

## **Notes from Sunday 27 January 2019**

### **'Paul's example of hard work and perseverance' - Acts 19: 1-12**

Paul was evidently filled with the Holy Spirit and walking in the power of the Holy Spirit - but he had to work hard and persevere. Wouldn't you agree? Imagine how hard it would be to teach every day in the heart of the day as well as earning your living.

What other trials do you remember from Acts that he had to overcome?

It seems that Paul set a good example. Can you find what Jesus had to say to the church in Ephesus in the book of Revelation?

Are you involved in work that at times seems arduous and unrewarding? Don't be surprised - the New Testament doesn't promise us an easy life. Read Hebrews 1:12 for one example.

Encourage one another - and perhaps pray for those that are struggling at this time. God has promised to be with us - and he praises those who persevere.

Work - of all kinds - is part of the normal Christian life - do you agree?

Can you find in Acts 20 where Paul reminded the Ephesian elders about his hard work?

What about Jesus? Did he work hard?

And are we called to imitate him?

What was the last thing that he told the disciples to do at the end of Matthew?

What did James say about faith and work?

I believe that part of what it means to partner with the Holy Spirit is really practical and down to earth - work is an essential part of the authentic Christian life - and to work according to our creator's design is both an act of obedience and one of worship

When we are saved and filled with the Holy Spirit, God does not take control of us - do you agree?

What kind of relationship does God want with us?

If he gives us freedom, does this diminish his sovereignty? Does it increase our responsibility?

I believe that God honours us and gives us dignity and purpose by giving us the chance to work with him.

How will we respond?

Has God called you to do something specific?

If not, what are some of the general ways that we can imitate him and obey his commands?

What might this look like in lives? Can we make specific plans to make some of these things happen?

Paul reasoned, persuaded, explained and proved.

What do these words mean? What do they tell us about Paul's communication of the gospel?

Can we imitate him?

Do you feel that the gospel makes sense?

Do you have some understanding of the overall picture of the Bible and how it relates to us and the world?

Can you explain - make clear - what you believe? In two minutes? What if you had an hour?

What are some of the things that might be obstacles to people understanding?

Personal testimony is always powerful - so can you give reasons why you believe? We are called to be prepared so that we are ready for every opportunity.

Jesus said that his kingdom was coming and is already here. The quality of life in a kingdom will always depend entirely on the calibre of the king.

What are some of the characteristics of King Jesus?

Imagine what life would be like in his kingdom. One day we will experience that in its fullness. But not yet.

Even so, the kingdom has come and it is advancing. What does that mean for us here and now?

How will the people of Chertsey start to experience the goodness of the king?

**Lots of questions! Don't try to cover them all!**

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