

Sermon Discussion Questions for November 22, 2015

Acts 28:11-31

Supernatural Freedom

1. Paul, a man of great faith and courage, was the recipient of visitors upon his arrival to Rome. Who were they, and what affect did their visit have upon him (vs. 15). What does this teach us about Christian fellowship and community? Who might God be calling you to encourage? When and how will you do so?
2. Paul wanted to share Christ with his fellow Jews, as was his pattern. What did he say to them and how did they respond (vs. 17-28).
 - a. Who and what is the hope of Israel (vs. 20)?
 - b. How does their rejection of the gospel expose the condition of their hearts (vs.26- 27)? [see also Revelation 22:11]
 - c. What is the limit of our responsibility in sharing the gospel with others? How does knowing this limit give us greater freedom and boldness.
3. What were some of the “providential benefits” of Paul’s two-year imprisonment in Rome?
 - a. Roman guards
 - b. unbelievers
 - c. believers
 - d. the Bible for all believers
4. Do you ask for and look for the “providential benefits” of your difficult circumstances? Can you give an example of one? What did God show and teach you through adversity?
5. What happened to Paul in Rome?
 - a. two year imprisonment (about 60 A.D.)
 - b. tried before Caesar and found innocent and released
 - c. resumed his missionary travels for several more years
 - d. Rome burns (A.D. 64) and Nero blames Christians
 - e. both Peter and Paul are arrested and executed in Rome (A.D. 65)
6. What did Paul say about his final days? – II Timothy 4:6-8

⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all those who have loved His appearing.

- a. What does it look like for you to “finish well” as you believe and live the gospel?
 - b. What did Jesus say about laying up treasure (Matthew 6:20)?
 - c. What does it mean for Central Presbyterian Church to “finish well.”
7. Epilogue: The entire book of Acts is a testimony to the supernatural hand of God reaching down to remove the “lid” of the “box” of our lives and demonstrating his transforming power and grace. Name one way that the Lord has challenged and strengthened your faith in our Acts pilgrimage, and give him glory for it.