



THE LIFE OF  
**PAUL**

FAMILY DEVOS

# Committed

**Scripture:** Acts 21:1-14

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 1:21

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

## For My Family:

For today’s Scripture, reading you may find it helpful to look at the maps in the back of your Bible (if your Bible has them) and find the map entitled “Paul’s Missionary Journeys” for a helpful visual aid as you read where Paul’s ship stopped or passed by. Paul was coming to the end of what is known as his third and final missionary journey. He had several travel companions at this point, including Dr. Luke, the author of the book of Acts. Unlike many of the missionaries we may think of today, Paul never stayed anywhere for very long. Instead, he traveled from city to city, sharing the Gospel of Jesus as he went, and the people who decided to follow Jesus became the church in that particular city, often meeting in people’s homes. Sometimes Paul would stay to teach and encourage the new church, while other times he would leave a trusted companion to do the same as he continued on.

Paul was journeying by ship toward Jerusalem, desiring to get there in time for the feast. He believed the Holy Spirit was calling him there (Acts 20:22-23), and this is important to keep in mind as we read today’s verses because again and again, Paul is going to be warned about trials he will face in Jerusalem and urged by his friends *not* to go.

It seems that everywhere Paul and his companions stopped, they were able to find fellow believers, one of which was Philip the evangelist, who was last seen spreading the Gospel in Acts 8. This just goes to show that the book of Acts hardly tells us all of the details of the early church, and it will be interesting to hear all of the untold stories as we sit and talk to people like Philip in heaven. The Gospel was spreading far and spreading fast. The church grew the same way then as it does today! “The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47), and most often He uses us to accomplish this! We may never have our stories recorded like Paul, but God knows our names and will reward us just the same as we faithfully live in obedience to His Word and tell others about Him.

Paul was committed to doing just that, even if it cost him his life! Do you know what it means to dissuade someone? It means to try to convince someone not to do something that they have decided to do. If I told you that suffering and trials would be waiting for you if you ever went to Ohio, you would probably try to avoid going there. Paul was warned repeatedly that he would meet trouble in Jerusalem. Even Luke begged him not to go, but he went anyway. He wasn’t going because he liked suffering. He was going because he loved God, and the Spirit had told him to go. Better to suffer in obedience to the Lord than live comfortable lives in disobedience to Him. His companions finally said, “The will of the Lord be done,” and that’s where God wants to lead us today. What God wants is always better than what we want, and the heart that fully trusts Him can freely say, “Not my will, but Yours be done.”

## Questions for Young Children:

What city was Paul traveling to?

Why did Paul's friends ask him not to go to Jerusalem?

What was most important to Paul, even more important than his life?

## Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Why wasn't Paul dissuaded from going to Jerusalem? Do you think this was easy for him? Why or why not?

How committed are you to following Jesus? (This is a very personal question. The goal isn't guilt or embarrassment, but an honest self-assessment. Would I really be willing to follow Jesus at any cost?)

It seems Paul was led by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. How can you know for certain what God is calling you to do?