

## **S.G. Study Guide: *To the End of the Earth*. Acts 21:1-36**

**Opening Thought:** What does it mean to be “Spirit-led”? How can we make sure we are hearing clearly from the Spirit of God? (2 Pet. 1:20-21)

### **1. Paul: The Spirit confirms that the will of the Lord be done. (1-16)**

- Have you had a time when God told you to do something (Biblically confirmed) and yet people who love you, and with good intentions, attempted to talk you out of it?
- Matthew 16:21-21. Compare Jesus obedient call to our Father with what Paul experienced in Acts 21. Discuss.
- “*Let the will of the Lord be done.*” This was not fatalism, but rather acceptance of divine revelation. Discuss what this looks like in our lives today? Discuss the idea of living out the “right hard decisions” and share examples.

### **2. Paul: A humbled servant for the church. (17-26)**

- Paul reported to James and the elders. What does this teach us about submission to church authority? How can we be agents of change as a part of the church? Why is this the biblical model of service and humility? Discuss.
- What lies were said against Paul? How did this concern the elders? Discuss their solution and Paul’s response?
- How does Paul’s response to the elder’s request/plan reaffirm his humility and commitment to the gospel? (1 Cor. 9:22)

### **3. Paul: Standing firm as one bound to the gospel. (27-36)**

- Legalists traveled from Asia, likely from Ephesus to confront Paul. What did they do? What assumptions did they make? How did they assassinate his character?
- What did the crowd begin to do to Paul? Where did this take place? Discuss the irony?
- Discuss the parallel between Paul being “*constrained*” (bound via Ch. 20) and Acts 21:33.
- What happened to keep Paul from being beaten to death by the violent crowd?
- Close by praying for persecuted church (local/global).