

# VOYAGER

*Experiences That Shape Our Faith*

**About the Series:** Experiences are powerful and can shape our Christian faith. But experiences should not be what defines our faith. Rather, it should serve to strengthen our faith and affirm what we already know to be the facts of our faith as recorded in the Scriptures. In this sermon series, we explore the journeys of Apostle Paul and how encountering life-changing experiences can teach valuable life lessons to voyagers like us who are on a journey called life.

## Part 21

### Press on to the End

Acts 28:11-31 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

## DISCUSS

In many ways the journeys of the apostle Paul reflect our life as a follower of Jesus—a life full of twists and turns, challenges and struggles. What inspires you to press on to the end of the race?

### Inspiration #1: We are not alone in life's journey (v. 11-16)

- What encouraged Paul and his companions on the last leg of their journey to Rome? Why did it encourage Paul in spite of his own courage and boldness?
- How did Paul describe his two-year confinement in Rome in his letters to Philemon and to the Colossians?
- Why is it easy to be discouraged in life when you think that you are all alone? How does being in a community of believers, like your church, give you very tangible experiences of encouragement?
- What is the admonition for the Christians in Hebrews 10:25?

### Inspiration #2: We bring a message of hope to the hopeless (v. 17-20)

- Why did Paul call some of the leaders of the Jewish community in Rome? What did he want to talk to them about?
- To what extent was Paul willing to go to bring the message of hope in Jesus to hopeless people?
- What hurts and uncertainties in this world create the constant need for hope? Why is the Person of Jesus Christ the only hope for a fallen world we live in?
- If you have this message of hope, what lengths will you go to make sure the hopeless hear the hope you have in Jesus Christ?

### Inspiration #3: We know there are people waiting and wanting to hear the Gospel message (v. 23-29)

- What did Paul share to the Jewish leaders in Rome during their second meeting? Did it discourage Paul that not everyone believed in what he shared?
- What were the parting words of Paul quoting Isaiah 6:9-10? What was the focus of Paul's ministry then?
- Why should you not get discouraged when you share the gospel to people who do not want to believe? How could you press on until the end?

### Inspiration #4: We live a purposed life for Christ in words and in action (v. 30-31)

- How did God use Paul during his two years confinement? What else did God accomplish through him before he died?
- Paul's life was not easy, but it was a life that was faithful until the end. How was he able to press on to the end in spite of so many challenges and difficulties?
- What is your purpose in life that goes beyond the superficial? How would you press on to live a purposed life for Christ in your words and actions?

**REFLECT**

As you run the race called life, there will be many roadblocks and challenges that will come your way which will greatly discourage you. However, there are biblical reminders that will inspire to press on to the end, to finish the race, and to finish it well. Are you living your life with purpose, knowing you are not alone? Are you bringing a message of hope in Jesus to a world that is waiting to hear the gospel message?

**PRAY**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the wonderful words of the apostle Paul, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Lord, may I imitate Paul to press on to the end in spite of many discouraging things in my life. Help me to be faithful to You until the day I see Jesus face to face. I know that this is possible because of Your grace. In Jesus' wonderful name. Amen.