

Home Groups - Discussion Questions

Wed 5 / Thurs 6 Dec

Paul's Final Years (Acts 27-28)

Groups: - Wednesday at Robert & Emma's (19 Manse Park, N'ards), 7.30pm
Wednesday at Trevor & Mandy's (16 Jude's Crescent, N'ards), 8pm
Thursday at James & Gwen's (21 L'Derry Ave, Comber), 7.30pm

To help focus our minds on coming to the Lord's Table this coming Lord's Day, (when we plan to consider some of Paul's final words in 1 Timothy 1:15-17) – it might be helpful for us to consider & discuss together Paul's final years.

Read Acts 27:13-26, 28:11-16 & 30-31.

1. Where do we find Paul at the start of Acts 27? How keen is he to get to Rome and why? (Refer to Acts 19:21 Romans 1:11, 13 & 15 – *written some 3 years earlier*). What have we learned from Paul as he is forced to wait upon God?
2. It's an understatement to say that the journey to Rome isn't plain sailing. A violent storm threatens to sink the ship. How can we learn from Paul's words in Acts 27:22-25? Upon what is his anchor set in the midst of the storm?
3. Eventually they reach Rome. For 2 years Paul is placed under house arrest, chained to a soldier. This was undoubtedly a great restraint upon Paul, yet discuss how instead of his ministry being hindered, it was actually extended? Discuss the impact of:
 - His prison epistles written at this time (*Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians & Philemon*)
 - His influence on those who visited him (Read Colossians 4:7-12)
 - His influence on the prison guards (Philippians 1:12-13 & 4:22)
4. What's the lesson to us when we find ourselves restricted by our circumstances?
5. Paul is set free. He anticipated this (Philippians 2:24, Philemon v24). He immediately resumes his missionary travels: to Spain? (Romans 15:24), and to other churches he had previously founded. He also writes *1 Timothy and Titus*. In his 60s, he is counted as an old man in those days. What can we learn from him? (Philippians 3:13-14)
6. He's arrested again and taken back to Rome. Now he writes 2 Timothy, his most moving letter. What is his mindset in 2 Timothy 4:6-8 & 18?
7. How much does studying the life of Paul make an impact on our lives? In what ways is 1 Corinthians 11:1 a relevant text to look back on his life with?

Prayer Time

- Give thanks for the Christ-like example of Paul
- Pray for the Lord's Supper this coming Lord's Day

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