

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Community Group Discussion, September 29, 2021 - Marc Agee

Text: Acts 28

In his sermon this week, Ted discussed how the unstoppable power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ protects his chosen people and preserves a remnant for himself when his people are unfaithful. (Focus points are God's protection and preservation, the purpose and mission of the church/God's people, and how God continues his plan despite stubborn and hard-hearted people)

1) We've discussed at length through this series how Paul's history affects his witness for Christ and the purpose he's given after conversion.

Paul's goal all this time is to reach Rome, but he faces many obstacles, particularly in these final two chapters.

How do Paul's responses to the shipwreck in the previous chapter as well as to the viper and the people of Malta in this chapter relate to Paul's salvation and his preservation for a special purpose? How does this inform the nature of our own salvation and how we respond to obstacles we face?

2) In his sermon, Ted talked about the purpose of the Christian life, what it is and what it is not, as we compare our own lives to those of Paul, the other apostles, and the early church. What are common misconceptions, by Christians themselves and non-Christians alike, about the purpose of the church and the life of the Christian? What is our purpose, if it's to reflect what we've seen in Acts? How can we change our activities, actions, and speech, personally and as a church body, to reflect priorities and attitudes that align with the purpose that we're given, as shown by the church in Acts?

3) Luke begins Acts by recounting the story of Jesus's resurrection, and then ends with quoting Isaiah concerning the Jews in Rome and their rejection of the gospel. What major events and main theological points in the book of Acts relate it to the witness of Isaiah and the other prophets in the Old Testament? Do the other apostles and believers quote the prophets to unbelievers in Acts? What sort of picture does this paint of the church in relation to the world around us? What's different? How does it inform or shape how we should worship and witness?

