**MISPLACED PRIORITIES**

**Acts 24:1-27**

**BECAUSE JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD WE CAN BE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND RENEWED**

* *“Today I am on trial before you concerning the resurrection of the dead.”* (Acts 24:21b)
* *“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.”* (Ephesians 1:7)
* **If Jesus had not risen from the grave His sacrificial blood would have been powerless, but our victory over sin and death is assured because Jesus got up and walked out of that tomb like a Boss!**

**THE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OF GOD’S WORD WILL EXPOSE THE HEART OF A PERSON**

* *“Now as he spoke about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became afraid and replied, ‘Leave for now, but when I have an opportunity I’ll call for you.’ 26 At the same time he was also hoping that Paul would offer him money. So he sent for him quite often and conversed with him.”* (Acts 24:25-26)
* *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness.”* (2 Timothy 3:16)
* *“For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 No creature is hidden from him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.”* (Hebrews 4:12-14)
* **It is through reading and studying the Bible that understand the depth of our need for Christ’s redemption, and the glorious grace of God that s available to us.**

**3 TRUTHS FROM PAUL’S MESSAGE TO FELIX**

1. **God calls His people to righteous living.**
   * *“Flee from youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”* (2 Timothy 2:22)
   * *“But the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do what is evil.”* (1 Peter 3:12)
2. **God calls His people to self-control.**
   * *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control.”* (Galatians 5:22)
   * *“A person who does not control his temper is like a city whose wall is broken down.”* (Proverbs 25:28)
3. **Judgement is coming for those who reject Jesus.**
   * *“Anyone who believes in Him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.”* (John 3:18)
   * *“Then he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.’”* (Mark 16:15-16)

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER:** Share about a time you procrastinated and missed out on something important?

**START THINKING (Observation):**

* What does Acts 24:1-27 teach us about God/The Holy Spirit?
* What was Paul being accused of before Governor Felix?
* What was the real reason the Jews wanted Paul dead?
* What was Paul’s message to Felix? How did Felix respond and why did he respond that way?
* What was Felix hoping to gain from Paul?

**DIGGING DEEPER (Understanding and Application):**

* What resonates with you from Paul’s message to Felix?
* Why is the resurrection always at the core of Paul’s message? What can you learn from that?
* What does righteous living look like in your life? Do you find it difficult to live righteously in our world/your circle of influence?
* How are you encouraged knowing that Jesus rose from the dead and guarantees your redemption if you call on Jesus?
* Consider if you have anything that has priority in your life that hinders your ability to fully commit 100% to Jesus. Spend some time praying for the Lord to help you prioritize Him in every area of your life.

**LOVING OUTWARD**

* Who do I you need to share Jesus with this week? Or, who do you need to have a follow-up conversation about Jesus with?
* Who are you inviting/bringing to church next week?