



Sermon Notes: Don't Waste Your Life

1. The reasons for Paul's visit.

- a. He wanted to be in Jerusalem for Pentecost.
- b. He had a large financial gift for the Jewish Christians.

2. The resistance to Paul's visit.

3. The reaction to Paul's visit.

- a. His friends rejoice in the success of the Gospel.
- b. Others oppose him on false charges.

4. The recommendation for Paul's visit.

- a. This is not hypocrisy or a repudiation of the Gospel.
- b. This is sacrificing a personal freedom for the ultimate good of others.

Gospel Applications:

- 1) Don't waste your life trying to avoid suffering and death.
- 2) Don't waste your life demanding rights that can be given up for the good of others.



Application Questions: Don't Waste Your Life

1. How did you express a passion for truth and grace this week?
2. Do you think you would've sided with Paul's interpretation of the Spirit's will or everyone else's interpretation? Why?
3. What are some tests/factors you use to determine if something is the will of God or not?
4. What's the most difficult thing you've experienced in God's will (not simply because you disregarded God and got punished)?
5. Read John 15:18-21, 2 Timothy 3:12, and 1 Peter 4:12-16. What do these verses have in common? In light of this, why do you think American Christians are so averse to suffering today?
6. In believing that God always wants the best for our lives, we tend to define "best" in all the same ways the world does: the highest paying job, the most comfortable circumstances, the most successful children, the cleanest bill of health, etc. Why do you think that is?
7. With respect to question #6, what do you think we might be missing by defining God's "best" this way?
8. Why do you think Paul's friends in Jerusalem failed to stick up for him in the face of serious false accusations?
9. In Acts 21:23-26, Paul voluntarily submitted to the Mosaic Law in ways that he was not required to by God in order to remove a reproach upon himself and the Gospel. Do you agree or disagree with what Paul did? Why?
10. What are some freedoms you could surrender (especially temporarily/circumstantially) in order to remove other people's barriers to the Gospel?
11. What one thing will you do this week in light of this message?