

RESTORED

OCTOBER 8, 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 two, we looked at the life of Paul as a missionary. God restored Paul to make him his chosen instrument to proclaim the good news of Jesus to "the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel." A missionary is someone called by God, commissioned by the local church, to proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel to people who don't know Jesus yet. The Christian life is meant to be lived outwardly, and Paul's life shows us that the call to proclaim Jesus is not just for some but for all. Our roles and parts may look different, but Jesus has commissioned us to go into all the world - in our everyday rhythms and spaces.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- Pastor Dave read a quote from Charles H Spurgeon that speaks to the missional heart of the believer. Spurgeon said, "Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter." What do you think about that quote? How does it challenge you?
- Pastor Dave challenged us that the Christian life is meant to be lived outwardly. How does this statement help us understand and challenge us to examine our everyday rhythms and spaces?
- How does the shift of seeing the mission of God as having been given a church versus a church having a mission change how we see ourselves in light of Jesus' commissioning and command in Matthew 28 & Acts 1?

- Acts 9:15 & Galatians 1:15-17 outline Paul's specific call to the Gentiles. As Paul was sent, he had to discern the particular people group, culture of the region, and context of their brokenness. What is challenging about discerning how we embody and proclaim the Gospel in the rhythms and spaces we find ourselves in?
- How does discerning and resting in being faithful to what is entrusted versus being driven by results or response change our posture in making disciples and proclaiming the Gospel? *As needed, take time to encourage and pray with one another.*

NEXT STEPS:

Take space as a community or individually to move from Sunday sermons to everyday practice. Pastor Dave talked about how God used his daughter to bring conviction to their family that the call to love your neighbor as yourself starts with actually knowing your neighbors. Missionaries aren't just those sent to the literal ends of the earth - every follower of Jesus is a missionary, and we each have a role and play a part in the work Jesus is doing to proclaim His name and His glory and redeem and restore.

- Think about your proximity to others. Do you know your neighbors? Why or why not? *Move into a space to confess and pray for one another - confess fears, pride, or any other strongholds that get in the way of allowing you to dwell among others like Jesus, the Word who became flesh. (John 1)*
- Pastor Dave identified four next steps in response to God's Word and Paul's life as a missionary modeled for us in Scripture. Identify one that you/your community can pray through and take a step to live out this week.
 - **Embrace your identity as a missionary.**
 - *Read and pray through Matthew 28 & Acts 1 this week, adding your name to personalize these passages. Sit in prayer.*
 - *Prayerfully ask God to reveal where or to whom he has called you to move toward on mission with the Gospel.*
 - **Commit to praying daily for someone in your everyday rhythms and spaces.**
 - **Build relationships with people without the pressure of needing results or responses.**
 - **Step out of your comfort zone.**