

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Discuss Paul's deliverance from his persecution.
2. From what type of opposition/persecution do Christians today need to be delivered?
3. How did Paul perceive that the impotent man had faith to be healed?
4. What does the term mean "confirming the souls of the disciples"? (vs. 22)
5. How important is it for us to give God the glory for good works? (vs. 15) Why?

### SUMMARY:

Whenever the truth of the Word of God is spoken boldly through the power of the Holy Spirit, Satan is there to stir up opposition to it. Just as in Acts 14:22, Paul exhorted the disciples telling them, "...that we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God." Also, in 2 Timothy 3:12, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

We should not be overwhelmed with the thought of opposition to our life in Christ, but rather glory in it because we are assured that God is with us since Satan himself is contending against us.

If we are not being opposed there apparently is no need of it.

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #4

October 23, 2005

Fourth Quarter

### PAUL FACES OPPOSITION

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**LESSON TEXT:** *Acts 14:1-28; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5*

**LESSON SETTING.** Paul and Barnabas are preaching in a synagogue in Iconium.

**TIME:** Approximately 45 A.D.

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**I. A DYNAMIC MINISTRY.** Acts 14:1-15

- A. A Remarkable Healing (vs. 8-10) John 4:50
- B. An Attempt at Worship (vs. 11-13) Acts 28:6
- C. A Refusal of Worship (vs. 14-15) Matthew 19:17

**II. A DESPERATE OPPOSITION.** Acts 14:16-28

- A. Jewish Interference (vs. 19) Acts 4:1-3
- B. Stoning (vs. 19) Acts 7:59
- C. Deliverance (vs. 20) Acts 12:11

**III. A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT.** 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5

- A. Gratitude for Progress (vs. 3) Luke 10:17
- B. Satisfaction Over Their Endurance (vs. 4) 2 Timothy 2:10; Romans 8:17
- C. Assurance of Heaven (vs. 5) Luke 10:20

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *THEREFORE MY BELOVED BRETHREN, BE YE STEDFAST, UNMOVABLE, ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD, FORASMUCH AS YE KNOW THAT YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD.*

I Corinthians 15:58

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Acts 16:6-40

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Jeremiah 26:1-13; 38:1-28

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Life and Writings of Paul

**TOPIC:** PAUL ENDURES PERSECUTION

**INTRODUCTION:**

It may be the belief of some Christians today that God's people in the early church were inherently different from present day Christians. We read of the extraordinary faith of the apostles and the singular fidelity of the early church leaders. The examples of courage, faithfulness, and the persistence of men like Paul could make us feel that we could never achieve such things in our present day. The answer is that God never changes—His power is just as dynamic as it was in the first century. We, however, limit His power. Many times He would want to work through us, but our willfulness will not permit Him. To the degree that our lives are yielded to Christ, to the degree that we become selfless—then God's power can work! In us! And through us!

This does not mean that in so doing we will be free of conflict of any sort. Quite the contrary. If, however, we have that mind of Christ, our *“yoke will be easy and our burden will be light”* because we will be able to accept suffering and persecution with the mind of faith.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Faith in God gives the suffering Christian “songs in the night.”

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *FOR UNTO YOU IT IS GIVEN IN THE BEHALF OF CHRIST, NOT ONLY TO BELIEVE ON HIM, BUT ALSO TO SUFFER FOR HIS SAKE.*  
Philippians 1:29

Do you remember singing these words?

It may not be on the mountain's height, or over the stormy sea.  
It may not be at the battle's front, my Lord will have need of Me:  
But if by a still, small voice He calls to paths I do not know,  
I'll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in Thine,  
I'll go where you want to go.

There's surely somewhere a lowly place  
in earth's harvest fields so wide,  
Where I may labor thro' life's short day for Jesus, the Crucified.  
So, trusting my all unto Thy care, I Know Thou Lovest me!  
I'll do Thy will with a heart sincere,  
I'll be what you want me to be.

Without a doubt Paul could have sincerely sung those words—words that should be a challenge to every believer's heart.

It seems strange that discipleship should also entail suffering. Yet how can we expect the way of the Christian to be any different than the way of Christ? If we are to be His namesake we ought also to share in His suffering. May we say with the Apostle Peter, *“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings: That when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye.”* (1 Peter 4:12-14)

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 24 - 30**

- M. Paul's Second Missionary Journey. Acts 15:36-41
- T. Paul Recruits Timothy. Acts 16:1-5
- W. \*The Macedonian Call. Acts 16:6-10
- T. \*The First Convert in Europe. Acts 16:11-15
- F. \*Missionaries Beaten and Imprisoned. Acts 16:16-24
- S. \*Victory and Deliverance. Acts 16:25-40
- S. Counsel Concerning Persecution. 2 Timothy 3:10-17