

“Paul had to go on no matter what lay ahead. Nothing could have been more definite than the warning of the disciples at Tyre and of Agabus at Caesarea, but nothing could deter Paul from the course that he had chosen. During one of the sieges in the Spanish Civil War, some of the garrison wished to surrender but one of the comrades said, ‘I WOULD RATHER DIE ON MY FEET THAN LIVE ON MY KNEES.’ Paul was like that.”
 – Dr. William Barclay

- Paul ⁽¹²⁾_____ the warning and inherited the consequences.

5 KEYS TO FIND THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD FOR YOUR LIFE IN 2010

1. Receive ⁽¹³⁾_____ as Savior.

Romans 8:14, “Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.”

2. Obey the ⁽¹⁴⁾_____ God has placed in your life. (Employer, Husband, Parents.)

Romans 13:1, “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

3. Eliminate ⁽¹⁵⁾_____ contrary to the Word of God. The Will of God is never at variance with the Word of God.

Psalms 37:9, “For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.”

4. Search the ⁽¹⁶⁾_____ and pray for guidance. Much of the Will of God is in the Word of God.

Psalms 119:105, “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

5. Follow the ⁽¹⁷⁾_____ God puts in your heart.

Psalms 37:4, “Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.”



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Answers: 1-anguish 2-not 3-GO 4-children 5-kneeling 6-4 7-60 8-evangelist 9-prophecy 10-not 11-die 12-rejected 13-Christ 14-authority 15-behavior 16-Scriptures 17-passion

First Family Church 7700 W. 143rd St, Overland Park, KS 66223 913-681-3341 www.ffc.org



Sunday Evening, December 27th, 2009

How to Find the Will of God For Your Life in 2010

Acts 21:1-16

Pastor Jerry Johnston

The greatest question a believer asks: “How do I discover the will of God for my life?”

1. Departure – Acts 21:1-3 (NIV)

Acts 21:1-3 After we had torn ourselves away from them, we put out to sea and sailed straight to Cos. The next day we went to Rhodes and from there to Patara. ²We found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, went on board and set sail. ³After sighting Cyprus and passing to the south of it, we sailed on to Syria. We landed at Tyre, where our ship was to unload its cargo.

“torn ourselves away from them” (v.1) – the verb expresses the difficulty and ⁽¹⁾_____ both groups experienced in having to be separated. It is comparable to the weaning of a child from his mother’s breast.

APPLICATION: Does it grieve your heart to be separated from Christians?

Geographical Profile: COS, RHODES, PATARA

COS:

- Small island in the Aegean Sea; 40 miles south of Miletus
- 112 square miles; 27 miles long and between 1 and 7 miles wide
- Less than 5 miles from the Asia Minor mainland
- Best known for being the location of the school of medicine found by Hippocrates in the 5th century B.C.
- Famous as a medical center with a major medical school and its famous temple of Aesculapius, the Greek god of medicine.

RHODES:

- Fourth largest island currently belonging to Greece (540 square miles)
- Lies 20 miles off the coast of Asia Minor; 50 miles from COS
- In its harbor was the great “Colossus”, a 100 foot statue of the sun god Helios, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, destroyed by an earthquake in the 3rd century B.C.
- Was known for its major university specializing in “Speech and Oratory”

PATARA:

- One of the principal cities of the Roman province of Lycia and the seat of the Roman proconsul
- 400 mile voyage from Patara to the city of Tyre
- 40 miles from Rhodes

2. Difference #1 – Acts 21:4-6

Acts 21:4-6 “Finding the disciples there, we stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. ⁵But when our time was up, we left and continued on our way. All the disciples and their wives and children accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray. ⁶After saying good-bye to each other, we went aboard the ship, and they returned home.

- The Greek imperfect text makes it clear that the Holy Spirit impressed them to tell Paul ⁽²⁾_____ to go. They KEPT telling Paul, “Don’t ⁽³⁾_____.”

APPLICATION: What is God trying to warn you about in your life right now?

- **LOOK:** A children’s ministry in the early church – in fact, this is the first mention of ⁽⁴⁾_____ in one of the early churches.
- A beautiful sight: men, women, and children ⁽⁵⁾_____ with Paul praying in the sand of the beach.

3. DETERMINATION – Acts 21:7-9

Acts 21:7-9 “We continued our voyage from Tyre and landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for a day. Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.”

- Acts 21:17- 28:31 covers a period of ⁽⁶⁾_____ or 5 years beginning about A.D. 58 or 59.
- Paul could have been nearly ⁽⁷⁾_____ years old while receiving this abuse.

“For twenty years, Paul had been engaged in almost superhuman labors. He had been traveling and preaching almost incessantly, and carrying on his heart a crushing weight of cares. His body had been worn with disease and mangled with punishments and abuse; and his hair must have been whitened, and his face furrowed with the lines of age. As yet, however, there were no signs of his body breaking down, and his spirit was still as keen as ever in its enthusiasm for the service of Christ.”
– Dr. Stalker

- Philip the ⁽⁸⁾_____ of Acts 8 had four unmarried daughters who had the spiritual gift of ⁽⁹⁾_____.

“It has been recorded that early believers regarded these women as valuable sources of information on the early history of the church. The historian Eusebius notes that the church father Papias received information from them. Perhaps Luke used them as a source of information in writing his gospel and Acts. He would have had many opportunities to talk with them, not only during this visit, but also during Paul’s two-year imprisonment at Caesarea (Acts 24:27.)
– Dr. John MacArthur

“What a joyful time Paul had in conversation with Philip. He could learn from him much of value about the early days of the gospel in Jerusalem. And Luke could, and probably did, take notes from Philip and his daughters about the beginnings of Christianity.”
– Famous Greek Scholar, Dr. A.T. Robertson

Geographical Profile: TYRE, PTOLEMAIS

TYRE:

- Coastal city 50 miles north of Caesarea

PTOLEMAIS:

- Located 8 miles north of Haifa, was known as Acco in the Old Testament era (Jud.1:31)
- Emperor Claudius improved its port, and settled many veterans there.
- Josephus regarded the city as the western boundary of Galilee
- Under Nero, the city became a Roman colony
- 30 miles South of Tyre – a great commercial city lying on the major road between Syria and Egypt

CAESAREA:

- Herod the Great built the city in honor of Caesar Augustus
- The remains of the city are viewable today including the hippodrome, aqueduct, and theatre

4. DIFFERENCE #2 – Acts 21:10-16

Acts 21:10-13 “After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹Coming over to us, he took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, ‘The Holy Spirit says, ‘In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’ ¹²When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³Then Paul answered, ‘Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.’”

- Agabus, who predicted the famine earlier in Jerusalem (Acts 11:28) warned Paul ⁽¹⁰⁾_____ to go to Jerusalem! He was correct on the famine and correct in Paul’s upcoming punishment, imprisonment, and execution!
- “I am ready... to die in Jerusalem for the Name of the Lord Jesus.” Are you willing to ⁽¹¹⁾_____ for Christ?

5. UNABLE TO DISSUADE – Acts 21:14-17

Acts 21:14-17 “When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, ‘The Lord’s will be done.’ ¹⁵After this, we got ready and went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁶Some of the disciples from Caesarea accompanied us and brought us to the home of Mnason, where we were to stay. He was a man from Cyprus and one of the early disciples. ¹⁷When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers received us warmly.