

**A Matter of Faith**  
**Sunday, May 7th, 2017**  
**Acts 28:17-31**

**Growth Group Fill in the Blank Worksheet**  
(Fill out during the Sermon)

1. Paul, being a Pharisee and a committed Jewish believer in Christ, was still earnestly wanting to reach his Jewish brothers with \_\_\_\_\_. So, the first thing he does when he arrives in Rome was to call together the Jewish leaders.
2. Even the best teaching from the best apostle in the best circumstances could not persuade everyone. It takes more than just a good argument. It takes more than a confrontation with truth. There are many \_\_\_\_\_ in play here.
3. Obstinate refusal to \_\_\_\_\_ results in calloused hearts, deafened ears, and spiritually blinded eyes. This had happened to Israel both in Isaiah's day and in Paul's time.
4. "If you reject Jesus, you can hear, but never understand; you can see but never perceive. Your heart is, and will be, hard, your ears closed, and your eyes shut – because you really don't \_\_\_\_\_ to turn to God and be healed of your sin."
5. Guzik - As Paul came to Rome, the sea, the soldiers, and the snake all threatened his life. But God delivered him from them all. Through Paul, God shows that God's man, fulfilling God's will, *cannot* be \_\_\_\_\_ – though all kinds of difficulty may come in the way. Finally, even the disbelief of some of the Jews – or anyone else's rejection of Jesus – will not hinder the gospel. The gospel will go forth and find those who will \_\_\_\_\_.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Growth Group Worksheet**

(Complete at home on separate sheet of paper if needed)

1. Tell us of a time when you stubbornly hardened your heart against something or someone when you were wrong.
2. Why is it so difficult to admit you are wrong even after you realize you are wrong?
3. Read the Parable of the sower (Matt 13:3-33; Mark 4:2-20; Luke 8:4-15) and discuss how it relates to this story. What lessons are learned in this parable?
4. Jesus addressed this same issue that Paul addresses in Sunday's text. Read John 12:37-40 and discuss how it relates to the ending of the book of Acts.
5. As time permits read the following texts and discuss their relationship to Sunday's text as well.; Rom 11:17-23; Romans 9:30-33; 2Cor 3:14-16; 4:3-4; Hebrews 3:12-15.