

RESTORED

OCTOBER 22, 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 four, we looked at the life of Paul as a pastor. We journey through 1 Thessalonians 2 to grasp a clear picture of what a pastor should be, what church should be, as well as good leadership principles regardless of our daily rhythms and spaces. The truth of the church is that it is ***imperfect people pointing to a perfect Savior imperfectly.***

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- Pastor Brannon mentioned that Paul was generous in his relationships for the sake of the Gospel. What does your living room/kitchen table look like? How often do you share rhythms & spaces with those whose season of discipleship is "other" than you?
- Pastor Brannon defined holy/righteous/conduct:
 - **Holy:** deep, inward, piety; personal commitment to stay close to Christ
 - **Righteous:** outward conduct, observable behavior
 - **Conduct:** when our walk matches our talk
- How are these shaped in community or proximity to a close group of believers vs. for public performance?

- Pastor Brannon defined the church as “imperfect people pointing to a perfect Savior imperfectly”? Talk about this statement. What happens when we expect a fellow Jesus follower to display an attribute of God perfectly? How do we balance grace & accountability? *Pause to pray as the Holy Spirit leads for the fullness of truth and grace in posture, position, and proximity.*
- If we agree that the church is a group of “imperfect people pointing to a perfect Savior imperfectly,” what does that mean for us regarding hurt or brokenness that we experience or bring with our own sin in the local church? *Pause to pray for one another as the Holy Spirit leads.*
- Do you think having meaningful relationships/friendships within the church community is hard? Why?
- In the same way that the early church plants Paul was part of prayed for him as he tried to pastor imperfectly, we should pray for our pastors and ministry leaders at NCC. ***Think through ways you could pray or encourage the ministry team at NCC. Spend some time praying for them now.***