



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Productive Prayer Meeting Pandemonium

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

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Acts 16:25-34 *“But about midnight Paul and Silas were continually praying and singing hymns of praise to God, so the prisoners were carefully listening to them. 26) Then suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the jail were shaken, thus all the doors of the prison were immediately opened, and all the bonds were loosened. 27) But the jailer, having become awake and seeing the doors of the prison having been opened, having drawn his sword was about to kill himself, supposing the prisoners to have escaped. 28) But Paul called with a loud voice saying, ‘May you do nothing to harm yourself, for we are all here!’ 29) So, asking for lights, he rushed in and came trembling with fear and bowed down before Paul and Silas, 30) And leading them outside, he continually said, ‘Lords, what is necessary for me to do in order that I may be saved?’ 31) So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved and your household.’ 32) And they spoke to him the Word of God with all the ones in his house. 33) And taking them along in that hour of the night, he washed their wounds and was baptized, he and all those of him, immediately. 34) And especially bringing them up into his house, he set a table before them and greatly rejoiced with all his household having believed God.”*

“REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS. AGAIN I WILL SAY, REJOICE! BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION, WITH THANKSGIVING, LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN TO GOD; AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING, WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS.” PHILIPPIANS 4:4, 6-7

Is this how a spiritual seal team does not miss a single opportunity for Christ’s kingdom? Why were Paul and Silas in maximum security? Had the other prisoners ever heard anything like this before? Did God answer their prayers above what they could ask or think? How does Paul keep the jailer from committing suicide? Is salvation by our good works or by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone? Was Paul also concerned for the jailer’s family? Is God’s Word most important? What are the four proofs that the entire family became believers?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- FEBRUARY 22: ACTS 16:35-40 *REQUIRING RESPECT FROM LAWLESS LEADERS*
- MARCH 1: ACTS 17:1-4 *REVIVAL IN THE CAPITAL: A MULTITUDE BELIEVES!*

Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke had all embraced the call from the man of Macedonia that Paul saw in his vision in the night, requesting that they come and help. The first convert was a woman of great wealth name Lydia. The next person is a slave girl, constantly crying out, *“These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation,”* and Paul delivered her from her demon. Paul is reaching both the top and the bottom of the social strata in this *“foremost”* city, far surpassing the nearby capital in wealth, power and political clout in the Roman Empire. The slave owners become more diabolical than their slave and with false accusations they convince the people and the generals in leadership to persecute Paul and Silas, primarily because they are Jews. With bruised and bloodied backs from their beating, they are thrown in prison with their feet fastened in stocks.

“THEY HAD ENDURED MUCH, BUT THEY HAD CAUSE STILL FOR GRATITUDE. THE CHRISTIAN MAY FIND MORE TRUE JOY IN A PRISON THAN A MONARCH ON HIS THRONE.” ALBERT BARNES

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 6TH FLOOR SPEAKER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 6TH FLOOR SPEAKER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

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I. A SUPREME JOY

ACTS 16:25-26

How could these men possibly be singing, praying and praising God when they have just delivered a girl from the evil oppression of a demon and the only thanks they receive is anger, arrest, false accusations, the humiliation of being stripped by the leaders of the city, then beaten, jailed, thrown in maximum security with the discomfort of one's feet in stocks and when they lay down it is with a bloodied and bruised back against a filthy dungeon floor while they await possible death the next day? This spiritual seal team is not groaning or complaining or even quiet, they take advantage of every moment and every circumstance to advance the kingdom of God and they know that even the most horrible circumstances with prayer will be turned for their greater good and for God's glory. So they seize the moment to encourage their own hearts in God's love, with song and intercession, while they are an incredible witness to the listening prisoners. By the time the great earthquake strikes at midnight, the prisoners hearts are so enraptured by the spiritual leadership of this team that when the doors are opened and their bonds loosened, no one even tries to escape.

"PAUL SPEAKS OF REJOICING MORE IN THE SHORT LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS THAN IN ANY OTHER OF HIS EPISTLES."
JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE

II. A SUICIDAL JAILER

ACTS 16:27-30

When the jailer awakes from this mighty earthquake his first concern is his responsibility to secure his prisoners, particularly the two with personal instructions from the generals who led the city. With swift hands he has his clothes and sword on and he darts out into the night and quickly arrives at the prison, only to find the doors of the prison already opened. Knowing that if a single prisoner escaped his life was in jeopardy, he panicked without even checking to see if the prisoners were inside, and pulled his sword to fall upon it, when suddenly he hears a

shout from the deepest interior of the prison dungeon. He must have contemplated eternity as he trembled upon his shimmering sword about to end his life, and in awe he realizes that his most important captives are trying to save him from taking his life. Still trembling from this near death experience, having obtained torches for light, in disbelief he passes all his unshackled prisoners until he reaches Paul and Silas who are free and waiting for him. He bows down before these incredible men who have just rescued him from suicide and then, in the most honorable way possible, leads them outside continually asking, "*Lords, what is necessary for me to do in order that I may be saved?*" Remembering the words of the slave girl.

"PAUL ANSWERED IN THE SIMPLEST AND YET THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE OF TERMS. 'BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS.'" EVERETT HARRISON

III. A SALVATION JUBILEE

ACTS 16:31-34

The jailer expected to "*do*" something for his salvation, but Paul made it clear that Jesus Christ had already done everything and it was only necessary to believe in him—faith alone in Christ alone. But this spiritual seal team will not miss an opportunity for the kingdom, so they add, "*and your household.*" They are bent on not one escaping God's grace, and thus they are given the opportunity to give God's Word to the entire family. In spite of the time being past midnight, when the whole family believed, they prove it by first wanting to wash the wounds of these servants of Christ and then, while by the river, they all want to be baptized together immediately. Like Lydia, they want to extend their hospitality and they spread a table of their best before these missionaries and probably even enjoy communion together. Now there is rejoicing by a transformed family added to the joy of Paul and Silas in fully answered prayer for their enemies.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Will you follow the example of this spiritual seal team by rejoicing in God and praying even for your enemies above you?
- 2) Will you demonstrate your love to your enemies so that they will desire to learn from you the way of salvation?
- 3) Have you been saved by faith alone in Christ alone and are you praying for and giving the Gospel to all those around you?