

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Morning

Date 13th February 2021 Hymns Psalm 100 1st V t old 100th, 271, 332 Read: Acts 16:25-34
Text Acts 16:16-19

Series: Philippians (8) Title: The Philippian Jailor Saved

Whenever Paul and Silas were beaten in Philippi for preaching Christ as the only way of salvation, they were cast into prison, and while in prison, the Jailor as **verse 23** states was charged **to keep them safely**.

This phrase **to keep them safely**, is an interesting statement.

The word **keep** means **to guard**. *The idea is to hold firmly, to attend carefully, or to watch over it.*

The word **safely** means **to secure, to prevent escape**.

And so when you put the words together **to keep them safely**, means he was ordered **to guard them securely so they will not escape, to watch over them carefully that any movement to escape would be detected and ended**.

That's why he threw them into them inner prison, deep in.

The name of the jailor is not recorded, however from the passage we can detect that he was suited to the job.

As soon as his employer instructed him he acted; he was quick to obey orders. He got to work right away. He attempted to do his job to the best of his ability, because **verse 34** refers to his house, hi family, all who lived in it.

Therefore this man is working to provide for his family.

He appeared to carry out his responsibilities to the best of his ability, no escape under his watch. He attended to the matters concerning his own family.

Even though he is a working & responsibilities at home, yet it can be said of him as Christ said to young ruler, **one thing thou**

lackest. He lacked spiritual life. He did not know the Lord as his own and personal Saviour.

You can have many things, but unless you have Christ the hope of eternal life you lack everything.

Therefore **in reading the whole account, we find this man went to work during that day a lost sinner, and returned home a sinner saved by the grace of God.**

He left for work without Christ as Saviour, and returned home with Christ as His only Saviour.

Dear believer, can you remember the day you went to work, or school, church, you left that morning covered in the filthy garments of your sin, however when you returned home you did so in a new garments, the garments of salvation.

You returned home still married or a parent, child, yet you returned, home in the spiritual sense as a new husband, a new wife, a new parent, a new child, a new brother or sister, because you possessed new life, joy desires, and motives

Oh sinner today you can have the same joy of new life, sins forgiven.

The Gospel came into the jailor's life & house.

Christ by His Spirit entered the hearts and lives of this entire family; and without exception all began to follow and serve the Lord, no doubt becoming part of the congregation of believers that assembled in Philippi

The gospel transforms individuals, families and society.

I FIRST, THE JAILOR'S RUINATION.

At some point during the night the Jailor fell asleep, we learn this from **verse 27** as he awoke out of his sleep.

Verse 25 records the time, *at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.* Then we read in **verse 26** *and suddenly there was a great earthquake, there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed, v27* “*and the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep...*”

The earthquake was sent by the Lord, and such was the force and strength, not only did the foundation of the prison shake but also the ropes or chains that bound the prisoners were loosed.

But when he awoke out his sleep notice the end of **verse 27** “*and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.*”

These are strong and serious words, this man in seeing the chains broken, thought the prisoners had escaped and concluded his life was not worth living,

even though he has family at home waiting for him, let's say children waiting for dad to return, a wife no doubt waiting on her husband to come home.

He thought the best way to handle the situation, the pressure, shame, guilt and burden **was to harm himself, take his own life.**

Why did he think in such a way? well under the Roman law he would have been held accountable and responsible for the prisoners, and would have suffered the penalty of death if they escaped, and so he thought best to end his life there and then.

How many think the same as this man today, they attempt to take their own life, either as this man tried or we hear young people

jump into the river Thames to drown, or overdose with alcohol and drugs. They feel pressures.

Harming self and Suicide is never the answer, it only passes the pain and pressure to someone else left behind.

Listen, in all the worlds, chaos, cares and challenges, there is comfort, because Jesus is always the answer.

Christ alone transforms the heart mind & life. He gives a reason to live, because He is the life, the reason to live.

See how serious this situation is for this man, that he lifts the sword and as he is about to take kill himself, he **hear's a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.** No one escaped.

Just at the right time, Paul speaks to this troubled, burdened, depressed and distressed man under pressure, who feels there is no hope, and killing himself is the only option, because he saw himself under the penalty of death, facing Roman punishment.

Child of God that was our past standing, as fallen sinners we were ruined by the fall, facing the punishment of God's law.

Paul taught this very truth to the churches of Galatia, they were as all men as **Galatians 3:10 & 13** states under the curse of the law.

"the law..." in view is the moral law as it is summed in **The Ten Commandments.**

When God created man, He demanded perfect obedience to His law. Any thing less was disobedience and failure, **God said to Adam in Gen 2:17.** **"In the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."** The curse of the law, is sentence of death for disobedience. Adam was to obey God's word, His moral law.

However, Adam being the first man created by God and the representative of all humanity disobeyed God.

As the representative of mankind, Adam acted for us, His reward was the reward of all who would come from him, likewise his penalty. we joined Adam in his disobedience against God, we were one with him.

Notice the words of **Hosea 6:7** “**but they like men have transgressed the covenant, there have they dealt treacherously against me.**”

The Hebrew word for “**men**” in this verse is actually the generic name for **Adam**; referring **to the human race**. so that the verse is teaching **that all humanity like Adam** have transgressed the covenant, the moral law of God.

Upon Adams disobedience, God views and treats all men as having sinned and fallen in Adam. God imputed or placed the punishment of Adam’s sin to our record, as if we sinned in the garden of Eden.

God’s law is **unnegotiable**, **unchangeable** **unbreakable** and **unbendable**. That means all mankind God now views and treats all men, as under the curse of His law, guilty, facing the sentence for breaking God’s law which is eternal death.

God is holy, and He cannot excuse, accept or accommodate sin, otherwise He would not be God.

Sin is an attack upon God, it is a transgression of His law.

Therefore, God looks upon sin to judge sin. God takes sin seriously.

Paul said in **Romans 1:17** “**the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...**”

The condemnation that cries against sinners now and what they will face for sin against God, is described by Jude, as **suffering the vengeance of eternal fire**. No sinner will get away with sin against God.

Sinners have earned the punishment of sin.

But hallelujah for a preacher or believer who cries out with a loud voice giving hope to the hopeless, sharing a Saviour and friend for the suicidal, and distressed in mind.

One who interrupts, the sinner in ruination to tell of salvation and transformation through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul and Silas had been thrown into prison for preaching Christ, then prayed to God and sang praise in the name of Christ.

Galatians 3:13 “**Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:** The word or verb ‘**made**’ could also be translated **having become**, “...**Christ...having become a curse for us.**”

The meaning of these words signify that Christ actually became a curse for sinners. Christ became ‘**the accursed one**’, “**the punished one.**”

Here are the depths to which Christ had to go in order to rescue sinners and deliver them from eternal ruin. He became a curse for them and for their sakes.

The little words translated **for us** literally means ‘**instead of**’ or ‘**in place of**’. It is taking the place of another, substitution. Christ’s life was given in the place of, in room of, as a substitute for sinners.

Christ is the representative of all His People, He acted for sinners He came to save.

God imputed or placed the reward of Christ's obedience to our record as if we obeyed God.

Upon the Tree of Calvary, Christ died under the curse of God, having become a curse, He was lifted up to rescue sinners to Himself.

When you think all is lost, and life is not worth living, you feel the pressures, you feel trapped, do thyself no harm,

o soul weary and troubled, no light in the darkness you see, turn your eyes upon Jesus,

Jesus is the answer for the ruination of man.

He died to give life, joy unspeakable & full of glory.

II SECOND, THE JAILOR'S REQUEST.

The jailor then asked the most important question in the world, **verse 30** “**...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**” what prompted him to ask this life saving question?

Upon hearing there was hope in Christ, he responded **what must I do to be saved?** which means he knew what the word saved meant, and he knew what he needed to be saved from, eternal death.

The word **saved** means **delivered or rescued**. He is not asking to be saved from the earthquake for it has ended. He's not asking to be saved from Roman officials for the prisoners are all safe.

Therefore, he is enquiring about the way of salvation.

He needed to know how to be saved.

(It is only when you realise you are a sinner will you ever be saved, only when you acknowledge you are lost in sin will you be found by grace.)

He was awakened physically by the earthquake, **but more important he was spiritually awakened by power of God.** He was troubled and concerned about his life.

When he understood there was hope in the gospel, he asked ***what must I do to be saved?***

Is there is one troubled about life and sin today, this must be your request.

There is always hope in the Lord.

III THIRD, THE JAILOR'S REST

Paul and Silas said in **verse 31** "***Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.***" The word **believe** means ***to trust in, depend upon.*** The idea is to rest fully upon. Saving faith rests upon ***the Lord Jesus Christ.***

Notice Paul and Silas in sharing the gospel where plain simple and complete, they did not say believe on yourself, us, religion, roman law.

Nor did they stop at the word believe. Jailor just believe, well believe what.

Paul and Silas, were showing to the jailor that to be saved he must exercise faith in Christ.

His faith must rest fully in or upon ***the Lord Jesus Christ,*** only then would he ***be saved.*** They pointed the jailor to "***the Lord Jesus Christ***" and to Him alone.

Salvation rests only upon ***the Lord Jesus Christ*** because He alone is **appointment to save** – the title "Christ" means *Messiah*, teaching His appointment within the covenant of grace to be the Deliverer of sinners.

Salvation rests only upon **the Lord Jesus Christ** because He alone has ability to save – “Jesus” the name that means *Saviour*, signifying that in Him there is all the ability required to save souls.

Salvation rests only upon **the Lord Jesus Christ** because He alone has authority to save – “Lord” pointing to His majestic and authoritative position over the souls of men. He has the authority of heaven to save men.

When the Jailor or any sinner is commanded to *believe on the Lord Jesus Christ* they are being told to trust or rest in Christ and the work that He has done for the full saving of their soul.

Christ suffered and died, He became a curse to pay the penalty of the curse to free sinners from its punishment.

Therefore believer, in resting in the Saviour, we commit our life, death and eternal destination into His hands, as we are kept by His power, for Christ everlasting covenant and precious blood is our eternal security.

IV FOURTH THE JAILOR'S REJOICING.

Look at the end of **verse 34** he “....**rejoiced believing in God with all his house.**” He listened to the preacher and stepped out on the promise, his faith had found a resting place in Christ.

New life gives new desires. The things of God meant much to him, how different when during the day they meant nothing to him. There was a desire and interest for the word of God, and to see his family saved as told in **verse 32**.

He served God by ministering to his people, **v33** he washed the wounds of Pauls and Silas. The Lord's people became his people. Their sufferings became his sufferings.

He is committed to follow Christ. To associate himself with the apostles of Christ. **He was baptised to declare his union and**

identification with Christ. Notice his baptism followed salvation.

Then all the members in house hearing his confession and witnessing his transformation and by his baptism declaring a life saved to follow Christ, they to believed in God, rested fully in Him for the saving of their soul.

May God give family salvation, may our unsaved spouse, parents and children be saved by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

What a wonderful change had been done in his life since Jesus came into his heart. there is new a new song within his heart, heaven's melody.