

## SERMON NOTES

SERIES:       **Acts: To Be Continued**  
TITLE:        **Gospel Insistence**  
DATE:         February 28, 2016  
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In Acts, Luke shows Jesus' friends continuing the kingdom mission that Jesus started in his earthly life and ministry. The Book of Acts is all about Jesus' followers continuing his mission in the world. We are the ones God has entrusted with carrying the message of Jesus forward.

**Today, we look at Acts 20:1-38.** In this passage, we see a constant factor in Paul's ministry is his *insistence* in sharing the gospel of Jesus, no matter what he faces. This should be an example to how we live our lives as Christians. Our basic point of insistence should be the Gospel.

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***Insistence:*** *the fact or quality of insisting that something is the case or should be done.*

The concept of insistence includes two parts: (1) what and (2) how. The things we favor and devote ourselves to include more than just preference and precedence (the *what*) but in the ways we share that devotion (the *how*).

As followers of Jesus, our basic point of insistence should be the Gospel, the good news that Jesus is bringing the kingdom of heaven to earth.

Two questions:

1. What should it look like to insist on the gospel in all of life?
2. How do we prioritize our lives in such a way that Jesus is the focus of it all?

In Luke's recordings of Paul's missionary journeys, we see that Paul went around encouraging the disciples in the gospel of Jesus. He made it central to his life. Paul spent three years with his Ephesus friends, through many triumphs and trials. Throughout this entire time, he didn't stop declaring to them the beauty and practicality of the message of Jesus as messiah.

**Acts 20:24** “I consider my life *worth nothing to me* unless I finish the race and complete the task that Jesus has given me - to testify to the gospel of God’s grace”.

It is abundantly clear to the Apostle Paul that nothing else will do except to glorify the grace of God in Jesus. This is what he insists upon.

### Two Observations:

1. ***Relationships are the “adhesive” part of gospel insistence.*** God wants the gospel to take root and advance in and through relationships.
2. ***We cannot make the gospel our ultimate priority without also making Scripture a priority.*** The extent to which we insist on the gospel in all of life is measured by how we insist on understanding and loving God’s word.

Seeking humbly to understand both people and scripture *on their own terms* is fundamental to continuing Jesus’ mission in the world.

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### For Discussion:

1. How would you complete this sentence?  
*My life is worth nothing unless \_\_\_\_\_.*
2. When you look at the relationships in your life, is Jesus the bond that unites them all, or is there another motive?
3. In what ways can you “*leave no stone of God’s word and truth unturned*” in your relationships and enrich how you see God’s promises and his forgiveness through Jesus?