closed  
 Dec 1 - Christmas Decorating  
 Dec 11 - Church Conference  
 Dec 18 - Children's Christmas Program  
 Dec 21 - Adult Choir Cantata

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