

Uproar at the Temple

1. Paul (and the Gospel) Receive Both Welcome and Violence.

2. Christ's Kingdom Will Overcome Both Jerusalem and Rome.

3. Upon What Is Your Certainty Based?

CONCLUSION: Christ's promise to expand His Kingdom throughout Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth continues even as Paul and his missionary band return to Jerusalem. As we should expect they receive both hospitality and rejection just like Jesus. The reactions of Jerusalem and Rome demonstrate their fickleness and falseness of this fallen world. This historical account also calls us to evaluate our own fleeting lives and what we are looking for as an anchor. Anything less than Christ will disappoint with devastating consequences. Look to Christ and live!

Matthew 10:16-25

¹⁶ “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴ “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. *If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.*

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²² For *Jews* demand signs and *Greeks* seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to *Jews* and folly to *Gentiles*, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both *Jews* and *Greeks*, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Psalms 20:1-9

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble!
May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!
May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!
May he remember all your offerings and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices!
May he grant you your heart’s desire and fulfill all your plans!
May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners!
May the Lord fulfill all your petitions!
Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand.
Some *trust in chariots and some in horses*, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.
They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright.
O Lord, save the king! May he answer us when we call.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Homecomings can be bitter or sweet and oftentimes both. Such was Paul's return to Jerusalem, his ancestral home. First he was welcomed and then beaten and imprisoned. What is going on and how does this account help us to trust Jesus whose Kingdom is true and everlasting?

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 21:17-39; Matthew 10:16-25; First Corinthians 1:18-25; Psalm 20:1-9.** DISCUSS Followers of Jesus will find the whole world against us. Why does this surprise us? Which do you tend to look to for approval more—false religion or civil authority? How does their approbation act as a false gospel providing false security? PRAY “Lord Jesus, forgive us for looking to other things for security besides You.”

Sunday Evening

Everyone is welcome to attend *this evening at 6pm* as we host missionary Matt Megill in the meeting room and then enjoy dinner.

Monday

READ **Acts 21:17-39; Matthew 10:16-25; First Peter 5:6-11.** DISCUSS Why does the world hate Christians? How is that expressed through Jerusalem? How through Rome? What false hopes do you need to repent of today? MEDITATE on **Matthew 6:31-33.** PRAY “Lord, forgive us for the ways we look to others in ways we should only look to Christ.”

Tuesday

READ **Acts 21:17-39; Mark 13:9-13; Psalm 20:1-9; Isaiah 45:21-23.** DISCUSS: How do the psalmist and Isaiah point us to resting in God alone? What counterfeits do Jerusalem and Rome offer? How do we resist their temptations? MEDITATE on **Matthew 6:31-33.** PRAY “Lord, thank You when we are welcomed and thank You when we are rejected. Enable us to receive joyfully whatever You bring because of the security we have only in Christ.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 21:17-39; Luke 21:12-19; First Corinthians 1:18-25.** DISCUSS How do the stereotypes of Jewish and Gentile disbelief held us to understand true belief in Christ and His Kingdom? What does the coming of the Kingdom of God mean? How are we to trust in our King? MEDITATE on **Matthew 6:31-33.** PRAY “Lord, enflame our hearts with passion for You and Your Kingdom.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 21:17-39; John 15:18-27; Matthew 5:10-12.** DISCUSS How does the truth of Christ conflict with the lies of this world? Why is it so important for us as Christ’s people to be truthful? When are you most tempted to embellish or deny the truth? Why? MEDITATE on **Matthew 6:31-33.** PRAY “Jesus, make us honest. Embolden us to speak the truth in love. Help us to discern dishonesty and to stand against its destructive nature.”

Friday

READ **Acts 21:17-39; Matthew 10:16-25; First Corinthians 1:18-25; Psalm 20:1-9.** DISCUSS How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Matthew 6:31-33.** PRAY “Thank You, Lord Christ, that You are true and that Your Kingdom is everlasting.”

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both in-person & live-stream services are available.* READ **Acts 21:40-22:29.** Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *in-person or live-stream service.* Ask Jesus to build us build us up as His holy body.

Matthew 6:31-33

“Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But *seek first the kingdom of God* and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”