

# RESTORED

OCTOBER 15, 2023

## **SERIES OVERVIEW:**

*Your life has a story to tell. A story of a God who works in incredible ways. Join us over the next five weeks to look at the life and story of Paul. Paul's life was not about Paul. It was about what God was able to do with Paul. As we look at the work of Jesus in every season of Paul's life, we learn that our stories celebrate God's incredible work and the workings of God's Kingdom through His redeemed people.*

## **SERMON RECAP:**

In week three, we looked at the life of Paul as a church planter. We unpacked the reality that church planting is always incarnation - mirroring the God who "became flesh and dwelt among us." It is done in community for gospel proclamation and usually means opposition. It will be hard. But we can rest in God's sovereignty and trust that He is with us - because it takes time.

## **CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:**

- Paul arrived in Corinth at a personal low point after the riot in Thessalonica and the lack of response in Athens. How does his narrowed focus on Christ and Him crucified model for us how to respond in spiritually and emotionally confusing times? What would that look like?
- Read Acts 18:9-11. What does God's encouragement to Paul show us about His sovereignty over all things? How can this encourage you to walk with Him courageously right now?
- Church-planting and a gospel witness must be incarnational - Jesus "moved into the neighborhood." What is a specific way you are currently engaging your neighbors and/or surrounding community? Where can you seek to grow in this area?

- Like a garden, real spiritual growth takes time to establish, grow in health, and bear fruit. How have you seen this in your own life? In those you have discipled or walked alongside? How can this help frame expectations for yourself, others, and our church?
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- Pastor Brannon shared "4 Fatal Celebrations" for churches.
  - ***Survivorship - turning inward to preserve***
  - ***Church growth - not making disciples***
  - ***Involvement does not equal obedience***
  - ***Stability - sameness, comfort***
- How have you found yourself clinging to one or more of those? How do you feel about asking God to surprise us as a church?