

A DEEPER DIVE

Acts 23: 22-35
October 6, 2024

What do you think of the new format and focus? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvc13@gmail.com.

Micah 6:8 – He has shown you, oh mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (NIV)

Monday: As we are drawing to the end of Acts, it would be a good idea over the next few weeks to go back and reread the whole book through (not necessarily in one sitting though!). Maybe try to read 5-6 chapters per week, and while you are reading, look at your sermon notes for those sections, or ask the Lord to put into your heart what He would want you to remember from those chapters.

Reading – Prayerfully review Acts 23: 1-22. Ask the Lord to open your mind/heart to understand what the Holy Spirit wants to bring to your attention.

Prayer Focus – Spend today in personal prayer. What are you in need of? What is weighing on your heart? Health concerns? Financial issues? Dealing with sin? Are there family members and friends who are lost? Pray for them by name and ask the Lord to give you more opportunities to act in love and speak with grace to them. Lay everything you are dealing with before the Lord.

Tuesday: Reading – Acts 23.

Consider this – Acts 23:22

Why does the commander give Paul's nephew the directions of secrecy that he gives him? What is your opinion of the commander? About Paul's nephew, FF Bruce says that we wish we had more information about Paul's family. Bruce ties in Philippians 3:8. There has been much conjecture about the extent of this statement in Philippians. What things have you lost due to your commitment to Christ? Read Philippians 3 and ask, is it worth it?

Prayer Focus – Keep it local. Spend today in local prayer. Remember the prayer requests and needs from Sunday (refer to your prayer list if you keep one on Sundays). Lift up the fellowship at NUBF. Pray for your pastors and elders. Pray for the workers at the church and the ministries. Pray for financial blessing so that the reach of the church can increase. Remind the Lord about what you prayed for yesterday.

Wednesday: Reading – Acts 23

Consider this – Acts 23:23-30

The commander gives his troops specific orders. What is his emphasis? Why is he so concerned about this? Read the letter the commander writes to Governor Felix. Vs. 27 doesn't seem exactly factual to me. What does the commander write that doesn't quite fit in with Luke's narrative? (Read 22:22-29).

Prayer Focus – Pray for our nation. Pray for our leaders, and the upcoming election (and both candidates). In Acts 23:5 Paul quotes Exodus 22:28. Read Romans 13:1-7. Considering the coming election in our country, and the dissension that this brings, seek the Lord for how you can represent God righteously during this time. Pray for the victims and survivors of the fires, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters. Pray that in each community the churches can come together to show the grace and love of God through helping the recovery. Remember to pray for your personal needs, and the local needs.

Thursday: Reading – Acts 23

Consider this – Acts 23: 31-35

Paul is escorted by a large contingent to Antipatris. After a night in Antipatris the soldiers went back to their barracks. Consult a Bible reference and discover why they did this. Why was the commander so concerned about Paul's safety? As the governor is looking into the matter concerning Paul, where is Paul held?

Prayer Focus – Spend today in prayer for the world. Pray for those in war zones like Ukraine and Russia, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, and any other place you know of. Pray for our missionary partners. Pray for those in disaster areas. Pray for a united, active, and gospel preaching church all around the world. Remember to pray for your personal needs, the local needs, and our country.

Friday: Reading – Acts 23

Consider this – Acts 23

Paul gets to Caesarea, away from his attackers. Wiersbe comments that the forty Jews who took their vow to kill Paul, "must have been terribly hungry before they broke their vow." Probably a lesson in there for everyone?

Prayer Focus – Spend today praying for the soon return of Christ. Lift up all of the needs from the week and pray for wisdom and readiness.

Saturday: Reading – Acts 23

Consider this – Reread Acts 23

Do so asking the Lord to prepare your mind and heart to receive the Word during the service on Sunday. Paul had a lot of opposition during his journeys. Reread Acts 18:9-11 and 23:11. How much do you think Paul relied on these appearances to sustain him through the difficult times? How does the Word of God and the hope of heaven sustain you through your difficult times?

Prayer Focus – Spend today praying for the Pastors of NUBF and the people who are making things happen on Sunday. Include the teachers, the behind-the-scenes workers, the worship team, the regular attendees, and that there will be new people who come to the service and maybe meet Jesus for the first time.

Sunday: Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.