

Sticky Group Discussion Questions for Sunday, April 12, 2015

Christ's Victory Commands

Part 5 : His Promise

Acts 23:6-16

1. Since Sunday's sermon had to do with goals and purposes in life, take time in your group to share answers to this question : "When you were younger, what did you think you wanted to be when you grew up ?" How close have you come to that childhood dream ?

2. Read the following passages of Scripture to get a flavor of Paul's purposes (calling) in life, and of the problems he was facing in Acts 23.

- his call from God to take the Good News to the Gentiles
 - Acts 20:24
 - Galatians 1:15-17
 - Galatians 2:7-10
 - Acts 13:44-47
- his desire to minister in Rome, the heart of the Empire
 - Acts 19:21 (while on his third missionary journey)
 - Romans 15:22-25 (written on the third journey)
- yet, his heart for his own people, the Jews
 - Romans 9:1-4 (note the intensity of his language)
 - Acts 20:16
- warnings not to go to Jerusalem
 - Acts 20:22-23
 - Acts 21:10-14
- his arrest in Jerusalem
 - Acts 21:27-36
 - Acts 23:6-11

What must Paul have been feeling while detained in the Roman barracks ?

Which of the following do you think you might have said to Paul if verse 11 were you speaking in place of the Lord ?

- "Paul, you're worn out and need a vacation."
- "I'm going to see that you get a chance to relax."
- "Take courage ; for as you have witnessed for me in Jerusalem, so you will also do in Rome."

Where, on a scale of importance, does Paul seem to place physical comfort, security, or safety ? How important do we consider these things ? Why are we different from Paul ?

3. What would you say is God's purpose for people in general ? What would you say is God's purpose for followers of Jesus Christ ?

4. To what goal(s) in life do you feel God has called you ? To what eternal ("kingdom") goals has God called you ? To what goals has he called Emmanuel E-Free ?

5. The Lord's promise in Acts 23:11 is a 3-part message : courage, commendation, and confidence.

- What practical steps are you taking toward the calling God has given you, that you might win a commendation from him ?

- How do verses like Acts 23:11 or Philippians 1:6 improve your confidence as a servant of the Lord ?
- How is this “take courage” command from the Lord a key to victory in life ?