

Sunday 14 July 2024

**Acts 20:17–38**Leading  
Speaking**Henry ET  
Phil Hudson**

Please turn all phones and other communicating devices completely off (or on flight mode). Devices on silent can still interfere with the PA system and sermon recordings.

**How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,**  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say to you than he has said—  
you, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

In every condition—in sickness and health,  
in poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth;  
at home or abroad, on the land, on the sea,  
as days may demand, shall your strength ever be.

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed!  
I, I am your God and will still give you aid:  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;  
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,  
I will not, I cannot, desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!

Words: Richard Keen (c.1787)  
Music: [music-ministry.org](http://music-ministry.org)

## Children and young people leave for their groups

- 1 **Oh, wonderful, wonderful word of the Lord!**  
True wisdom its pages unfold;  
and though we may read them  
a thousand times o'er,  
they never, no never, grow old!  
Each line has a treasure, each promise a pearl,  
that all if they will may secure;  
and we know that when time  
and the world pass away,  
God's word shall forever endure.
- 2 Oh, wonderful, wonderful word of the Lord!  
The lamp that our Father above  
so kindly has lighted to teach us the way  
that leads to the arms of his love!  
Its warnings, its counsels,  
are faithful and just;  
its judgements are perfect and pure;  
and we know that when time  
and the world pass away,  
God's word shall forever endure.
- 3 Oh, wonderful, wonderful word of the Lord!  
Our only salvation is there;  
it carries conviction down deep in the heart,  
and shows us ourselves as we are.  
It tells of a Saviour, and points to the cross,  
where pardon we now may secure;  
for we know that when time  
and the world pass away,  
God's word shall forever endure.
- 4 Oh, wonderful, wonderful word of the Lord!  
The hope of our friends in the past;  
its truth, where so firmly  
they anchored their trust,  
through ages eternal shall last.  
Oh, wonderful, wonderful word of the Lord!  
Unchanging, abiding and sure;  
for we know that when time  
and the world pass away,  
God's word shall forever endure.

Frances Jane Crosby (1820–1915)

## Prayers

**Reading** Luke 22:24–30 (p 1062)

**As the heavens are higher than the earth,**  
so his ways are higher than the ways of this world,  
and his thoughts run deeper than the mind of man;  
Father, break into our darkened hearts.

Come and drink the river of his word  
if you thirst for water that can satisfy;  
come and join the banquet at the Master's feast  
where his love and faithfulness provide.

*I will trust in you as you speak to me, I will turn to you as you call my name,  
As the rain gives life on this arid ground, so your word will bring your children home.*

Come and listen to his gentle voice  
for the words he speaks to us are Spirit and life;  
Come and seek your Saviour while he may be found,  
sure that Jesus' words can never lie.

*I will trust in you...*

From Isaiah 55, Richard Simpink  
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**Reading** Acts 20:17–38 (p 1120)

**Sermon** Phil Hudson

# Convictions for ministry

Acts 20:17–38

## Introduction

### 1. The pattern of authentic ministry (v18–27; v33–35)

- Servant-hearted
- Word-centred

### 2. The charge to sustain authentic ministry (v28–32)

- Watchfulness
- The all-sufficient Word of God

## Conclusion

### Questions for discussion and reflection:

- How does Acts 20 strengthen our convictions of what Christlike ministry is?
- How does Paul's example encourage us in our pattern of ministry? Are there any tweaks that his blueprint highlights for us?
- What difference would it make if I *really* believed it is more blessed to give than to receive?
- How does v32 encourage us?

**O Word of God incarnate,**

O wisdom from on high,  
O truth unchanged, unchanging,  
O light of our dark sky,  
we praise thee for the radiance,  
that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern for our footsteps,  
shines on from age to age.

The Church from her dear Master  
received the gift divine,  
and still that light she lifteth  
o'er all the earth to shine:  
it is the golden casket  
where gems of truth are stored;  
it is the heaven-drawn picture  
of Christ, the living Word.

O make thy Church, dear Saviour,  
a lamp of burnished gold,  
to bear before the nations  
thy true light as of old;  
O teach thy wandering pilgrims  
by this their path to trace,  
till, clouds and darkness ended,  
they see thee face to face!

William Walsham How (1823–1897)

## NOTICES

**1. Join a small group:** study the Bible regularly, in person, and get to know others in the church family. Groups start on 11 (IGG) and 17 (Central Focus) September.

**International Growth Groups (IGG)** are for students and workers who are in London from overseas just for a few years. This year studying Romans. To sign up, email: [internationals@st-helens.org.uk](mailto:internationals@st-helens.org.uk)



**Central Focus** is our Bible study evening for anyone at 10.30am, this year studying Romans. To sign up, scan the QR code or email: [centralfocus@st-helens.org.uk](mailto:centralfocus@st-helens.org.uk)

**2. Summerlink:** midweek Bible talks with time for discussion on Hebrews chapter 11. Wednesdays until 28 August. 6.15pm for snacks, 6.45–8pm, to help serve at Summerlink, to volunteer: [shb.org.uk/SLserve](http://shb.org.uk/SLserve) Any questions, email Carl: [c.thomas@st-helens.org.uk](mailto:c.thomas@st-helens.org.uk)



**3. Welcome lunch:** 21 July. For those who have joined us in recent months. A chance to enjoy lunch together; get to know others at the 10.30am, and hear more about life at St Helen's. For details, email Anna: [anna.lamb@st-helens.org.uk](mailto:anna.lamb@st-helens.org.uk)

**4. Staff days:** Volunteers needed for help with staff days, 4 and 5 September. Email Hannah: [h.tyler@st-helens.org.uk](mailto:h.tyler@st-helens.org.uk) for more details and to volunteer. Help is needed practically (8.30–2pm), and with the crèche (9am–1pm). Volunteers for crèche must have a DBS check and have completed safeguarding training with St Helen's.

**5. Going to serve:** for more information on going to serve at Christ Church Crouch End, St Barnabas Dalston, St John's Walthamstow or Waterloo Road Church, Uxbridge, please contact your congregation leader or Brian: [B.ODonoghue@st-helens.org.uk](mailto:B.ODonoghue@st-helens.org.uk). Brian would also love to hear suggestions (including reasons) of places or people groups for church planting in London in 2025/26.

**6. Associate scheme:** interested in training for Bible teaching ministry? Why not consider applying for the associate scheme. Applications are open, for more information, visit: [shb.org.uk/AssociateScheme](http://shb.org.uk/AssociateScheme) or scan the QR code.



**7. Current vacancies:** for details, visit [shb.org.uk/jobs](http://shb.org.uk/jobs)

**8. The Bible Matters podcast:** featuring interviews and conversations with faithful Bible teachers all over the world. Just search *The Bible Matters Podcast* wherever you get your podcasts, or: [biblematters.podbean.com](http://biblematters.podbean.com) Series 2 now available.

# CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

If you have heard something new or striking about Christianity today and would like to investigate further, please join one of our regular Christianity Explored courses. They provide a friendly, relaxed environment in which to explore more about who Jesus is, why he came and what it means to follow him, as well as to ask any question you like

Courses run both midweek and Sundays, meeting in one of our church buildings in the City

If you would like to join a course, please fill in your contact details below and give it to one of the stewards at the door. Alternatively, email: [reception@st-helens.org.uk](mailto:reception@st-helens.org.uk)

## NEWCOMERS

If you are new to St Helen's and would like someone to contact you about our activities and events, please fill in your details below and give it to one of the Welcome Team

Name:

Contact:

I would like to join a Christianity Explored course

By completing this form you agree to St Helen's Church collecting, storing and using your personal information for the purposes of providing you with details about Christianity Explored and/or about planned events/activities in connection with St Helen's Church

Our privacy policy can be found under: [shb.org.uk/privacypolicy](http://shb.org.uk/privacypolicy)

## TALKS, BIBLE RESOURCES, PRAYER DIARY AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the St Helen's website for all recent talks and more: [www.st-helens.org.uk](http://www.st-helens.org.uk)  
St Helen's talks are also available through our apps on iOS, Android and Apple TV

You can also download our Sunday and midweek talks as podcasts  
Search for 'St Helen's' through your podcast provider or through Spotify

All our talks and training videos are available through our website, YouTube and Vimeo

[reception@st-helens.org.uk](mailto:reception@st-helens.org.uk)  
[www.st-helens.org.uk](http://www.st-helens.org.uk)



Please help us by replacing Bibles on chairs and disposing of any coffee cups. Thank you

**Please pray for:** Jenny, Wendy, Sylvia, Graham, Ki-Ja, Phil.

**Next Sunday:** William Taylor will be speaking on 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11.