



WEEKLY STUDY

Fully Persuaded - Week One

We're back in the Book of Acts! In this brief series called Fully Persuaded, we are identifying how being "all-in" with Jesus was and is a marker of deep discipleship. It is not about having it all figured out or being free from all doubts, rather it is a conviction that Jesus really is the Son of God, really came into the world, really died on a cross, and was really resurrected from the grave. Through every up and down this week may you be fully persuaded that Jesus is the Messiah and King of your life.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for those of us who wrestle with doubt. May we experience grace to journey deeper into the life of discipleship today.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: ACTS 17:1-9 (NIV)

When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue.² As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,³ explaining and proving that the Messiah had to

suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said.⁴ Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

⁵ But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason’s house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶ But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here,⁷ and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.”⁸ When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil.⁹ Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

- Paul was a lot of things. In this section of Acts we see that he was fully convinced and also determined to reason his way through the false teachings that he encountered. First, he takes up an audience with Jewish believers and God-fearing Greeks. It should have seemed like a home-crowd, but instead, Paul was met with resistance and jealousy. Sometimes the gospel is more difficult to receive for those who are already close to it. Do you find this to be true today?

- **Prayer Prompt: Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. (Hebrews 6.9)**
- *God, I want to live as one who is fully convinced of your mercy and love. Grow in me a full conviction of the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

TUESDAY: ROMANS 4.20-21 (NIV)

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

- Fully persuaded. Paul was reflecting on the faith of Abraham and Sarah as they waited for the gift of a child that was a physical impossibility for them to bring into the world. They were fully persuaded that God had the power to make the impossible possible. Is there an as-yet unfulfilled promise from God that you are waiting for?

- **Prayer Prompt: Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, (Philippians 1.25)**
- *God, give me patience and confidence that you will meet every need and fulfill every promise. You are always faithful. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: ACTS 17.2-3a (NIV)

As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,³ explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead.

- Persuaded of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Even in our corner of the world, where the name of Jesus is claimed frequently, it is still counter-cultural to live out what it means to follow him. Among the Jews, Paul's starting place was the Scriptures they held in common. He reasoned with them based on this common starting place. What is the common starting place with the world around you today? What is our collective basic, common understanding of the world today?

- **Prayer Prompt: But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (Philippians 3.20-21)**
- *Lord God, as I walk through this life you have given me, keep me mindful of my true allegiance to your coming Kingdom. Amen.*

THURSDAY: ACTS 17.3 (NIV)

explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said.

- Persuaded that Jesus is the Messiah. Paul's audience in Thessalonica had already been anticipating the coming Messiah. But Paul's insistence that Jesus was *that* Messiah was met with disgust and jealousy. There are times when our expectation of the fulfillment of God's promises is tempered by a belief that they are (and will always remain) far off. Would you find it hard to believe that Jesus has really returned? Would you struggle to see that God is setting the world aright?

- **Prayer Prompt: See, I am doing a new thing!**
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43.19)
- *All-powerful God, I look to you to come and make things right in this world you have created. Are you already at work? Give me the eyes of faith to see what you are doing today. Amen.*

FRIDAY: ACTS 17.6-7 (NIV)

But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here,⁷ and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.”

- Persuaded that Jesus is King. The crowd was faced with a tricky dilemma. They knew that Caesar, the ruler of their day, would not allow another man to be called king. And yet here, Paul and the other followers of Jesus were claiming that Jesus was king. It was an answer to their prayers, and yet it was a threat to their existence. Are there times when professing that Jesus is King puts you at odds with the rulers of your community, state or country?

- **Prayer Prompt: They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.” (Revelation 17.14)**
- *God, may my full and undivided allegiance be to the true King, your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.*

SATURDAY: ROMANS 16.25 (NIV)

“Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past,”

- In Sunday’s message we heard the Greek word Kerygma. It is a word meaning the proclamation of the good news of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. Here in Romans, Paul refers to the fact that this good news was a “mystery hidden for long ages past”. In other words, it’s not a new idea, but the revealing of what has always been. How does your life proclaim the good news of Jesus?

- **Prayer Prompt: Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you,³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation (Ephesians 3:2-3)**
- *God, I want my life to proclaim all that you have done for me and for the world through Jesus. May it be so. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Jacob shared this hymn in worship on Sunday. These words were written by Louisa Stead in 1880. She was 30 years old. And on a picnic outing to the Long Sound, her husband George jumped in the water to save a drowning boy. Louisa and her young daughter Lily witnessed both the little boy and their husband and father drown. Louisa and Lily went on to be missionaries in Africa. Where she wrote these words.

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

O how sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to trust His cleansing blood; Just in simple faith to plunge me, 'Neath the healing, cleansing flood.

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, Just from sin and self to cease; Just from Jesus simply taking Life, and rest, and joy, and peace.

I'm so glad I learned to trust Him,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that He is with me,
Will be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

- What difficult situations have you faced when your trust in Jesus emerged?
- Is there a person in your life who regularly reminds you to trust in Jesus?