

Understanding
Acts 28:23-31

I. Intro

A. The Lord Gives Understanding!

- B. Job 32:8 and 2 Timothy 2:7 are both powerful verses declaring our need for God to bring understanding.

Job 32:8 8 But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand.

2 Timothy 2:7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

C. When you lack understanding, go to God

D. When you think you have it all figured out...go to God IMMEDIATELY.

II. Text

A. Paul on house arrest, guarded by Roman soldiers, brings the Jewish leadership together, they have not heard of Paul, but have heard of the "Way"

B. Verses 23-24: Paul makes a defense and some believe, while others did not

C. Verse 25: The disagreement broke up when Paul quoted Isaiah.

1. Maybe they were convicted

2. Maybe they were mad

D. Verse 26: Hearing but not Understanding

E. Verse 27: If they would turn, I would heal them.

F. Verse 28: The Gentiles will listen, and they are still listening today.

G. Verse 29: only found in some of the ancient manuscripts:

1. Restates the truth of verse 25

2. Some departed having much dispute among themselves

H. Verse 30: Paul welcoming all who came to him for further teaching.

I. Verse 31: Paul's teaching:

1. The Kingdom of God

2. The Lord Jesus Christ

3. He taught with all boldness and without hindrance.

J. Legend has it:

1. Paul is believed to have died as a martyr, beheaded in Rome.

2. This would have been during a time of severe persecution being brought on Christians by Roman Emperor Nero.

3. July 18, 64 AD, Rome burned, Nero blamed the Christians, History blames Nero:

4. He did not play the fiddle while Rome burned, it had not been invented yet, but he was well accomplished on the Lyre, so that could be true.

5. It is not believed that he is the one that set the city on fire, as he was 35 miles away at the time, but he could have had it done.

6. Also, he used this for his political purposes, and moved forward his agenda to rid Rome of Christians.

7. It did not work.

III. Point: Messages

A. The Holy Spirit of God

1. The Message through the prophet Isaiah, from the Holy Spirit caused much division.

2. Listen and See...

a) Some are unable to listen and see

b) They have not yet been given understanding

- c) **Understanding comes in the midst of the Faith leap!**
- 3. **Understanding comes through the Holy Spirit**
- 4. We know what we need to know, because the Spirit of Christ ABIDES in us.

B. The Kingdom of God

1. What is the Kingdom of God?
 - a) Anything under the rule of sovereign God
 - b) Much was spoke about this kingdom in the parables
 - (1) Matthew 13:1-33
 - (2) Jesus tells the parable of the 4 soils
 - (3) Jesus quotes Isaiah, same prophecy as Acts 28
 - (4) Jesus explains the 4 soils
 - (5) Jesus in verse 19: words of the kingdom
 - (6) Jesus tells the parable of the weeds: kingdom of heaven...
 - (7) Jesus tells of the mustard seed and leaven: kingdom of heaven...
 - c) The Kingdom of God is like:
 - (1) The Greek term for 'kingdom' is used 162 times in the New Testament, with most of them referring to the Kingdom of God. Yet, how often do we as believers discuss God's kingdom and keep it on the forefront of our hearts? I believe one of the reasons we don't talk about God's kingdom as much as we should is because we don't fully understand this mysterious concept. "Both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament the term "kingdom" is understood as dynamic in nature and refers primarily to the rule or reign of a king. It is seldom used in a static sense to refer to a territory. As a result, in the vast majority of instances, it would be better to translate the expression "kingdom of God" as the "rule of God." (Baker's Evangelical Dictionary)
 - (2) **God REIGNS over all things**
 - (a) Psalm 103:19
 - (b) The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.
 - (3) **The Kingdom of God is to be RECEIVED**
 - (a) Mark 10:13-16
 - (b) 13 And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." 16 And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.
 - (4) **The Kingdom is relevant for us today:**
 - (a) Matthew 6:10
 - (b) Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
2. **There is nothing outside the rule of God!**
 - a) Paul was teaching the people in Rome of the RULE of God
 - b) God's rule overrides your misunderstanding of the LAW, or earthly rulers.

C. The Lord Jesus Christ

1. **"You don't make Him Lord. He's Lord already. You just recognize it." Adrian Rogers**
2. **Jesus is LORD**
 - a) **Shortest credal affirmation found in Christianity**
 - b) Communicates your recognition of His deity.
3. **New Testament expectation regarding Lordship:**

- a) Luke 2:11 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
- b) Romans 10:9 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- c) Colossians 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
- d) Philippians 2: 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- e) 1 Corinthians 8: 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.
- f) 2 Corinthians 4: 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants[c] for Jesus' sake.

4. What does the scripture declare Him Lord over?

- a) **He is Lord of all**
- b) **He is Lord of Hosts**
- c) **He is Lord creation**
- d) **He is Lord of Lords!**

IV. Close

Job 32

6 And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said:

“I am young in years,
and you are aged;
therefore I was timid and afraid
to declare my opinion to you.

7

I said, ‘Let days speak,
and many years teach wisdom.’

8

**But it is the spirit in man,
the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand.**

9

It is not the old[a] who are wise,
nor the aged who understand what is right.

10

Therefore I say, ‘Listen to me;
let me also declare my opinion.’

2 Timothy 2

1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men,[a] who will be able to teach others also. 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. 5 An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. 6 It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. **7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.**

8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 11 The saying is trustworthy, for:
If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;
13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.