

Series: "Finishing What was Started"

C.R. 2-11-24

"A Focused Life"

**Text:** Acts 20:22-24

**Intro:** The more I study the scriptures and follow Paul through Acts, the more I admire him. Paul was an evangelist, a missionary, a Pastor, a friend, and the list could go on. At some point he made up his mind that no matter where, no matter what, no matter the cost he would follow Jesus.

I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. (Psalm 16:8). This sounds like the life of Paul. In all that I do I will honor you. He had made the very sound decision of putting his life into the hands of God.

As I dug a little into this passage that we are looking at this week it caused me to think about my own life. Is it focused? Is the Lord always before me? Have I placed my life fully into the hands of God, to be used at his discretion? He is my Savior, but is He Lord of my life?

**1) Paul's Direction**

- a. Notice the direction of Paul's life wasn't mapped out by Paul, but by God
- b. He was bound by the Spirit. A life under the Spirit's control.
- c. He could not see all of the blue print, but he followed the blue print as far as it took him for that day.
- d. Give us this day our daily bread. Our daily direction. This day is yours Lord.
- e. Paul said " I don't know what will happen there. I know it will not be easy, but I am bound to the Lord. I am his.

**2) Paul's Decision**

- a. I go. We all have that. The right to choose. God will not force His will on us.

- b. Paul said that certainly danger may be ahead. But God bids me to go, so I go.
- c. How many of us right now are moving in the direction that God has for us, or has our decision taken us somewhere else?
- d. Paul thought of himself as an accountant, weighing carefully the credits and the expenses; and in the end, he does not count his own life dear to him, compared to his God and how he can serve him.
- e. Paul had decided His life for mine.
- f. The trials, the fear, the opinions of others....none of these things move me.
- g. Paul says, "Jesus means more".
- h. He means more than opinion, than fortune, than materialism.
- i. Paul said I preach a gospel that is worth dying for.
- j. The gospel of moral reform is not worth dying for, the gospel of a political party is not worth dying for, the gospel of good works is not worth dying for, the gospel of religious tradition is not worth dying for, the gospel of political correctness is not worth dying for, the gospel of feel-good church is not worth dying for, the gospel of seeker friendly is not worth dying for.
- k. **(Spurgeon)** *"Yet there used to be a gospel in the world which consisted of facts which Christians never questioned. There was once in the church a gospel which believers hugged to their hearts as if it were their soul's life. There used to be a gospel in the world, which provoked enthusiasm and commanded sacrifice. Tens of thousands have met together to hear this gospel at peril of their lives. Men, to the teeth of tyrants, have proclaimed it, and have suffered the loss of all things, and gone to prison and to death for it, singing psalms all the while. Is there not such a gospel remaining?"*

### 3) Paul's Determination

- a. To finish with joy.
- b. The only way that was possible for him was to give his life completely to God and to testify everywhere of the gospel of the grace of God.

- c. Look at 2 Timothy 4:7. There is a fight, there is a faith, there is a course, and there is a finish.
- d. Paul would finish his course in the faithful work of God, with joy.
- e. He fought for the prize. He fought for the victor's crown. To hear the Father, say Well Done my Child.