



## Week 29 | June 23 Sermon

**Community:** This week, we will do some thought work together on one of the 10 core values of GROUPS ministry. We will do this periodically throughout the remainder of the series.

### Service

#### **FOUNDATION::**

##### **Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)**

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

##### **Colossians 3:23 (NLT)**

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

**PUT IT INTO PRACTICE::** God calls us to serve Him and others. He has prepared good works in advance for us to do. Life isn't about us. It's about fulfilling His purposes, for others and us. We were created by God's design for His purposes and to bring Him glory.

From Jesus' words in Matthew and Paul's admonition to the Colossians, we see that service is important to God. Not only are we called to serve our fellow man, but in that, we also know that we are serving God and that he prepared in advance the ways that we can serve. As a group, pray; ask God to show you ways he is calling your group to reach out and serve in the church and in the community. Is there a cause for which your members are passionate? Are there unmet needs right in your own neighborhood? Not sure how to plug in? Consider options for volunteering at Third or through other non-profits like ACTS, The Well, Bibles for Missions, Many Hands for Haiti.

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

# GROUPS

## Sermon Title: What to do With Such a Troublemaker? Part 2 | Text: Acts 22:30-23:35

### Auditorium Discussion Questions::

Auditorium GROUPS Questions:

- 1) Compare and contrast the Jewish people (esp. Pharisees/Sadducees), the Jewish believers and Gentile believers in the book of Acts. What do they have in common? What are their points of disagreement?
- 2) If we think of the "institutional church" of the day in Acts as the Jewish Synagogue and its structures and practices, how does it compare and contrast to the "institutional church" (Christian) of today?
- 3) Of what value or what role does the law play, now that Jesus has fulfilled it? (Need some ideas? Romans 6,7,8)
- 4) Jesus summed up the law like this, 1) Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and 2) love your neighbor as yourself. Love God. Love Others. Do we also have to obey the law?
- 5) When we "witness" to a person who doesn't know Jesus (or their need for him) yet - what is the "good news" we have to offer them?

### Sanctuary Discussion Questions::

Please read Acts 22:30-23:35. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to? Why?

What words or phrases in today's passage offer a glimpse into the intensity and violence of the spiritual battle raging in Paul's story? Do any of these words or phrases give voice to the battle you/we are engaged in? If so, please explain.

Kevin again emphasized the significance of the Resurrection. He argued that our age focuses on what is visible and measurable. It believes in what can be observed. So the great division is between those who are willing to be bound only by what they can see, measure, touch and feel, and those who believe there is something beyond what is tangible, something that is intangible and has to do with God.

Francis Schaeffer described this division as those who are above and those who are below a "line of despair."

If others could read your mind and closely observe your life, would they say you live with or without a Resurrection focus? Why is this so?

Kevin used Acts 23:11 to unpack how Paul was strengthened by the Resurrected Jesus in prayer. Prior to this, Kevin suggested that Paul's mindfulness of Christ's existence and courage in spiritual battle were directly connected to his holy habits/ rituals of prayer.

Do you agree or disagree with the summary statement that prayer rituals/habits keep us praying when we can't (or won't)?

If you agree, what are your prayer habits/rituals? How have they helped you?

Will you share a time of prayer, blessings, and encouragement to conclude your meeting?

