

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church – Oconomowoc
Pentecost 26 – November 13, 2016
“Living as a Minority – New Chapters Every Day”
Acts 28:30-31
Rev. John Kelling, Emeritus

*Use this insert for home study of the text for today,
and for personal assessment of your faith*

As we come to the end of Acts (around 63 A.D.), we find Paul in a “rented house” who welcomed all who came to see him. And in Paul’s usual style, “boldly and without hindrance” he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing else is recorded about Paul’s “end of life” issues – nor his ultimate fate, though we place his death around 64 A.D. Like Paul, we all will face “end of life” issues. How are you prepared, and what are you doing in the meantime?

- 1) Paul was under “house arrest”. His travel was limited, but he seemed to take advantage of others coming to him. As we age and our mobility decreases, how can we take advantage of our time with others?
- 2) Paul knew his “days were numbered”. He wasn’t going to let any moment be wasted. How about you? How can you spend your time in full service to God and the growth of His kingdom?
- 3) Though we may be limited on our travels, the world is full of opportunities for kingdom growth. In what ways is St. Paul’s growing God’s worldly kingdom and how are you doing it through your gifts and prayers?
- 4) Jesus Christ is the focal point of our earthly and eternal life. The message has not changed since Paul proclaimed it, neither has it urgency. What is our/your hesitation?
- 5) We live in a world full of terror and persecution against the Word of God and those who proclaim it. What fears do you have in telling others about Jesus as Paul did? Paul was not afraid to lose his life in doing so. Does that scare you and why?
- 6) Jesus wants us to witness Him “to the ends of the earth”. How can we begin that process right here at St. Paul’s? Where else can we witness?

- 7) From birth to death we write new chapters in our lives. How might we title each of our chapters?
- 8) It's in the Word of God that we find "deliverance". That deliverance may come in death. Paul says. "for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21) How has your life been motivated by the "gain"?

Pastoral Note: As our study of Acts comes to an end, I pray you have been encouraged to live a life pleasing to God, and "boldly and without hindrance" remain compelled to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with family, friends and strangers while we still have time.

How blessed we are to have the scholarly study of Dr. Paul Borgman in this series. The Apostle Paul's life may be no different than ours – joys, sorrows, struggles, challenges, and fears. And through them all, God is always good, and leads us by the hand and heart to trust in His care and guidance. Paul faced his "shipwrecks" knowing that God would take care of him when the seas were rough and the forces of wind took us in directions we did not want to go. Yet, God keeps His people on the course of life He has determined before time. How comforting to know God is the co-pilot of our life.

As you write new chapters in your life, give thanks to God for the memories of the past, His steady hand along the paths of today, and the joyous vision of the path's end – standing face to face with Jesus. That's the theme of Paul's life. It should also be the theme of yours.

- † Every day we walk with Jesus (actually He walks with us);
- † Every day we enjoy the blessings of a "renewed spirit" within;
- † Every day we celebrate God's love and grace to us in Jesus;
- † Every day we enjoy the lives of those around us;
- † Every day we age and cure the strength and surety of our faith;
- † Every day we walk closer to "peace yet to come"

We live in this world as a "minority" - those who fear, love, and trust in God above all things. May we cherish the gift of being His!

-To God Be the Glory -

St. Paul's Fellowship Coffee Hour



hosted by...



November 20!

(Mark your calendars for the 3rd Sunday of Every Month!)

November Hosts: Stephen Ministry

Time: 9:15 am to 10:25 am

Stay after the 8am Service!

**Come a little early for the
10:30 Service!**

Where: St. Paul's school lobby & hallway or
outside by the lobby doors on sunny days

Welcome new members & visitors!
Enjoy the fellowship of our church members!

Coffee, milk, juice, water and sweet treats will be served



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