**Antigo Community Church – September 26, 2021**

**My Life: Whose is it? What is it for?**

**Acts 20:17-38**

My Life: Whose is it? What is it for?

Scripture Reading – Acts 20:17-38 (NIV)

Paul’s Farewell to the Ephesian Elders:

We Have a History

Our Current Situation

Acts 20:22-25 “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.”

Compelled – I cannot do otherwise

I consider my life worth nothing to me…

My Life: Whose is it? In Christ – my life is not my own, It’s His! – what a freeing truth. I don’t need to be consumed with the cares of this world – health, money, living my best life…

What is my life for? One thing – finish the race, complete the task that Jesus has given to me - the Gospel!

Our Glorious Future

“Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, what is unseen is eternal.” 2 Cor. 4:16-18

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ…But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 3:7, 13-14

“For to me to live is Christ, to die is gain.” Phil. 1:21

N.T. Wright, in *Surprised by Hope* says, “People who believe in the resurrection, in God making a whole new world in which everything will be set right at last are unstoppably motivated to work for that new world in the present.”

In an uncertain world where it feels like the future is shrinking, understanding that our life is not our own and that we’re here for eternal purposes – the spreading of the Gospel that cannot fail – our future is not shrinking, but expanding to a glory that we cannot even imagine.