**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. November 12, 2017**

**Politics, Religion, Paul and Jesus on Trial**

ACTS 23-26

**Key Truth:** Jesus was with Paul when he testified before the authorities, and Jesus is with us when we share the gospel before unbelieving and unfriendly audiences.

1. Why politicians will never be our moral compasses?

 A. They are more concerned with power and popularity than

 truth and justice.

 B. They have failed to live out the intended purposes of God

 for civil government. Romans 13:1-7

2. Why man-made religion can never produce salvation and

 righteousness: Acts 26:4

 A. The religious rulers were all about power and control.

 B. The gospel is a threat to man-made religion.

3. Paul had forsaken politics and man-made religion in order to

 gain Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:1-11, Acts 26:30

 A. God is in control even when we are going through trials.

 B. God’s provision is available as we fulfill God’s mission.

 C. Be a faithful witness even during turbulent times.

4. Why Jesus of Nazareth is on trial?:

 A. If Jesus is the Messiah and is resurrected from the dead we

 must all one day stand and give account of our lives to Him.

 B. If the Bible is true then repentance and faith in Jesus is our

 only response. Acts 4:12, 26:27-28

**Taking it Beyond the Walls:** Thank God for standing by us at all times. Trust in God’s providence and believe in His Word. Share your story with others.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

If it were illegal to tell people about Christ, do you think you would be put on trial for what you have said about Jesus? How do you think you might respond when you were questioned?

As Christians, we don’t take courage in our circumstances...we take courage in God (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

What is the difference between the two? Why is it unhealthy to trust in circumstances?

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19: As Christians, how should we respond when we are treated unjustly?

Read Philippians 1:12-14: Why do you think Paul had to go through so many different trials?

How has God providentially worked the circumstances of your life for your spiritual good?

1 Timothy 2:1-7: We are called to submit and pray for our leaders. Why is it a danger when the church puts faith in government leaders to do what the church should be doing?