

## ***Praise in Prison***

February 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### ***Acts 16:19-40***

#### **The Church at Philippi**

- ❖ Paul and his missionary team were supernaturally led to Philippi.
- ❖ God supernaturally opened Lydia's heart to receive the gospel.
- ❖ God powerfully displayed His power and authority in the deliverance of the slave girl.
- ❖ Paul's obedience to the call of God resulted in persecution!
  - Matthew 10:16-20
    - Jesus told His followers what would happen as they follow His direction and proclaim the Kingdom of God.
  - 2 Corinthians 2:14-17
    - God will spread the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ through His disciples!
  - 1 Peter 4:12-16
    - Christians are encouraged to rejoice in persecution!

#### **Praise in Prison!**

- ❖ How do you respond to God when unexpected trouble and suffering come with no relief in sight?
  - The Children of Israel responded by grumbling and complaining.  
*Exodus 15:24 "And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?'"*
- ❖ Paul and Silas responded to unexpected trouble and suffering by "praying and singing hymns to God!"  
*Acts 16:25 "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,"*
- ❖ Prior to Paul & Silas' imprisonment ...
  - ... They were suddenly seized and dragged into the market place. *Acts 16:19*
  - ... They were falsely accused of anti-government activity. *Acts 16:20-21*
  - ... They were beaten and thrown in prison. *Acts 16:22-23*
  - ... They were put in the inner prison and shackled in stocks. *Acts 16:24*
- ❖ While Paul & Silas were imprisoned, the other prisoners were listening to them.
  - Christians have the opportunity to impact lives, especially in times of trouble!
  - Joseph is an example of someone who impacted lives while in prison. *Genesis 37-45*
- ❖ God's purpose was not hindered by the imprisonment of Paul and Silas! *Acts 16:26*
  - ☞ Suddenly there was a great earthquake!
  - ☞ The foundations of the prison were shaken!

- ☞ All the doors of the prison cells were open!
- ☞ All of the shackles on the prisoners were unfastened!
- ◆ The jailor was about to commit suicide because in Roman law, jailors were liable if prisoners escaped and the penalty was death.
  - But none of the other prisoners fled the jail!
- ❖ God continued to advance His plan to establish the church in Philippi by a supernatural moving of His power in the heart of the jailor!
  - The jailor, trembling in fear, fell before Paul and Silas.
  - The jailor wanted to be saved!
- ❖ God opened a door for the gospel as Paul and Silas shared the Word of God to the jailor and his household!  
*Acts 16:30-34*
  - The jailor and his family became the second additions to the church at Philippi!
- Psalm 71:17-23

Endnotes:

- ◆ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.