

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why is there less evangelization and growth of the church today than in the early church?
2. The word “assay” (vs. 7) means to try or test. How do we “test” things in our lives to determine the Spirit’s leading?
3. To what extent should a believer stand up for his “rights”? (vs. 37)
4. How might the Spirit have “forbidden” them to preach the word in Asia? (vs. 6) Why would he forbid them?
5. What works were wrought by the jailer?

SUMMARY:

The example of the lives of the apostles in early times is a pattern for our Christian behavior today. The power of God and the message of His Son are as powerful as ever, and the need for courageous workers is the same today as then. Each believer must follow the leading of God’s Spirit to carry out the task that is required no matter what the size.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #5

October 30, 2005

Fourth Quarter

PAUL ENDURES PERSECUTION

LESSON TEXT: *Acts 16:6-40*

LESSON SETTING: Paul and Silas leave Galatia to continue their missionary journey.

TIME: Approximately 52 A.D.

I. LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. Acts 16:6-15

- A. He Chooses the Field of Operation (vs. 6)
- B. He is a Guide to All Truth. John 16:13; Luke 1:79
- C. He Controls the Movements of Believers (vs. 9) Acts 10:19-20

II. OVERCOMING EVIL SPIRITS. Acts 16:16-18

- A. Defeat of Satan by Christ (vs. 18) Luke 4:13
- B. Jesus Casts out Demons (vs. 18) Matthew 8:28-32

III. PERSECUTED FOR THE GOSPEL. Acts 16:19-24

- A. Persecution (vs. 23, 24) Acts 14:19; Galatians 4:29
- B. Resistance of the Mobs (vs. 22) Matthew 26:47; Acts 17:5
1 Thessalonians 2:2

IV. DELIVERED BY GOD’S POWER Acts 16:25-40

- A. Our Deliverer (vs. 25, 26) 2 Corinthians 1:10
- B. Deliverance From Sin (vs. 31, 32) Hebrews 2:15, Jude 20-25
- C. God’s Ability to Deliver (vs. 35, 36) Jeremiah 1:8
- D. Peter’s Deliverance. Acts 12:6-7; 1 Corinthians 10:13

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Philippians 4:1-23

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 2 Samuel 16:5-12; Psalm 55:12-22
Isaiah 26:3

QUARTERLY THEME: Life and Writings of Paul

TOPIC: CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES

INTRODUCTION:

Joy, peace and contentment may well be termed the gyroscope of the Christian Life. Perhaps no other contributing factors are as powerful in stabilizing our storm-tossed ship of faith than these three precious jewels. Don't mistake joy for fun, peace for lack of strife, contentment for dumb resignation. These are virtues that penetrate far deeper than the surface of our lives.

Nehemiah said, "...for the *JOY OF THE LORD* is your strength."
—Nehemiah 8:10

David said, "*Great peace have they which love Thy law and NOTHING SHALL OFFEND THEM*". —Psalm 119:165

Job said, "*Though He slay me, YET WILL I TRUST IN HIM. . . .*"
—Job 13:15

What do you say?

"Thank you, Lord, for these precious jewels. Let them become real in my life."

CENTRAL TRUTH: Whatever the circumstances in which we find ourselves, we can count on God's faithfulness.

GOLDEN TEXT: *NOT THAT I SPEAK IN RESPECT OF WANT: FOR I HAVE LEARNED, IN WHATSOEVER STATE I AM, THEREWITH TO BE CONTENT.*
Philippians 4:11

None of us have any problem with discontentment as long as things go well in our lives. But let poverty, sickness, loneliness, rejection or persecution befall us, then our contentment shows itself to be a mere facade, uncovering our great spiritual lack. Worry and fretting take over in our lives. We ask "Why must it be me?"

These virtues were not handed to Paul on a platter. He, like all of us, had to learn these things the hard way. In the final analysis, he realized that it was only through Jesus—"In Him".

In the midst of testing, remember what God is trying to do with you, look up to Him, and thank Him for His love and wisdom. He is preparing you for Heaven. This is the only way the precious virtues can be added to your life, and He's doing it as gently as He can. When the trial is over, you shall come forth as gold.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 31 – Nov. 6

- M. Attitude toward enemies. 2 Samuel 16:5-12
- T. Attitude toward false friends. Psalm 55:12-22
- W. Attitude toward a fellow laborer. Philippians 1:1-11
- T. Attitude toward kingdom advancement. Philippians 1:12-18
- F. Attitude toward complete commitment. Philippians 1:19-30
- S. *Yardstick for judging attitudes. Philippians 4:1-13
- S. *Attitudes toward giving and receiving. Philippians 4:14-23