



the upside down series
week seventeen: upside down perspective
ten principles for living

1. Service with _____: despite what I _____.
2. _____ in preaching: despite the _____.
3. Focused on the _____: despite the _____ of the hearers.
4. _____ by the Spirit: despite not _____.
5. _____ to the faith: despite my _____.
6. _____ to the flock: despite the _____.
7. _____ to the word: despite the _____.
8. _____ on the Lord: despite the _____ need
9. _____ on the Lord: despite the _____ of the future
(21:13)
10. _____ for the prison: because of the _____.

We left Paul last week in a riot in Ephesus! You may think Paul has already suffered much for the gospel, but things are just starting to get heated up. We will spend our time the next week in Acts 20-21. Paul is about to get even more heat for the gospel. But through it all, God's word is spreading and people are being saved. Don't lose perspective of God's work through your trials and temptations!



day one: stay awake

Start your time with the Lord in prayer. Don't give in to sleepiness. In a moment, you're going to see what happens to the guy who can't stay awake!

Read Acts 20:1-16.

exploring the text

1. Paul started his third missionary journey in Acts 18:23 and he is still on it. Luke joins Paul in this portion of the journey. Can you pick out the verses that show that?

2. Was Paul a long winded preacher? (reminds me of someone else I know...)

3. What happened to Eutychus?

4. Was Paul angry at the man for sleeping and not paying attention to the word of God?

5. Why do you think that story is included in this passage?

6. Where was Paul rushing to?

interesting fact

The weapon that Christians are to wield in their personal battle with the forces of darkness is “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” Ephesians 6:17.



day two: a Christian farewell

An incredible passage awaits us today. Don't forget to begin your time with prayer. Make this a habit every time you start your quiet time.

Read Acts 20:17-38.

exploring the text

1. What do you see and feel as you read through this passage?
2. Describe the attitude of Paul in ministry.
3. What kind of priorities did Paul have?

4. Did Paul know the extent of the difficulties he would face? Did not knowing what was to come keep him from going?

5. What advice did Paul give the elders of the church in vs.28-32?

action step

What would you want to say to those in your spiritual care if you knew that you were going to die? Take time to express your hope, your love, your priorities and your passions for them. Remind them how important it is for God and his Word to be the center of their lives.

6. If anyone deserved to be supported, it was the apostle Paul. Yet explain from vs.35 his view on money and resources.

7. What was Paul's Christian farewell in vs. 36?

personal application

8. What aspects of the life of Paul do you need in your life right now? Tell the Lord about it.

9. What specific steps can you take this week to become more Paul-like?

Application for your life?
Record your thoughts here.

Lined writing area for recording thoughts.



day three: no matter what

Begin your time with Prayer. We are catching Paul on his way to Jerusalem where things are going to get hard.

Read Acts 21:1-16.

exploring the text

1. What continued warnings did Paul receive about going to Jerusalem?
2. How did he respond to those warnings?
3. How do you think those observing Paul were affected by his single mindedness?

4. What was meant in vs.8 “one of the seven”?

5. What are we told about Philip’s daughters?

6. Read II Corinthians 11:23. Why was Paul unmoved by prospects of his death?

7. Read Acts 20:22 and contrast with Acts 21:4. Was the Holy Spirit contradicting Himself?

interesting fact

Four young men sang:

We rest on thee -
our shield and
our defender
We go not forth
alone against
the foe
Strong in thy
strength, safe in
they keeping
tender
We rest on thee
and in thy
name we go

As they went to
their death, taking
the gospel of Jesus
Christ to the
Auca Indians.



day four: tell them one by one

Paul makes it to Jerusalem. He knows it may not be a pretty road ahead, but his eyes are fixed on Jesus.

Read Acts 21:17-26.

exploring the text

1. Who came with Paul to Jerusalem?
2. Who received Paul and his travel companion?
3. What did Paul report first and foremost?
4. What was the effect of Paul's testimony on the believers in Jerusalem?

verse

Acts 21:19-20

After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified God.

Application for
your life?
Record your
thoughts here.

5. What is a concern that the elders are facing?

6. How does Paul demonstrate his desire to be at one with the Jewish Christians?

personal application

7. Write down your testimony of what the Lord is doing in your life this month/year.

8. Next week, share this testimony with your Small Group and listen to other's testimony. Do this to glorify God who is at work in you.



day five: a turn of events

This week was a tough one but you covered 2 long chapters and hopefully have a better understanding of how God works through His own.

Let's finish strong. Read Acts 21:27-40.

exploring the text

1. What was Paul wrongly accused of in vs. 27-29?
2. What was the intent of the mob in vs.31?
3. What prevented Paul from being killed?
4. What was Paul's state of mind in vs.37?

5. Of what benefit was Paul's past in this situation?

6. Where is the Christian's real citizenship as Paul explains in Philippians 3:20?

interesting fact

The Roman government had given the Jews permission to kill any non-Jews who went beyond the barricade, even Roman citizens. Paul was surely thinking of this barrier when he wrote of "the dividing wall of hostility between Jews and Gentiles."

7. In the midst of a very bad day, Paul is given a very great opportunity. What is it?

