



20:22

THE POWER TO BE

As Pastor Jon shared in his sermon on Sunday, people approach the new year like a blank slate. That's because we have no clue what the future holds. But he encouraged us to embrace the spiritual reality of Psalm 139:16 *"...all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."* This verse teaches us about the sovereignty of God.

Pastor Jon's main idea: **Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.**

Read **Acts 20:22-24**.

This new series is called 20:22 because of Acts 20:22:

"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there."

Key Questions:

- What do you know about the context of this statement?
- Why do you think does Apostle Paul feel compelled by the Holy Spirit to go back to Jerusalem?
- What was he expecting to face when he returns to Jerusalem? How does he know what to expect?
- In returning to Jerusalem, Paul is genuinely afraid for his life, why do you think does he still want to go?
- In verse 24, Paul states his mission in life. What kind of attitude and passion does Paul have?
- At the very heart of Paul's farewell to the Ephesians is a statement of his personal calling and purpose. Read Acts 22:24-26.

Application Questions:

- Pastor Jon said, *"Expect hardships and trials this year, but never expect God to abandon you. He is always with you."* Can you name a time in your life when you felt God has abandoned you, but God showed you that He hasn't?
- One lesson Pastor shared is, *"Your greatest discovery in life is seeing and understanding that God is the author of your destiny."* Why is that life's greatest discovery?
- Another lesson we learned last Sunday is: *"You cannot improve the future without changing the present."* What does God know about your future and how important are our choices to lead us to the future He has for us?
- One other point Pastor made is: *"Your destiny is strongly tied to your purpose."* The Apostle Paul was unafraid of what lies ahead as long as he continued fulfill God's purpose. Write a short personal statement of God's purpose and assignment for you; something similar to what Paul wrote: (verse 24, *...my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace*). Share what you write down on your next gathering.
- The title of this sermon/study is THE POWER TO BE. Why is knowing God's purpose for your life such a powerful witness to your own soul?

Pray for one another.

- Share your biggest fears for 2022, and pray for each of those fears.
- Share what God has been teaching you on our 21 Days of Prayer.