

"The Second Missionary Journey"

Part 6

Acts 15:41-18:22

Introduction: Last week in our study of Acts we were in the jail at Philippi with Paul and Silas. They had been falsely accused of being insurrectionists when in reality Paul had cast a demon from a young slave girl. Her owners were angry because of their loss of income so they had Paul and Silas beaten and then placed in stocks in prison. Their faith and their contentment in Jesus Christ allowed them to sing their praises to God through the night as the other prisoners listened. In the night God caused an earthquake which set every prisoner free and this terrified the keeper of the prison because he was responsible for the inmates. If they escaped it would be done to him as it was to be done to the inmates. There must have been prisoners in the prison who were on death row because the keeper of the prison was ready to take his own life. He thought it would be better to fall on his own sword than to fall into the hands of his supervisors. They would torture him and then eventually kill him. But before he could fall upon his sword Paul stopped him and told him no one had escaped.

Notice Acts 16:24-28

The jailer then ran in and asked Paul and Silas what he must do to be saved. It was then that they spoke one of the most clear and concise statements about how a person is saved. They simply told him to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice Acts 16:29-31

This is where we stopped last week. The answer given by Paul and Silas here shows us that salvation is by grace through FAITH plus nothing. There is more here that we are going to look at this evening.

➤ **Saved from the Chains of Bondage**

➤ **Part 2**

Notice Acts 16:30 again.

Here we see that this man was under conviction because of his sin. He understood that he needed to be forgiven for the sins he had committed in his life. How did he know this? Paul and Silas not only prayed and sang their praises to God in the prison but they also explained that each man who could hear was a sinner and needed to be forgiven.

Application:

Before any person can be saved, they must first of all be under the conviction of the Holy Spirit. They must feel the weight of their sin and understand that their sin is against God. Notice what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit's ministry.

John 16:7-8

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

⁹ Of sin, because they believe not on me;

¹⁰ Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

¹¹ Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Here in verse 8, we see how the Holy Spirit works in an unbeliever's heart. He reproves/convicts of sin, this is the truth about man. He will convict the world of righteousness; this is the Truth about God. He will convict the world of judgment; this is the combination of these two truths.

Man is guilty of sin with no exceptions.

Romans 3:10-11, 23

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

God is perfectly righteous and will accept nothing but perfection.

James 2:10

¹⁰ For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

God will one day judge all the sins of the unsaved.

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Let us now get back to the jailer. He was under conviction, which is where he needed to be because apart from the conviction he could not be saved.

Notice Acts 16:30 again.

The jailer felt like he needed to do something to earn God's forgiveness. He asked what he must DO. I know this is fundamental Truth but we all need to be reminded about fundamental Truth at times. There is absolutely nothing that any person can do to earn the forgiveness of God. Salvation is NOT by works.

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Romans 3:19-20

¹⁹ Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Titus 3:5

⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Here in verse 8 when Paul writes about the "GIFT" he is writing about the gift of salvation. I point that out because there are many in the Calvinist Camp who teach that the "GIFT" is faith. They teach that man is so depraved that he cannot even exercise faith. They will tell you that God must first save you before you can exercise faith. There are several problems with that teaching.

1. How then do unsaved people have faith in their works?

Where did their faith come from?

2. Their teaching is not consistent with Paul's teaching.

Romans 5:14-19

¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

¹⁵ But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

¹⁶ And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

¹⁷ For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

¹⁸ Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The "GIFT" in Ephesians 2:8 is not faith but it is "ETERNAL LIFE!"

Notice Acts 16:31 again.

We looked briefly at this verse last week but I need to raise a question here, "What does it mean to believe ON the Lord Jesus Christ?" Let me first of all tell you what it does not mean. It does not mean to simply believe in Jesus Christ, that He existed. The Devil believes He existed and he even spoke with Him but the Devil will never be saved. There were many people in the days when Jesus walked the earth and they saw Him and heard Him and they therefore knew that He existed but they were never saved.

James 2:19

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

It is NOT believing that Jesus died for your sin as His part and then you doing your part to complete your salvation. Salvation is not a combination of what Jesus did mixed with a combination of what I can do.

To "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ" is to completely rest your faith in His death, burial, and resurrection as the payment for your sin. It is putting all your faith in His finished work for the forgiveness of sin. It is believing that your salvation is all because of Him.

Notice Acts 16:32-33

They spoke to the jailer the Word of the Lord because that is what a person must hear in order to be saved.

Romans 10:17

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

People cannot be saved apart from hearing the Truth of God's Word. There is also another application here that we need to see. We are saved by hearing the Truth of the Word of God. We then are called to live this new life in Jesus Christ by faith and again to exercise faith in how we are to live we MUST hear the Truth of God's Word. I have said many times that we cannot walk in Truth that we do not know. The more Truth we know the more stable we are in our walk, the more peace we have in the storms, and the more clarity we have in the dark times.

Notice Acts 16:32-34

Getting back to the jailer the next thing we see about this man is the change in his life. He took Paul and Silas into his house and he cared for them by washing their stripes and then sitting them at his table. This is what true saving faith does. It changes people's lives so that Jesus Christ can be seen in them.

James 2:14-20

¹⁴ What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

¹⁶ And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

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

²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Conclusion:

As children of God there are works that God has for us to do so that He will be glorified through our lives.

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.