

### **Recap of 7/31/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 23:12-35**

1. "As you review the events recorded in this chapter you cannot help but be impressed with the commitment of the apostle Paul to his calling.... [He]did not look for the easy way out but for the way that would most honor the Lord and win the lost. You are also impressed with the amazing providence of God in caring for His servant. Paul was alone—but not alone! His Lord was with him, and he had nothing to fear" (Wiersbe).

-the providence of God is illustrated in Scripture in Ruth 2;1-8 and Esther 6;1-6.

-Lectures in Systematic Theology lists the following ways that God exercises providence over us (Prov. 16;1; 21;1,2)

-He uses His Word (Colossians 3:16); our reason; inner checks and restraints; outward circumstances (closed or open doors for instance; and He "inclines the hearts of men in one direction, rather than another."

2. "Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His providence." Augustine

3. To deal with the uncertainties of life, we must:

-commit ourselves to the plan of God (Acts 20:24; Ephesians 2:8-10)

-have faith in the promises of God (Acts 23:11; Romans 8:28ff)

-trust the providence of God (His involvement in our futures)

-understand that God may use some unlikely people (or institutions, e.g., the ungodly government of Rome which helps Paul and furthers God's purposes) to help us.

4. The blatant hypocrisy of the religious leaders is shocking! But we need to be 'on guard against professing Christian values, and then acting in a way that denies them." (Richards)

5. "God works in amazing and amusing ways. God chose to use the Roman army to deliver Paul from his enemies. God's ways are not our ways—ours are limited, His are not. Don't limit God by asking Him to respond your way. When God intervenes anything can happen, much more and much better than you can anticipate." (Life Application Bible)