

**All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James**

**April 7, 2024**

Just as a reminder, Silas from Jerusalem had come with Paul and the others to Antioch to give them the decision by the leadership in Jerusalem about circumcision not being a requirement for salvation with an additional encouragement.

***Acts 15:28 28For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; 29That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.***

Silas decided to stay on with Paul and his mission to the gentiles. Paul and Barnabas separated over bringing John Mark with them, so Barnabas and John Mark went on their own missionary journey simultaneously to Paul.

Paul and Silas are going to return to areas that Paul had visited several years ago in his first missionary journey. Areas with many Jews, gentiles, and Jewish Hellenists.

### **Timothy Joins Paul and Silas**

**1Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:**

Timothy is believed by scholars to be in his late teens or early 20's when he received Christ as Lord and Savior. He immediately showed his commitment and devotion to Christ and began ministering. He is reported to have shuttled back and forth between Derbe, Iconium and Lystra's home Churches encouraging and teaching in them. As noted, he has Jewish ancestry through his mother and Greek ancestry through his father. He was also uncircumcised that in the eyes of the Jewish population with a Greek father he was a gentile.

**2Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium.**

Well known and well-liked by the Believers in the area.

**3Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.**

This flies in the face of the controversy that erupted several years earlier over the idea that one had to be circumcised in order to be saved. In other words, you had to become a Jew first then a Christian. Paul was the champion of that opposite view and went with Barnabus and others to Jerusalem to argue against such heresy. The Lord made it clear that there is no human action or work that can save anyone.

***Ephesian 2:8 You are saved by Grace through Faith and that not of yourself it is THE Gift of God, not by any works lest any man should boast.***

What could possibly cause Paul to backtrack on such an important issue as what is needed for Salvation?

The answer feels less convincing than the facts reveal. The fact is that God desires all to come to a saving knowledge of Christ. The fact is that in heaven there is neither Jew nor Greek, male or female. The fact is that we are saved by Grace through Faith and no act of the flesh saves any human being. Paul's response for himself and for Timothy is found in

***1 Corinthians 9:20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;***

The premise of the argument is, to open the door one must have the correct key. In this case to open the Jewish door one must be a Jew. The counter to that is that we have seen many Jews come to Christ in the early church through simple belief, most of which had followed the law and Abrahamic Covenant and were circumcised. We have seen a judgment on the part of James the Just that no such burden of circumcision should be put on any gentile, but he did not extend that to Jews that I can see in Acts 15:18. So, the burden of circumcision was still a part of being

Jewish. It was part of the Abrahamic Covenant codified in the Law of Moses. So, to speak to a Jew on the matters of Judaism one should be a Jew.

***Acts 15: [18](#)Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. [19](#)Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: [20](#)But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. [21](#)For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.***

The point of verse 3 is that Timothy was circumcised so he could openly minister to Jews along with Paul who was also a Jew under the Law.

**[4](#)And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.**

This is a reference again to Acts 15:18 about the decision by James the Just a foundation of the Church big (C), that no act or work of the flesh can save anyone.

**[5](#)And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.**

With that part of the foundation of the Church of Christ, Big (C) firmly settled the church grew predominately within the gentile communities.

## **Paul's Vision of the Macedonian**

**6Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,**

The reference here are towns in northern Asia Minor today's Turkey. Paul was told in some manner not to go to these cities yet. He was to go where the Holy Spirit had prepared the hearts of those who would hear the Good News. Ephesus is on the west coast of Asia Minor which is Turkey today. Thyatira is north of Ephesus and Laodicea is due east of Ephesus.

**7After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.**

The human desire of Paul and Silas was to go north to towns with large Jewish populations, but the Spirit had other plans. Wisdom gave them ears to listen to the Spirit, so they continued westward and not north.

**8And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.**

The Holy Spirit had brought them to the shores of Aegean Sea north and connected to the Mediterranean Sea. Not far by boat from Macedonia in preparation for direction from the Spirit.



**9** And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. **10** And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Here begins the move of the Holy Spirit to Europe and eventually to America and the rest of the World. It all started by Paul being told not to go to Bithynia or Galatia but to go west to Troas. From there to Macedonia. Amazing

**Lydia Converted at Philippi**

**[\(Revelation 2:18-29\)](#)**

**11Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next *day* to Neapolis; 12And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, *and* a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.**

These cities are all on the coastline of Macedonia on the Aegean Sea near Thessalonica and Philippi. There is a lot of history from Greeks, Romans, and others in the area. When we read these words, we don't really get the sense of this being the wild west of Europe. There was relative peace due to the Romans posting outposts here due to the threat of invasion by any number of cultures that sought control. The world was being populated and many rulers sought to expand their lands and control. Not much has changed.

**13And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*.**

According to historical writings, the Romans guards assigned to these cities were not amenable to large gatherings in the city proper. There were few if any synagogues so the local Jews and Christians would get permission from the Romans to meet on nearby riverbanks to have prayer, worship, and teaching. They preferred the being near water for baptism.

**14And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard *us*: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.**

Lydia may well be the name this woman took from her homeland region of Lydia. She was specifically from the city of Thyatira which was in northern Lydia. Thyatira is one of the 7 cities Jesus addressed in Revelation 1 and 2.

Lydia today would be the northeastern part of today's Turkey, lying just south of the Black Sea and adjacent to the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea's. Thyatira was well known for its purple dye. There was, according to historical records a coalition of those who would make the purple dyed cloth and sell it. It is believed that Lydia was a member of that coalition.

Lydia was attracted to the Jewish life as a more moral and decent lifestyle than from her gentile life. It was during her attendance at what had been a Jewish gathering by the river that she first hears Paul speak.

The Lord had worked on Lydia's heart for some time drawing her to His Chosen People Israel, in order for her to be there and hear the Good News about Christ Jesus. Her heart was open, and she became a Believer.



**15And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us.**

Now this is an interesting way of putting this, we have seen similar verses where a house hold was saved. Is it possible to be baptized and not be Born Again or be a Believer? Of course, it is, there are many denominations that baptize infants. Why do they do that, do they not understand the Bible? There is another Biblical idea that puts forth the notion that if the parents are saved then the children are saved as well at least until they come to the age of accountability? There is nothing in the Bible that clearly unequivocally says that. However, there are verses in the Bible that seem to lean toward the idea that a child or someone with a mental handicap that cannot conceive of sin and salvation are saved by God. Here is the basis of that thinking.

1. What sins did Jesus Blood answer for?

***1 John 2: 1My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also **for the sins of the whole world.** (emphasis mine)***

Jesus's Blood removes the sins of Believers without a doubt.

Consider this part of the verse; not for the sins of the Believer only but also for the sins of the whole world, that would include

children and those mentally incapable of comprehending God and the Blood of Christ. It allows for the idea that God can if He chooses, apply the sacrificial Blood of Christ to children.

King David committed sin with Bathsheba and a child was born. God told David that due to his sin God would take the child.

***2 Samuel 12: [21](#)Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. [22](#)And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? [23](#)But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? **I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.**(emphasis mine)***

King David was convinced that his dead infant son was with God and that he would be with him again in the afterlife. We should not make a doctrine based on those verses but the implication of God extending Grace and Mercy to those who have no concept of what they are doing nor of the Blood of Christ can be saved, because of two things. The Power of the Blood and God's Grace.

Back to the issue of the household salvation. It is not a Biblically provable doctrine so we must be careful. It is highly likely as many of you know that when the parents get saved, they then teach their children the Truth about Jesus and His Blood. That

knowledge if then acted on brings Salvation. As an outward sign of that Salvation occurring, they as a household were baptized.

### **Paul and Silas in Prison**

**16And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:**

There is a good deal of historical spirit realm information available on the Greek mythology of “divination” and the genesis of that word, but let’s just agree that it is evil. God does not give various gifts so that man can make money. God gives gifts of the Spirit so that man can more fully know God and carry out His Mission, not man’s.

**17The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.**

This spirit of divination or “understanding” from the Satan’s realm fully comprehended who Jesus was and what He had done. It grasped the power of God and His preeminence. But that did not remove the stench of evil.

**18And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.**

We find nowhere that in the Name of Jesus can or has ever removed the Holy Spirit from a Believer. We further know that the Holy Spirit only occupies Believers. So, this spirit that was removed was without doubt from Satan's realm even though it spoke a Truth about Jesus and God. There are a number of examples of demons speaking the truth:

***James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.***

***James 2:33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon. He cried out in a loud voice, "Ha! What do You want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!"***

***Acts 19: 13Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. 14And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. 15And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? 16And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.***

Just because an evil spirit speaks the truth in whatever medium they use, they are still evil and are cursed by God.

***19And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, 20And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men,***

**being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, [21](#)And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.**

The idea of cancel culture over a geopolitical issue is nothing new to our age. When those in power find anything that might damage their ability to make money, gain or hold power, there is nothing they will not do, there is no lie they will not tell to protect their interest. In Paul's time the non-Romans took their opposition before the Roman government courts and made a case that if the courts don't stop these people they will destroy Roman government.

Any of that sound familiar 2000 years later in the US?

**[22](#)And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat *them*.**

Multitudes can affect the outcome of what should be a simple fact finding. The multitudes when making allegation false or not have a great influence on the judiciary both in Paul's time and ours. It is all part of what God said would come.

***Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.***

We don't see judges today rending their cloaks to magnify their decision, they simply assert things that may or may not be legal all to the accolades of the those bringing the false allegations. It's all a wonderful Satanic system that will only expand with time.

God's answer to this world wide agenda of deceit?

***Romans 1: [18](#)For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; [19](#)Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. [20](#)For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: [21](#)Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [22](#)Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, [23](#)And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.***

***[24](#)Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: [25](#)Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.***

***[26](#)For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: [27](#)And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.***

**28And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; 29Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.**

God will not be mocked, not in Paul's day nor in ours.

**23And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast *them* into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: 24Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.**

Hmm, cast them into the "inner prison". Sound familiar today in order to protect the deceit of evil as with the slave owner of this demon possessed girl, just throw the perceived offender into jail.

### **The Conversion of the Jailer**

**25And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.**

Now to the real crux of the matter. Praising God in spite of all outward signs of persecution. The power of God is often revealed in the moment that Praise is given when the world would grieve its predicament.

**2 Chronicles 7:3 When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD: "For He is good; His loving devotion endures forever."**

When man reaches his limits and turns to God the power of the Living God is revealed. We will see that coming shortly whether before or after rapture. God will move His arm to defend Israel so that the world will know that He is God.

In the coming verse, Praise of God under extreme circumstances brings about miraculous results that only God can bring.

**26And suddenly 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. 27And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.**

In these times there were no letters of discipline, no hearings on employee matters, nor unions to intervene on behalf of an employee, no human resources to take grievances to it was just the King. Apparently, prisoner escape was not well received by the King, so the Jail Manager thought to take the least painful way out and just commit harikari.

**28But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. 29Then he called for a light,**



**and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,**

Prisoners wrongly put in prison have the ability to escape but chose not to in light of what would likely happen to the prison manager. Praise followed by Grace and Mercy. What more could God do?

**30And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**

The question of life for thousands of years. What must **I** do to be saved? It has all been done, all required is Belief. No acts of the flesh, no grand gestures, just BELIEVE.

**31And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**

Here again we have the basis of Salvation, a personal Belief in Jesus and His Blood. But Paul adds again the idea of household salvation? It will get clarified in the next few verses.

**32And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.**

The testimony of Jesus was given to this jailer and his entire household. They each had to Believe if they were old enough or cognizant enough to understand.

**33And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.**

Two events of Grace and Mercy in one sentence. The Jailer took Paul and Silas and washed their wounds as a gesture of apology and concern for their well-being.

Where ever this washing took place and it is thought that a bath or pool would be present for prisoners to bath in, was likely used to wash the apostles wounds and then to baptize the jailer and his family.

**34And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.**

Paul and Silas are fed by their former captor which included praise, worship by Believing in the God of Creation. It declares his house, meaning all those who lived with him were saved.

### **Paul and Silas are Released**

**35And when it was day, the magistrates sent the serjeants, saying, Let those men go.**

Sudden change of heart after beathing these two men and throwing them in prison, makes you wonder why?

## [“Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers](#)

(35) **The magistrates sent the serjeants.**--Literally, *the rod-bearers, or lictors*. They would probably be the very officers who had inflicted the stripes. We are not told what led to this sudden change of action. Possibly, as has been suggested, the earthquake had alarmed the *strategi*; more probably they felt that they had acted hastily in ordering the accused to be punished with no regular trial, and without even any inquiry as to their antecedents. They had an uneasy sense of having done wrong, and they wanted to wash their hands of the business as quietly as possible.”

**36And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: now therefore depart, and go in peace.**

The jailer likely having dealt with these folks for some time gives Paul some sound advice. Leave, but Paul chooses to exercise his Roman citizenship rights. It strikes me as peculiar, in that his citizenship is in Heaven and not of this world. Why ask for a human judge when the real judge is Christ Jesus?

On the other hand, those in power need to be held accountable and the only way to do that is exercise his earthly citizenship to obtain redress. All authority on Earth has been granted by God even those whom we see as evil. It is all for God's purpose, so Paul calls those in authority to reveal the evil.

**Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.**

**Exodus 9:16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth. 17 As yet exaltest thou thyself against my people, that thou wilt not let them go?**

**John 19: 11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.**

Paul as a born citizen of Rome had the right to demand as he did.  
To what avail?

**Hosea 8: 4 They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off.**

God had a set pattern in His selection of King's for His people. It would generally come through God's prophet. In this case the northern tribes rejected God and rejected His prophets and selected their own King. Remember God had told His people that He was their King but they told Him they wanted a king like other nations. So they got what they asked for.

**37 But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay**

verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out. **38**And the serjeants told these words unto the magistrates: and they feared, when they heard that they were Romans. **39**And they came and besought them, and brought *them* out, and desired *them* to depart out of the city. **40**And they went out of the prison, and entered into *the house of Lydia*: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.

All was accomplished as God had determined. The name of Jesus was spread and the Church grew daily.

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