

**Message Title: “Upside Down –
Confidence In Uncertain Times”**
**Series: ACTS 180 – When the World
Was Turned Upside Down!**
180 Church | Acts 20:16-38
Pastor Harlyn | Oct 17, 2021

Acts 20:16-38 “For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. ¹⁷ Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” ³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸ being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Three Decisions Paul Made:

1. He chose the God-guided life over “_____.”
2. He chose to be the _____ not the _____.

1 Corinthians 4:2 “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”

Do I: evaluate my assignment based upon where I think I will make the greatest impact?

3. He chose captivity to the kingdom of Jesus over captivity to fear.

You can't be held captive by anything when you are captivated by Jesus

LOOK IN:

1. Do you think your life is more guided by God or guided by a quest for the good life? Why do you think this is? What might it look like for God to be the guide of your life?
2. Do you see yourself as the master of your own life or as a servant? How does this passage and Pastor's Harlyn's message encourage or challenge you?
3. Have you ever been "compelled by the spirit" to do something? What happened?
4. In this passage, Paul shares his mission statement, his aim in all things (v. 24), which gave him the confidence to know he was where he was supposed to be. What might your own mission statement look like as you think about where God has called you to be right now?
5. What has been the outcome when you have done what you thought God was asking you to do? How did it match up to your expectations? How does this challenge or encourage you?