

Toward A Radical Unity

TRU-09 "From Bondage To Freedom"

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

08/16/2026

A SONG IN THE NIGHT

ACTS 16:25-26 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them...

PS 40:1-3 I waited patiently for the LORD, and he turned to me and heard my cry for help. ² He brought me up from a desolate pit, out of the muddy clay, and set my feet on a rock, making my steps secure. ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and they will trust in the LORD.

PS 119:62-64 At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules. ⁶³ I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts. ⁶⁴ The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes!

- Their "praise" was not intended as a means to obtain "freedom"
- It was to "glorify God" in all circumstances, and to encourage their Faith that God would deliver them
- The "prisoners" did not just "hear" them... they were "Listening"

²⁶ and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

- ALL the prisoners had their bonds released...
- God's deliverance is granted to ALL: "while we were sinners..."
[ROM 5:6-9]

TRUE FREEDOM

ACTS 16:27-34 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm

yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas.

- The Jailer must have heard in their "praise" declarations of the greatness of a God whom he had never encountered...
- Their praise must also have declared that THIS God alone offered salvation from the "bondage" of sin and oppression...

³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

- Unlike all the "Pagan gods" all that was required was to believe in the One who had already obtained salvation FOR us by HIS sacrifice... NOT in our efforts to please by OUR works and sacrifices...
- THIS salvation would extend to his whole house... the testimony of one believer opens the way for all who are under their influence to follow: RAHAB; LYDIA; CORNELIUS; TIMOTHY; the JAILER...

³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

- The implication is the jailer took them to his house then attended to their wounds... declaring what had taken place to his family

³⁴ Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

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MOVING ON

ACTS 16:35-17:1 But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." ³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore, come out now and go in peace."

³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, un-condemned (un-judged), men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out." ³⁸ The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens.

- Paul was not afraid to confront those who were guilty... It is certain that in doing so he declared faith in his “true” deliverer...

³⁹ *So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city.*

⁴⁰ *So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.*

17:1 *Now when they had passed through AMPHIPOLIS and APOLLONIA, they came to THESSALONICA, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.*

- Luke is no longer with them... The “we” section of Acts does not continue until ACTS 20:5.
 - Luke remained in Philippi until he rejoined Paul for the trip to carry the offerings to the Saints in Jerusalem.
 - He continued with Paul though his imprisonments, the voyage, his arrival in Rome, and the beginning of his “house arrest”.
 - Having established the seeds of the Church at Philippi, the Team continued to the next cities: THESSALONICA, BEREIA, ATHENS, CORINTH.
 - They would first go to the SYNAGOGUE to be heard by the Jewish Leaders, the members, and any “devout” Gentiles.
 - The Jews were offered the chance to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah as presented in THE LAW and THE PROPHETS...
 - Had Paul and the Team just preached the Gospel in the Marketplace, the Jews would not have attended.
 - Paul’s testimony when he arrived in the cities was accompanied by the evidence of his persecution
- 1 THESS 2:1-2 *For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi...*
- Paul was not to be silenced or intimidated by his rejection, and persecution. The wounds on Paul and Silas were conspicuous to the Thessalonians as he presented the Gospel.
 - These are not signs of weakness or failure but the “Testimony – Martyr” of his commitment to declare the Gospel.
 - Our testimonies are NOT about us... NOT about those who harmed us... but about the Lord Jesus Christ who saved us so that we could declare HIS word... HIS grace... HIS glory...

PARTICIPATION IN THE GOSPEL

Paul had a deep regard and appreciation for the Believers at Philippi. The tone of his commendation, and the “pride” he felt in their commitment to the Gospel were an honor to Jesus Christ... and to him.

2 COR 8:1-5 *We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.*

³ *For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints –*

⁵ *and this [was], not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.*

PHIL 4:14-19 *Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the Gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.*

¹⁶ *Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.*

¹⁸ *I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.*