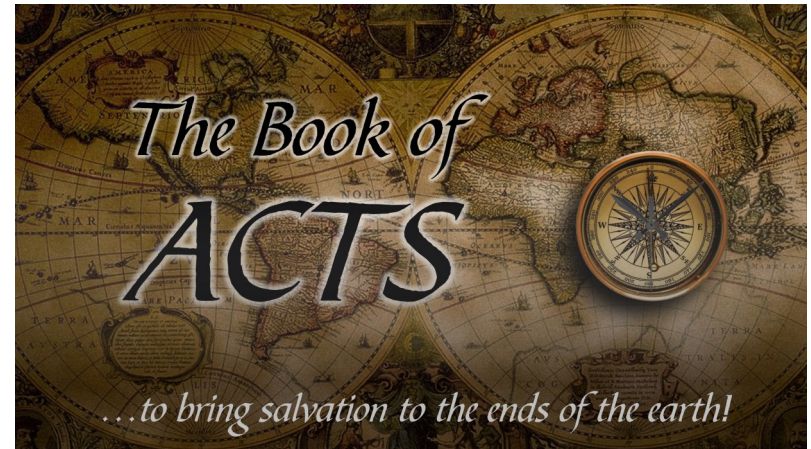


In that passage, how does Paul describe what does it mean to be a citizen of Heaven? Read Colossians 3:1-3. How does this help explain?

Read Hebrews 12:5-13. A goad may be seen as a form of God's discipline. Have you ever experienced God's discipline or observed it in someone else? Describe that to the group. Was the discipline effective?

Prayer Requests



March 17, 2024 • Acts 25-26 • Paul's Ongoing Defense

Scripture References

Acts 25-26 • Psalms 19:1 • Hebrews 12:10-11

- 1) Paul knew he would not get a fair trial from the Jewish leaders, so he used his rights as a Roman citizen and asked to appear before _____.
- 2) We worship the God who created the universe, but _____ tells us we're in control, and when we focus on that, it's easy to leave God out of the equation.
- 3) Just as Paul was a citizen of Rome, Christ-followers are citizens of the kingdom of _____, first and foremost.

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- 4) When believers get too focused on politics, faith becomes secondary as political values _____ their belief about God.
- 5) When you kick against a goad, your own effort drives the point _____ into your flesh - resisting makes it hurt more.
- 6) To Paul, a trial is just one more opportunity to talk about Jesus, to tell his listeners that God's _____ is available to everyone.
- 7) When we get too caught up in our day-to-day lives, it's easy to miss or _____ what God is doing all around us.
- 8) There are many people today who are on the wrong side of God's plan, including Christians who are out of _____ with God.
- 9) Distractions to God's plan include: _____, _____, _____, _____.
- 10) As a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven, your priorities in life must be aligned with God's plan for repairing this _____ world. Otherwise, we can expect the _____.
- 11) The closer we _____ with God and his will, the less we will need the goad.



Small Group Discussion Questions

Please try to think these over and jot down some ideas prior to discussing them at the meeting, it will improve the discussion.

Have you ever had trouble getting an animal to do what you want it to do? Share that with the group. What can we learn from that?

Read Daniel 2:20-21. How can this inform our attitude towards the American political world? In light of this, what should be our involvement, as Christians, in political affairs? Explain why.

Read Philippians 3:17-21. What characteristics does Paul use to describe those who are "enemies of the cross of Christ." Describe what those characteristics might look like in our world.

Continued on reverse.