

Sermon Notes

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Gospel Focus Compels a Christ Follower

Acts 21:1-16 (pew Bible pg. 930)

Paul and his companions are on their fateful journey to Jerusalem. Paul, and apparently everybody else, has gotten the Holy Spirit delivered memo that troubles await Paul when he gets there. This trip becomes Paul's farewell tour. Paul is compelled to go on to Jerusalem and he will not be deterred. He is gospel focused! And that is what we see in this passage today. A snapshot, a very beautiful picture of Paul's gospel focused life is found in summery in Galatians 2:20. Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives within me. And the life I know live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." This verse is not just one of identity, although your Lord and Savior should be your first and foremost source for understanding who you are in Christ. This verse is also a statement of affection. Paul lived for the One that He most treasured, Jesus! Jesus and His agenda, the Gospel! Puritan William Fenner said, "The affections are the feet of the soul" meaning what we love will direct our lives. The question is what do you treasure? Or where is your heart? To be Gospel focused means to treasure Jesus and His glorious Gospel more than anything else.

1. A Gospel-focused Heart loves others, but loves Jesus more
2. A Gospel-focused Heart listens to Godly counsel, but follows God's lead
3. A Gospel-focused Heart trusts God every step of the Journey despite any suffering or danger
4. A Gospel-focused Heart knows obedience is costly, but understand disobedience is more costly
5. A Gospel-focused Heart is totally submitted to the Lord's Will
 - A. Knowing that dying is less of a concern than not living life to the full for Jesus
 - B. Knowing it may not be safe
 - C. Knowing we must follow Jesus example and say, "Not my will, but Yours Lord"

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Weekly Discipleship Guide

Use this guide to help you reflect upon and internalize today's passage and message! Using a journal or a notebook, follow the daily prompts below. We also use these guides to guide our discussions in our Life Groups each week as we seek to grow together in the Word!

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day and meditate on that portion this week.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, specifically guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Continue to meditate on a memorize the selection you chose from yesterday.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

How did this week's message help you better understand what gospel-focus really looks like within the life of a believer?

Why must striving to live such a gospel-focused life begin with rightly placed affections? What does that look like? How do we pursue that?

How can we evaluate our own lives to see whether we are more self-focused or gospel-focused? How can the focus on *good* things really be obstacles for us living our lives for the *best* thing? How can making decisions that the wisdom of the world *affirms* really be keeping us from truly living for Jesus and his kingdom?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you gained while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

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Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jim Fulp: Counseling Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students & Discipleship
Katie Austin: Children's Ministry Coordinator

Contact Us

336.599.1982
 westwoodroxboro@gmail.com
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Upcoming Events

September 30 - GriefShare
 October 1 - Celebrate Recovery
 Depression/Anxiety Group
 October 4 - Person vs. Eastern Alamance
 October 7 - TLU/AHG
 October 8 - Building & Grounds Committee

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