



UNSTOPPABLE

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.

AUGUST 27, 2023



WELCOME

At RCC, the Bible tells us that God wants us to find our greatest joy in Him and that He desires for us to share this experience with others.

So our mission is - To encourage people to **Enjoy God Together**.

And our vision is - To **build joy-filled communities of faith** whose very existence inspires individuals to live an abundant Christian life, **made up of three key relationships - r1, r2, and r3**.

r1 – A deepening relationship with God

r2 – A life-changing relationship with other believers

r3 – An engaging relationship with those yet to believe

To get there, we have a few things that matter to us:



WHAT WE THINK ABOUT GOD MATTERS



WE FIND OUR GREATEST JOY IN JESUS



WE HELP PEOPLE HELP PEOPLE



WE CELEBRATE QUESTIONS



WE EMBRACE INEVITABLE TENSIONS



THIS IS FOR LIFE



Life Groups start the week of September 10th!

We'd love to have you join one of our Life Groups and grow in God and community with others at RCC.

Life Groups at RCC happen weekly (or every other week) and are built around a small group of people reading the Bible and sharing all that life sends our way.

To get more information or to get involved in any of the groups, please contact **Steven Huggins**, Pastor of Adults, at stevenh@richfieldcc.org or sign up at richfieldcc.org/events.

FALL Craft Night

Thursday, September 7th • 7-9pm • \$15



Let's get ready for Fall by crafting some new decorations - Sweater Pumpkins. These events are a favorite amongst RCC women and, since the event is limited to 40, it will sell out!

Location: RCC Thengvall House

Cost: \$15 (covers craft supplies for Sweater Pumpkins)

Register: www.richfieldcc.org/events

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (714)-524-1744.

WOMENCONNECT

SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK:

Acts 23:1-22

¹And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day."
² And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. ³ Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?" ⁴ Those who stood by said, "Would you revile God's high priest?" ⁵ And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'" ⁶ Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial." ⁷ And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. ⁸ For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. ⁹ Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?" ¹⁰ And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks. ¹¹ The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome." ¹² When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. ¹³ There were more than forty who made this conspiracy. ¹⁴ They went to the chief priests and elders and said, "We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food till we have killed Paul. ¹⁵ Now therefore you, along with the council, give notice to the tribune to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case more exactly. And we are ready to kill him efore he comes near."¹⁶ Now the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, so he went and entered the barracks and told Paul. ¹⁷ Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to tell him." ¹⁸ So he

took him and brought him to the tribune and said, "Paul the prisoner called me and asked me to bring this young man to you, as he has something to say to you." ¹⁹ The tribune took him by the hand, and going aside asked him privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?" ²⁰ And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire somewhat more closely about him. ²¹ But do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him, who have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they have killed him. And now they are ready, waiting for your consent." ²² So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging him, "Tell no one that you have informed me of these things."

Acts 24:10-27

¹⁰ And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied: "Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation, I cheerfully make my defense. ¹¹ You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem, ¹² and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city. ¹³ Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me. ¹⁴ But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, ¹⁵ having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. ¹⁶ So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. ¹⁷ Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings. ¹⁸ While I was doing this, they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia— ¹⁹ they ought to be here before you and to make an accusation, should they have anything against me. ²⁰ Or else let these men themselves say what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the council, ²¹ other than this one thing that I cried out while standing among them: 'It is with respect to the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you this day.'" ²² But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way, put them off, saying, "When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case." ²³ Then he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in custody but

have some liberty, and that none of his friends should be prevented from attending to his needs. ²⁴ After some days Felix came with

his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, "Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you." ²⁶ At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him. ²⁷ When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

NOTES:

God's Supremacy in Our Story

Acts 23-24

Will Watson - August 27, 2023

1. **God's supreme power and authority brings us to places we're not expecting.**
2. **God's supreme power and authority sometimes doesn't make sense to us.**
3. **God's Sovereignty ALWAYS brings us places to share the Joy.**

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