

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## *Acts Series*

These questions are for the **April 18, 2021** sermon, "Know What You Believe." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 24:1-21) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

CONSIDER HOW GOD'S SOVEREIGN PURPOSES ARE AT WORK WHEN . . .

1. False accusations are made against God's people. (1-9)
  - a. Tertullus and Ananias bring official charges against Paul in court.
    - i. They flatter the Roman governor (Felix), trying to influence his decision.
    - ii. They charge Paul with 3 offenses . . .
      1. Paul stirs up riots.
      2. Paul is a ringleader in a dangerous religious sect.
      3. Paul tried to profane the Temple by bringing gentiles in.
  - b. Note the lessons we learn when false accusations are made against God's people:
    - i. Since believers are devoted to loving God and loving neighbor, enemies will devise false charges, which will twist "what is really happening."
    - ii. Be ready to defend the gospel, not yourself.
      1. Those who oppose Jesus will oppose you.
      2. Learn to let your reputation go while you make Christ known.
    - iii. False assumptions will lead to false accusations.
2. Faithful answers are provided by God's people. (10-21)
  - a. Paul does refute their allegations, but he remains calm and focused on his calling: to proclaim Christ. He now proclaims Christ to Roman dignitaries.
  - b. Paul's confession: I do believe the entirety of the Old Testament.
    - i. And, that Jesus is the fulfillment of all the OT Prophets.
    - ii. Paul has the hope of resurrection according to the power of Jesus Christ.
  - c. "I see there are no witnesses here," is parallel to, "they have no case."

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Sometimes we think that the main important thing is health, fairness and freedom. But all of us will experience the twisting, fading and absence of these things. Paul's dream for his ministry life was destroyed. He has entered a new season which is characterized by false allegations, limits and an uncertain timeline. Discuss this. How do you relate?
2. Based on #1, above: When Paul was beaten, arrested, imprisoned and falsely accused, he kept his focus on one main thing: be gracious and kind. Proclaim the certainty that Jesus is Christ. In what ways have you remained focused on Jesus in new and unchosen seasons of your life?
3. Based on #1, above: Which of the "lessons" under 1. b. is God teaching you today?
4. Based on #2, above: Paul refutes the charges, but also takes the opportunity to proclaim Jesus. While his heart is broken he does not focus on the state of his heart. While his dreams are over, he does not lament his unknown future. He does one thing: proclaim Jesus. Are you ready with faithful answers when people say dumb things? When the accusations are false? When dreams die? How is there hope and healing and forward movement in simple faithfulness?