

Chapter 30: Paul's Final Days



Discussion Questions

1. Ancient way of moving around
2. Six characteristics of Paul's ministry
3. Why was he going to Jerusalem? Have you had any similar compulsions?
4. What was Paul's value of his life? What was his goal? What did this look like? What does this look like in 2019?
5. Paul was facing certain persecution and hostility yet persisted. Why? What drives a person to be this way in our culture today?
6. What does it take for a person and a group to say "the Lord's will be done?"
7. We see riots on the news, this is something similar to what Paul experienced at the Temple. Why was he there? What was the goal of people who were rioting?
 - a. What is the goal of people who riot/protest people whose ideas and convictions they disagree with today? Is it any different here?
 - b. What was the way Paul sought to reach them, what was his demeanor and hope?
8. What are the elements of Paul's testimony?
 - a. Before he followed Jesus
 - b. How he met Jesus & became convinced of His deity
 - c. What happened since he followed Jesus
9. What in Paul's testimony set the people off and caused them to riot fiercely? Why was this such an incitement?
10. Paul used his citizenship to his advantage while in Jerusalem, while we do have rights in our country and much religious freedom and do take similar advantages.

- a. Can you think of ways that Christians in America seek to defend those rights?
 - b. Conversely can you think of ways that religious entitlement can be abused or a stumbling block to the message of the gospel?
11. Paul was struck on the mouth, lost his temper, was rebuked and apologized. When we experience acute opposition to the gospel (or any personal attacks) What is your normal reaction?
- a. What do you do if you're caught reacting "in the flesh" so to speak and not "in the Spirit"?
 - b. What is the example of Paul here?
 - c. What do we need to do when we 'mess up' and act in a way that isn't as godly and Christlike as we are called to be?
12. Paul's tactic after these events was to state "I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead." What did this create in the Jewish leaders and what did this do for Paul's case?
13. Later on Paul was the target of a group who were bent on his death. What did they do to show the seriousness of their commitment?
- a. Are there serious commitments to silencing the truth of Christ in our time? If so how are these commitments practiced and seen?
 - b. How do Christians withstand such attacks? What would you do if you were the target of something like this?
14. Paul was in prison for two years. There have been many who have been imprisoned for the sake of the gospel for longer and in greater difficulty.
- a. What way did Paul utilize his time while imprisoned?
 - b. What did Paul do when he was brought before those who were in authority? Whine, Demand, or give his Testimony?
 - c. What does his example show Christ followers today the path for being faithful witnesses?
15. Paul was pushing for a fair hearing and a decision on his case but was too much of a political bomb to be set free, even though there was nothing to charge him with. What did the authorities do with Paul?
- a. Have you ever been the subject of someone who would not decide to help you? If yes what did you do in response to their indecision?
 - b. What way do you believe is the best way to present Christ and the gospel when treated in this fashion?
16. Paul's captors were pushing to get to Rome A.S.A.P. What ways did this affect their decision to travel?
17. They encountered difficulties on this journey in what ways particular did they face danger?
- a. How did God preserve Paul and his travelling companions?

- b. What was the stipulation for their all being saved?
 - c. What ways was Paul an encouragement to those who were traveling with him?
 - d. How can we take his example and be that type of person to those who are around us in trying times?
18. How did God preserve Paul's life when they reached the dry land?
- a. How did Paul use that to further the gospel?
 - b. Have you had opportunities when you were saved/protected in a significant (supernatural) way to turn that into a way to present Christ? If so, how?
19. Paul met with the Jews in Rome soon after he arrived in order to present his case to them.
- a. What did Paul say?
 - b. What were the responses of those who heard him?
 - c. Why is this what we can expect when we present the gospel to others today?
 - d. In what ways can this be an encouragement to you when you share the good news of Jesus?
20. Paul wrote two letters to Timothy the first in Paul's initial time in prison, he was released after the charges were dropped due to lack of prosecution & then Paul was later arrested and imprisoned until the end of his life.
- a. What ways was Paul an encouragement to Timothy?
 - b. What message did Paul want to get across to Timothy?
 - c. Was there any bitterness in Paul's letters if not what kind of tone did he convey?
 - d. What would you be like if you were imprisoned for the sake of the Gospel?
21. What were Paul's physical needs when he was in prison. What does this show you about the conditions he was in? What does his requests of Timothy show about Paul's reliance on others as well?
- a. Prisoners are an often-forgotten group of people – How can/do Christians today minister to these people?
 - b. How can you be involved in ministering to people who are in great need?
22. Knowing what you know about Paul and his life how would you sum up Paul's life and message?