



Making the Most of Seasons that Don't Make Sense

Pastor Mickey Eckles

July 4-5, 2020

If "con" is the opposite of "pro," is Congress the opposite of progress?

Acts 24:13–18, 22-27 (NLT)

13 These men cannot prove the things they accuse me of doing. 14 "But I admit that I follow the Way, which they call a cult. I worship the God of our ancestors, and I firmly believe the Jewish law and everything written in the prophets. 15 I have the same hope in God that these men have, that he will raise both the righteous and the unrighteous. 16 Because of this, I always try to maintain a clear conscience before God and all people. 17 "After several years away, I returned to Jerusalem with money to aid my people and to offer sacrifices to God. 18 My accusers saw me in the Temple as I was completing a purification ceremony. There was no crowd around me and no rioting...

22 At that point Felix, who was quite familiar with the Way, adjourned the hearing and said, "Wait until Lysias, the garrison commander, arrives. Then I will decide the case."

23 He ordered an officer to keep Paul in custody but to give him some freedom and allow his friends to visit him and take care of his needs. 24 A few days later Felix came back with his wife, Drusilla, who was Jewish. Sending for Paul, they listened as he told them about faith in Christ Jesus. 25 As he reasoned with them about righteousness and self-control and the coming day of judgment, Felix became frightened. "Go away for now," he replied. "When it is more convenient, I'll call for you again." 26 He also hoped that Paul would bribe him, so he sent for him quite often and talked with him. 27 After two years went by in this way, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And because Felix wanted to gain favor with the Jewish people, he left Paul in prison.

How did Paul navigate uncertain times?

1. He worshiped God.
2. He held on to hope.
3. He shared the gospel.
4. He connected with people through conversations.

VISION

Trinity Church exists for people like you ...
To connect with God and others,
To live out your identity in Christ,
And to be part of transforming our world.

1. _____ Christ to All (Evangelism)

We are unwavering in reaching our community and world with the Gospel. It is the message of hope and the actions of love.

Acts 24:15 (NLT)

I have the same hope in God that these men have, that he will raise both the righteous and the unrighteous.

Ephesians 6:19–20 (NLT)

19 And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. 20 I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

Colossians 4:3–4 (NLT)

3 Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. 4 Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

2. _____ God in Passionate Worship

We create an atmosphere that emphasizes substance over style, relationship over religion, and encourages participation. Worship is our lifestyle.

Acts 24:14

"...I worship the God of our ancestors..."

3. _____ the Believer – (Discipleship)

We grow as disciples through a relationship with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Our environments of discipleship are intentional.

Acts 24:14

"...and I firmly believe the Jewish law and everything written in the prophets."

4. _____ Community

We connect throughout the week. Lasting life transformation takes place in small groups.

Acts 24:23

He ordered an officer to keep Paul in custody but to give him some freedom and allow his friends to visit him and take care of his needs.

5. _____ People to Serve

We exist to help people discover, develop and become who they are created to be. We are contributors not consumers.

Acts 24:17

"After several years away, I returned to Jerusalem with money to aid my people and to offer sacrifices to God.

How do we make the most of seasons that don't make sense?
We stay on mission together.

ANSWERS:

1. EXTENDING
2. ENGAGING
3. EQUIPPING
4. EXPERIENCING
5. EMPOWERING