

Small Group Guide

Various Passages - Acts 18:12-17

From the sermon - Act 49

Who can understand the mind of God? This question is repeated by Paul many times in his writings, and you would think of all people, he would understand the best. Most of the time we don't see the plan that God has. We don't see what He is working out for good, especially when it feels bad. But, there is always a greater purpose behind what is happening on the front end of things.

When Paul and his companions were taken before the tribunal and dealt with harshly, this may have been one of those times that he asked himself, "Who can really understand God?" Things like this often happened to the Christians of the early church. Things like this often happen to the present day church as well. But God is still sovereign over all.

1. How does God use secular officials to further the Gospel, and carry out His plans?
2. Often times what the enemy means for evil, God works out for His good. What has happened in our culture recently that is an example of this? How have you maybe seen this in your life on a personal level?
3. Why do you think God allows suffering and trials to happen in life?
4. Read Philippians 4:10-13 and discuss these verses. Paul was able to find contentment in life, in whatever situation he was placed in. What was His secret? How is it possible to be content in the midst of struggling?
5. Romans 8:28 echoes the truth that all things work together for the good of those who love the Lord, and are called according to His purpose. How do we hold onto this truth when nothing good seems to be happening in our life? How do we trust that God is still working when our current state seems to be falling apart?
6. Currently, the church is being persecuted in many countries all around the world. How might this passage, Acts 18:12-17, encourage those believers? What would you say to them?
7. Take time to pray for the persecuted church in other countries. Also, take time pray for the church in our own country.

Next small group meets the week of April 2nd