

JESUS AT THE CORE

LOVING THEIR NEW LIFE

JOY FILLED COMMUNITIES

EVERY OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER  
2023

SUNDAYS  
9am & 10:30am  
9am LIVE

# UNSTOPPABLE

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.

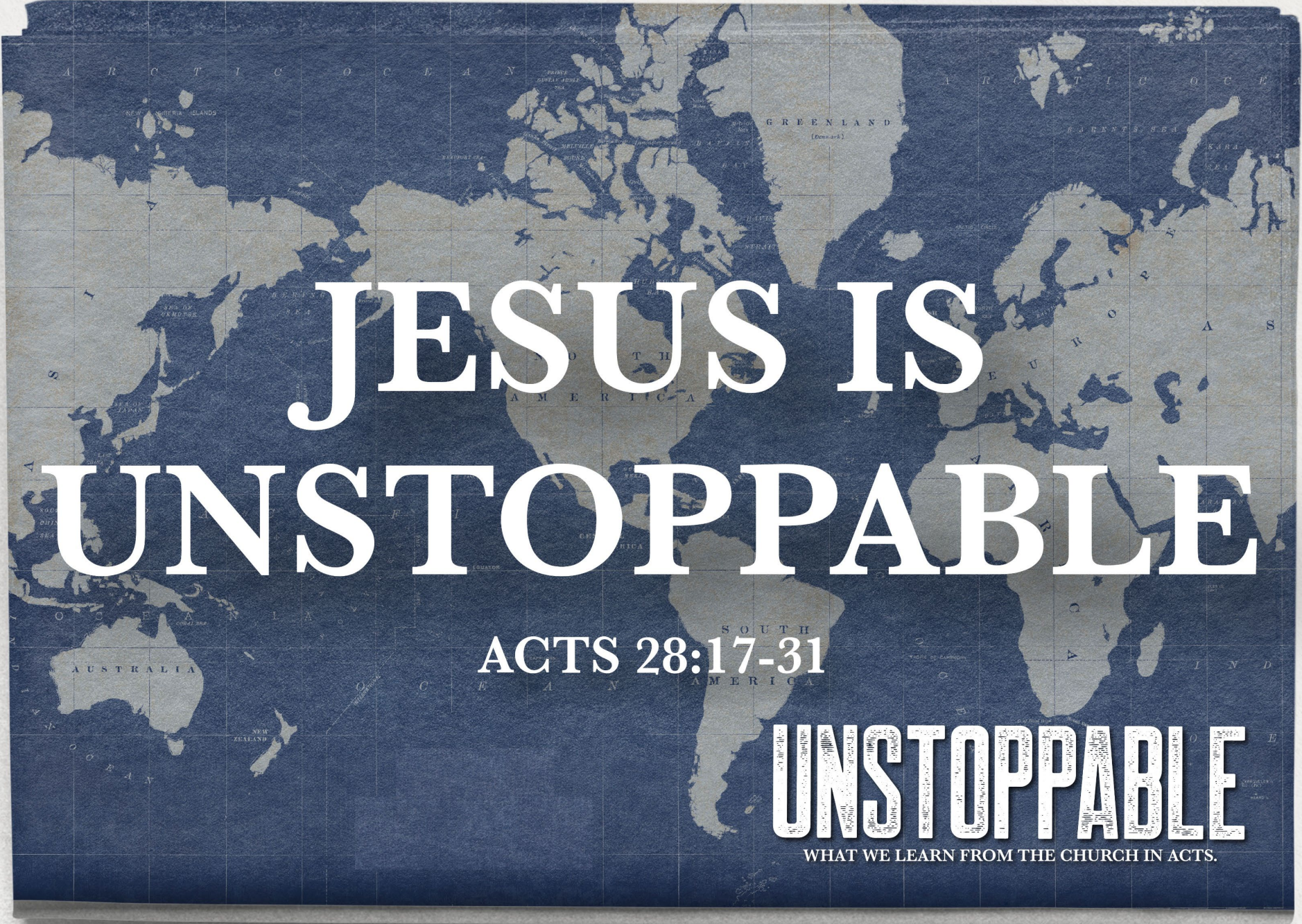
1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appealing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but

to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." The Ascension 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee,

MAP OF THE WORLD





# JESUS IS UNSTOPPABLE

ACTS 28:17-31

## UNSTOPPABLE

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.







As Acts ends, Luke wants us to clearly see through the Apostle Paul what made the Early Church and the spread of the gospel so UNSTOPPABLE.

**UNSTOPPABLE**

# The Context – Paul meets with Jewish Leaders in Rome

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## Paul's Perspective:

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## **Paul's Perspective:**

**1) Paul had done nothing against the Jews.**

## Acts 28:17

17 After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, “Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.



# The Context – Paul meets with Jewish Leaders in Rome

## Paul's Perspective:

- 1) Paul had done nothing against the Jews.
- 2) **Romans found Paul innocent.**



## Acts 28:17-18

<sup>17</sup> After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, “Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. <sup>18</sup> When they had examined me, **they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case.**



# The Context – Paul meets with Jewish Leaders in Rome

## Paul's Perspective:

- 1) Paul had done nothing against the Jews.
- 2) Romans found Paul innocent.
- 3) **Paul appealed to Caesar because of Jews' objection to his being freed – nevertheless, Paul still didn't hold any grudge towards his fellow Jews, but desires to share Jesus with them.**



## Acts 28:17-20

<sup>17</sup> After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, “Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. <sup>18</sup> When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. <sup>19</sup> But **because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar**—though **I had no charge to bring against my nation**. <sup>20</sup> For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.”

**UNSTOPPABLE**

## Acts 28:17-20

<sup>17</sup> After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, “Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. <sup>18</sup> When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. <sup>19</sup> But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I had no charge to bring against my nation. <sup>20</sup> **For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.**”

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# The Context – Paul meets with Jewish Leaders in Rome

**Jewish Leaders respond:**

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## **Jewish Leaders respond:**

- **Not heard anything bad about you**



## Acts 28:18-21

<sup>18</sup> When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case.

<sup>19</sup> But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I had no charge to bring against my nation. <sup>20</sup> For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.” <sup>21</sup> And they said to him, “We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you.

# The Context – Paul meets with Jewish Leaders in Rome

## Jewish Leaders respond:

- Not heard anything bad about you
- **We desire to hear from you about this “sect”**



## Acts 28:18-22

<sup>18</sup> When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case.

<sup>19</sup> But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I had no charge to bring against my nation. <sup>20</sup> For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.” <sup>21</sup> And they said to him, “We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you. <sup>22</sup> But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.”

UNSTOPPABLE

# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

**UNSTOPPABLE**



# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

1. They lived to promote the love and joy of Jesus.  
(Paul's example)

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# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

- 1. They lived to promote the love and joy of Jesus.**  
(Paul's example)
  - They were confident many would come to treasure Jesus.**



## Acts 28:23-24

<sup>23</sup> When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. **From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.** <sup>24</sup> And **some were convinced by what he said,** but others disbelieved.

# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

## 1. They lived to promote the love and joy of Jesus.

(Paul's example)

- They were confident many would come to treasure Jesus.
- **They knew many would reject Jesus.**



## Acts 28:23-27

<sup>23</sup> When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. <sup>24</sup> And some were convinced by what he said, **but others disbelieved.** <sup>25</sup> And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: <sup>26</sup> “**Go to this people, and say, “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.”**

## **Acts 28:23-27**

**27 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'**



# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

## 1. They lived to promote the love and joy of Jesus.

(Paul's example)

- They were confident many would come to treasure Jesus.
- They knew many would reject Jesus.
- **They boldly proclaimed Jesus in all circumstances.**

**UNSTOPPABLE**

## Acts 28:27-31

<sup>27</sup> For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.' <sup>28</sup> Therefore let it be known to you **salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles**; they will listen." <sup>30</sup> He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and **welcomed all who came to him**, <sup>31</sup> **proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.**



# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

1. They lived to promote the love and joy of Jesus.  
(Paul's example)
2. **They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances.** (Paul's example)

# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)
  - The Plan

# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

**2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)**

- **The Plan**

- **Paul wants to go to Rome.**



## Acts 19:21

<sup>21</sup> Now after these events **Paul resolved in the Spirit** to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, **I must also see Rome.**”

# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)

- **The Plan**

- Paul wants to go to Rome.
- **God promised Paul he would get to Rome.**

## Acts 23:11

<sup>11</sup> The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”



# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)

- **The Plan**

- Paul wants to go to Rome.
- God promised Paul he would get to Rome.
- **God promised Paul he would testify before Caesar.**

## Acts 27:23-24

<sup>23</sup> For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, <sup>24</sup> and he said, '**Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar.** And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.'

# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

**2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)**

- The Plan
- **The Obstacles**



# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

## 2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)

- The Plan
- **The Obstacles**
  - **Arrested in Jerusalem**

# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

## 2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)

- The Plan
- **The Obstacles**
  - Arrested in Jerusalem
  - **Countless trials**

# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

## 2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)

- The Plan
- **The Obstacles**
  - Arrested in Jerusalem
  - Countless trials
  - **Imprisoned in Caesarea**



# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

## 2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)

- The Plan
- **The Obstacles**
  - Arrested in Jerusalem
  - Countless trials
  - Imprisoned in Caesarea
  - **Assassination threat from Jews**

# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

## 2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)

- The Plan
- **The Obstacles**
  - Arrested in Jerusalem
  - Countless trials
  - Imprisoned in Caesarea
  - Assassination threat from Jews
  - **Shipwrecked and nearly drowned**

# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

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- **The Obstacles**
  - Arrested in Jerusalem
  - Countless trials
  - Imprisoned in Caesarea
  - Assassination threat from Jews
  - Shipwrecked and nearly drowned
  - **Severely abused by soldiers**

**UNSTOPPABLE**



# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

## 2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)

- The Plan
- **The Obstacles**
  - Arrested in Jerusalem
  - Countless trials
  - Imprisoned in Caesarea
  - Assassination threat from Jews
  - Shipwrecked and nearly drowned
  - Severely abused by soldiers
  - **Nearly killed by poisonous snake**

**UNSTOPPABLE**

# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

## 2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)

- The Plan
- The Obstacles
- **The Culmination: Paul gets to Rome**

# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

## 2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)

- The Plan
- The Obstacles
- **The Culmination: Paul gets to Rome**
  - **Gives gospel to the Jews and Gentiles there**



# What made the Early Church so UNSTOPPABLE?

## 2. They trusted God's sovereign power and grace in all their circumstances. (Paul's example)

- The Plan
- The Obstacles
- **The Culmination: Paul gets to Rome**
  - Gives gospel to the Jews and Gentiles there
  - **Maybe proclaimed Jesus to Nero**

**What made the Early church so formidable? SO UNSTOPPABLE?**

**UNSTOPPABLE**

# What made the Early church so formidable? SO UNSTOPPABLE?

- The Believers Life Transforming Experience of Jesus!

**UNSTOPPABLE**



# What made the Early church so formidable? **SO UNSTOPPABLE?**

- The Believers Life Transforming Experience of Jesus!
- **The unmistakable, overwhelming conviction that God was working in and through them in all circumstances!**

**UNSTOPPABLE**

# Takeaways:

**UNSTOPPABLE**

## Takeaways:

- **Pursue Jesus with all our might!**



## Takeaways:

- Pursue Jesus with all our might!
- **Ask God to increase our confidence that He is working in every circumstance.**

## Takeaways:

- Pursue Jesus with all our might!
- Ask God to increase our confidence that He is working in every circumstance.
- **Trust that the Jesus who is UNSTOPPABLE is using us with everyone everywhere to advance His love.**

**UNSTOPPABLE**