



# **The Book of Acts**

**Living Holy in the Family of God**

**Volume 4**

**Chapters 16-20**

**Bert Allen**

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# Acknowledgment

My wife, Beverly Allen, has devoted herself to ChristAssembly.org. Most days her body gives her trouble, but she spends time helping ChristAssembly.org. She brings her doctoral training in biochemistry and molecular biology to her work and greatly improves the quality of ChristAssembly.org. She has spent many hours creating graphics, reviewing articles and books, and providing careful proof reading, even when she does not feel her best. Other friends from Korea have helped in proof reading books for ChristAssembly.org, with our thanks in Christ Jesus for their friendship and faithful labors.

Beverly and I have been married more than forty years and Jesus used her life to make my life so much better in so many ways. Her constant love and support changes my life daily. She also provides honest feedback and careful analysis. I love my wife and want everyone to know that she spends her time serving Jesus behind the scenes at ChristAssembly.org.



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# 1

## Introduction

Paul spent time traveling from place to place and planting new churches and visiting established churches. God called the ministry team to Philippi where they met Lydia and the Philippian jailer. Paul and Silas spent time there in the jail singing hymns at midnight. Paul would not leave the jail until the government officials personally escorted him out. Paul then traveled on to Thessalonica where many Jews and Greeks believed, but other Jews became hostile, very aggressive opponents of Paul, chasing him long after he left their city. Paul then traveled to Berea, where the saints were more noble than those at Thessalonica, because they searched the Scriptures daily to see what things were true. Under pressure from the Thessalonian Jews, Paul left Berea.

When Paul then left Berea, he traveled to Athens. Renowned for its philosophy and culture and idolatry, Paul spent time there in the marketplace and at the Areopagus. Paul delivered a lengthy sermon there describing the unknown God so that everyone in Athens could get to know Him as Savior. After leaving Athens, Paul went to Corinth. Finally, Paul left and returned to Antioch, leaving behind an established church at Corinth.

Paul went on a third missionary journey, visiting churches that he had planted earlier. During that time, Apollos came to Ephesus and met Priscilla and Aquila who instructed him more accurately concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. Apollos continued a very bold ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ, spreading the good news with power and authority from place to place.

At Ephesus Paul met 12 disciples. He explained the way of Christ to them more accurately, because, like Apollos, they were only familiar with the baptism of John the Baptist. Beginning with that small group, the Gospel became known all over Asia. Persecution arose and a riot ensued at Ephesus. Eventually, the town clerk gained control of the mob and sent them home.

Paul then returned to Macedonia. As he headed to Jerusalem for Passover, Paul knew that chains and imprisonment awaited him there. Paul stopped along the way to visit the Ephesian elders and encouraged them to

be good overseers of the flock in his absence. Paul was determined to go to Jerusalem because he was prepared to lay down even his life for the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus had told Paul that he would suffer many things for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ and stand before kings and others in authority. Paul could not deny the vision he had seen on the Damascus Road and obeyed God in proclaiming salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ to everyone, including many government officials.

**HALLELUJAH !**

## 2

# Timothy and Philippi Today

When Paul came to Derbe and Lystra, they met there a young man named Timothy. He had a good reputation among the brethren and Paul wanted him to join the ministry team. Paul circumcised Timothy because his father was a Greek. They passed through the cities in that region, delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. The churches were strengthened in their faith and increasing in number daily.

Paul then passed through the Phrygian and Galatian regions, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word of Asia. When Paul reached Troas, he had a vision of a man calling him to Macedonia. The ministry team departed from Troas and sailed to Macedonia.

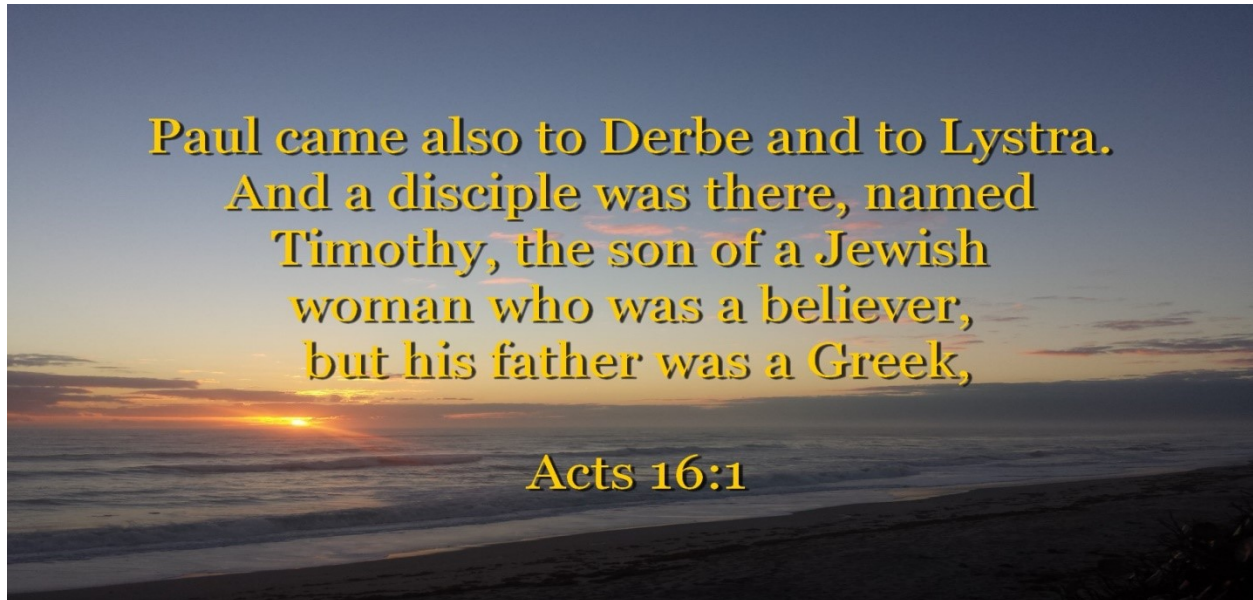
Having arrived in Philippi of Macedonia, Paul met Lydia at the river and she believed and was baptized, along with her whole household. While in Philippi, Paul cast a demon out of a young woman. Her masters became very angry because they lost the money she made from her divinations. Her masters seized Paul and Silas and brought them before the chief magistrates. The magistrates beat them without trial and put them in jail.

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day 561

## Disciple Today



What happened with Timothy? When Paul came to Derby and Lystra, he met a disciple there named Timothy.

Timothy was the son of Eunice, and the grandson of Lois. Eunice was a Jewish mother and a believer. His father was a Greek. Obviously, not all Jewish women married Jewish men. In this case Timothy had a wonderful mother and a grandmother, both believers in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As Paul traveled around, he enjoyed making new disciples. Timothy was already a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ and ready for further training. Paul had a bad experience with John Mark, but that did not stop him from looking for new disciples to join the ministry team.

Timothy would become a spiritual son the Paul. Later Paul would write two pastoral epistles to Timothy. They had labored together in Crete and elsewhere, but it all started on this missionary journey. Paul was going to add Timothy to the ministry team.

The process of discipleship starts with salvation, but then continues as we have older saints help us grow up in Christ. Usually that discipleship process includes joining a ministry team.

## *Timothy*

1. **Paul**. Where did Paul go after Syria and Cilicia? Paul went to Derbe and Lystra.

2. **Derbe**. Paul returned to Derbe and Lystra. Derbe was a Roman colony with special privileges. Many people in Derbe believed when Paul and Barnabas had proclaimed Jesus to them.

3. **Lystra**. At Lystra the people stoned Paul, dragged him out of the city, and left him for dead.

4. **Disciple**. Lystra also had disciples of Jesus Christ.

5. **Timothy**. Timothy, a disciple of Jesus Christ, came from a fine family.

6. **Jewish**. Living holy in the family of God means that the mother of Timothy, Eunice, was a Jewish woman with faith in Christ. She married a Greek. His grandmother was Lois, also a believer.

7. **Greek**. We rejoice today because the Gospel of Jesus Christ was also preached to the Greeks.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Timothy was from Lystra where Paul was stoned.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for parents like Eunice, the mother of Timothy, and a believer.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for parents and grandparents with faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.**

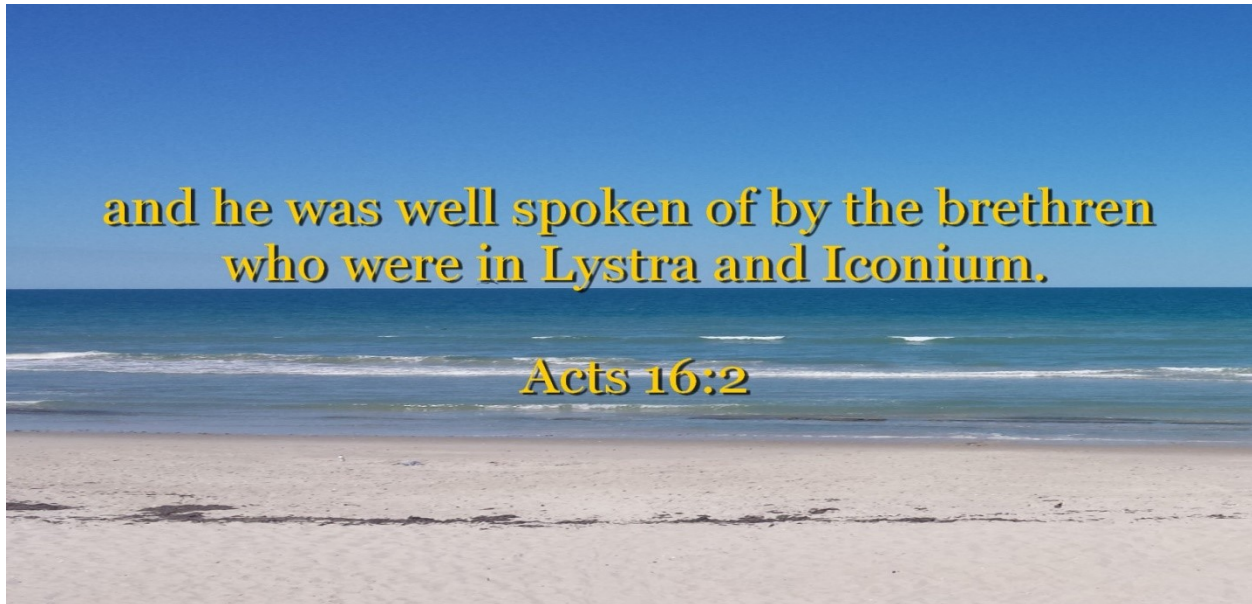
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for Timothy, a faithful servant of Paul from Lystra. Will you live holy in the family of God today by discipling young men like Timothy?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 562

## Brethren Today



What reputation did Timothy have in Lystra and Iconium? Timothy was well spoken of by the brethren in both Lystra and Iconium.

Paul often emphasized the need for saints to have a good reputation for truth and honesty. They should do nothing that would break the law of the community where they lived, unless that law opposed the will of God.

Like Silas in Jerusalem, Timothy enjoyed a good reputation with the brethren who knew him. Paul did not want to create unnecessary problems by the bad behavior of anyone on the ministry team. The saints should be model citizens in many ways. Based on his prior experience with Barnabas, Paul knew that the rulers would have people agitating them against the gospel.

Paul and Silas and Timothy would have new places to go and share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Opposition would be building to their work. Persecution would be sure to follow not far behind. Therefore, every member of the ministry team must be above reproach and dedicated to spreading the

Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Furthermore, the support of the local churches would be very valuable.

## *Iconium*

1. **He**. What reputation did Timothy enjoy? The brethren spoke well of Timothy.

2. **Well**. By speaking well of Timothy, Paul had confidence in him.

3. **Spoken**. Being well spoken of by other Christians often reflects Godly behavior.

4. **By**. The brethren spoke well of Timothy, also reflecting well upon his mother Eunice.

5. **Brethren**. The brethren in churches often know a person the best.

6. **Iconium**. Living holy in the family of God means that the brethren in Iconium had nice things to say about Timothy.

7. **Lystra**. We rejoice today because even though evil people at Lystra stoned Paul, the brethren there spoke highly of Timothy.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by enjoying a reputation with the brethren so that they speak well of you.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by striving to please God in all things so that we reflect His love for all people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the reputation of Timothy in Iconium in Lystra.**

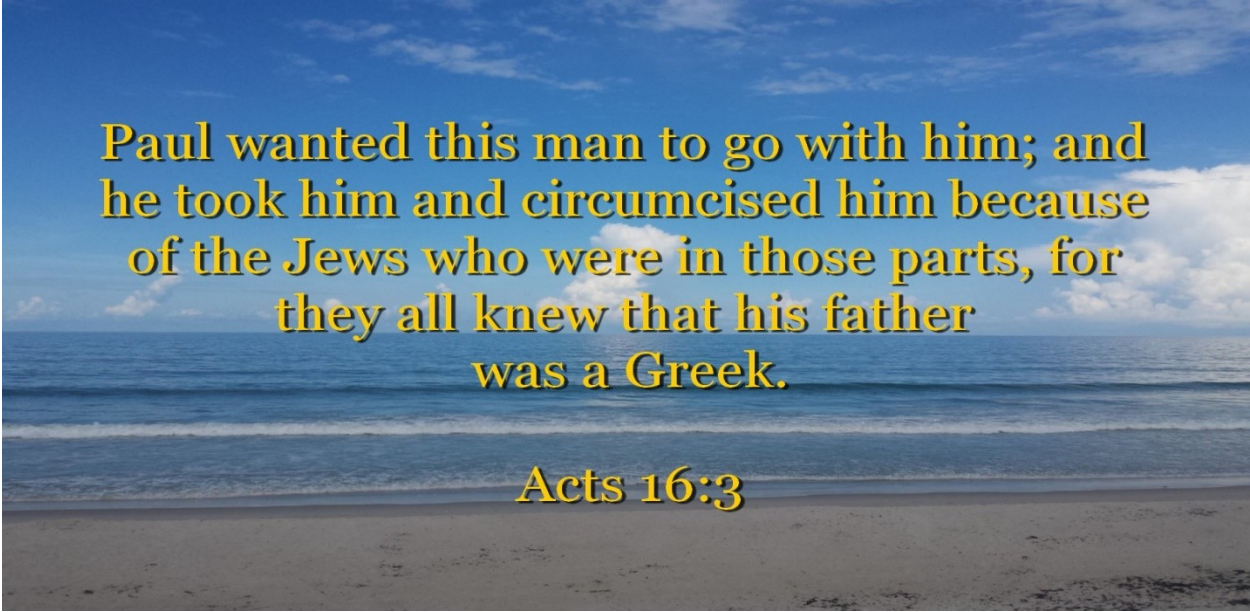
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking the Lord for the reputation of people like Timothy. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Timothy and his good reputation?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 563

## Circumcised Today



Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

Acts 16:3

Why did Paul circumcise Timothy? Paul circumcised Timothy because everybody knew that his father was a Greek.

Paul did not believe or proclaim that circumcision was essential to salvation. Paul taught that salvation was always by faith alone in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe the promises of Jesus are true and trust Him for salvation.

Paul wanted to add Timothy to the ministry team and so he circumcised him. Paul did so because everyone knew that his father was a Greek. Therefore, Paul wanted to minimize friction with all the Jews. By circumcising Timothy, Paul wanted to smooth the way in the synagogues so that the Jews would have no basis to accuse him of defiling their group by bringing an uncircumcised man into the synagogue.

Paul remained sensitive to being a Jew to the Jews in a Greek to the Greeks, so that he may win some of them to the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul would not compromise the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but likewise he did not go out of his way to give people offense needlessly.

## ***Jews***

1. **Paul**. What did all the Jews know about Timothy? They knew that Timothy's father was a Greek and so he was not circumcised.
2. **Wanted**. Paul wanted to take Timothy along as a member of the ministry team.
3. **Man**. Paul liked Timothy and saw great promise in him.
4. **Circumcised**. Paul circumcised Timothy.
5. **Jews**. Paul circumcised Timothy because Paul did not want to cause extra friction with the Jews.
6. **Knew**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that the Jews in that area knew that Timothy's father was a Greek, and so Timothy was not circumcised, but Paul circumcised Timothy to minimize friction with the Jews.
7. **Greek**. We rejoice today because Timothy agreed to circumcision because his father was a Greek, but he wanted to minimize friction with the Jews.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in new members being added to ministry teams every day.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by joining a ministry team, even if it means personal sacrifice.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by taking steps to minimize friction with other people.**



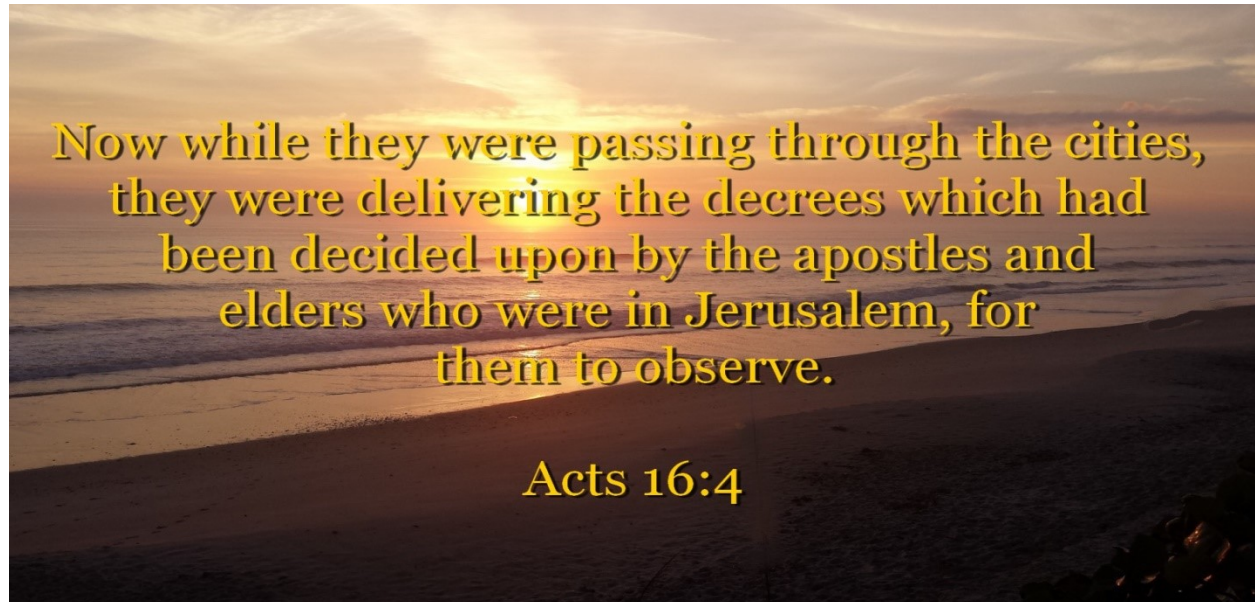
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by sacrificing personal freedoms for the sake of the ministry team. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking steps in your life to minimize friction with others for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 564

## Delivering Today



Why did Paul visit the churches in Cilicia and Syria? Paul wanted to strengthen those churches and deliver to them the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem.

Paul and the ministry team distributed the decrees from the Jerusalem Council. Paul expected that those churches would observe those four decrees. The Jerusalem Council wrote that they would do well if they would follow those four things, because Moses was read in the synagogues every Sabbath.

Paul understood that minimizing conflict with the Jews remained important. Paul often entered a town and went straight to the synagogue and proclaimed Christ there first. Paul followed a theology of Jesus coming first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles. As Simeon Peter at the Jerusalem Council pointed out, Amos the prophet had prophesied about God choosing a people for himself from among the Gentiles also.

Paul had even circumcised Timothy to avoid or minimize conflict with the Jews. If the saints would keep the decrees from the Jerusalem Council,

then the relationships between the Jews and the Greeks and the church would be much smoother. Paul, however, never compromised on doctrine.

## *Decrees*

1. **Passing**. What happened when the ministry team was passing through the cities? The ministry team was delivering the decrees from the Jerusalem Council.

2. **Cities**. Paul and Timothy and Silas traveled through many cities.

3. **Delivering**. In each city, they delivered to the local church the decrees from the Jerusalem Council.

4. **Decrees**. Those decrees had been issued by the apostles and the elders who were in Jerusalem.

5. **Decided**. They had decided the best course of action for the churches to minimize conflict with the Jews.

6. **Jerusalem**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the decrees of the Jerusalem Council so that we too may avoid unnecessary friction with people.

7. **Observe**. We rejoice today because God provided guidance through the Jerusalem Council to avoid friction while proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the ministry team traveling through various cities.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for the work of the Jerusalem Council and so helping many churches to avoid unnecessary friction with the Jews.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the ministry team delivered the decrees, expecting that they would be observed.**

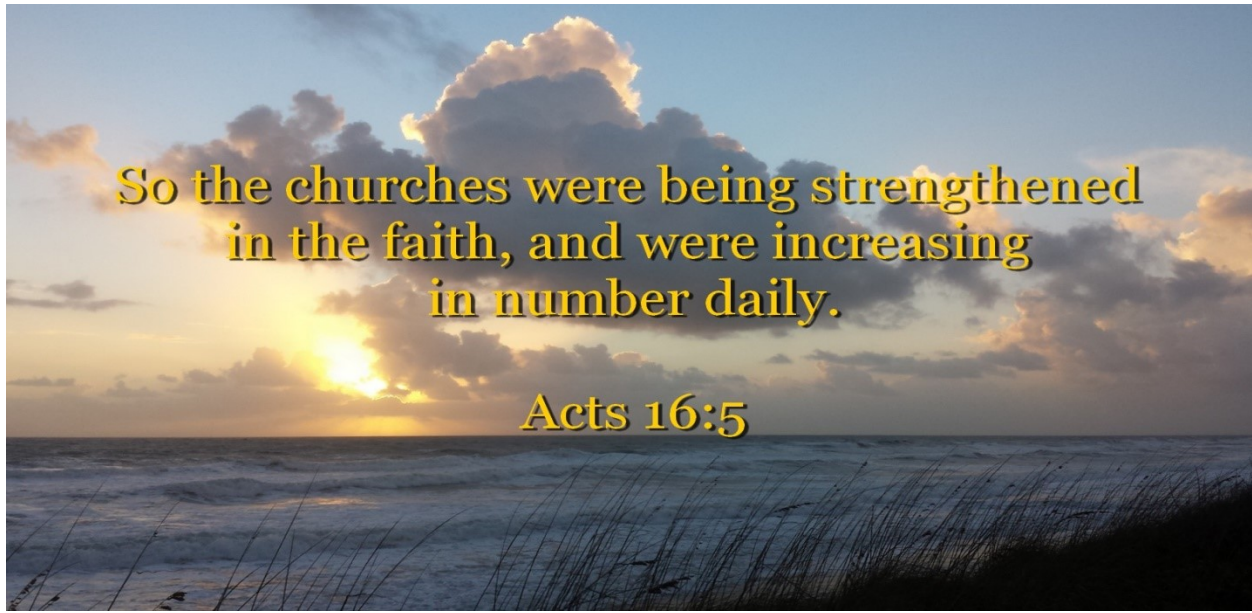
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the decrees of the Jerusalem Council so that we too may avoid unnecessary friction with people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following God's leading on ways to minimize needless conflict with people?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 565

## Strengthened Today



What was the effect of Paul's ministry team among the churches? They were being strengthened in the faith and were increasing in number daily.

Paul and Silas and Timothy, plus perhaps others with them, visited the churches proclaiming Christ to them. Both Paul and Silas were prophets. They used their spiritual gifts in the churches to build them up. Therefore, we understand that the ministry team not only planted new churches, but also strengthened and encouraged the existing churches. They also handed out the decree from the Jerusalem Council regarding proper conduct to avoid or minimize conflict with the Jews.

Paul and Silas and Timothy visited various cities in various places. God had called them to a ministry of traveling from place to place. All of them had spent time at local churches before they joined the ministry team. They all had good relationships with their local churches—Jerusalem, Antioch, Lystra and Iconium. Spiritual support from local churches greatly aided the work of the missionaries.

## *Increasing*

1. **So**. What effect did a visit from the ministry team have upon the churches? They were strengthened by the visit from the ministry team.
2. **Churches**. Paul and the ministry team visited many churches.
3. **Strengthened**. Those visits strengthened the local churches in Syria, Cilicia, and other regions.
4. **Faith**. The ministry team strengthened the faith of believers composing those local assemblies.
5. **Increasing**. The churches were increasing in number because their faith had been strengthened.
6. **Number**. Living holy in the family of God means that visits from a ministry team often strengthens the faith of the local believers and increases the number of local churches.
7. **Daily**. We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus promised to build His church and the ministry team watched the Lord in action daily increasing the numbers in the local assemblies.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by strengthening the faith of other believers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God the Lord Jesus Christ builds His church daily.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by watching Jesus strengthen faith and increase numbers through the ministry of visiting teams of believers.**

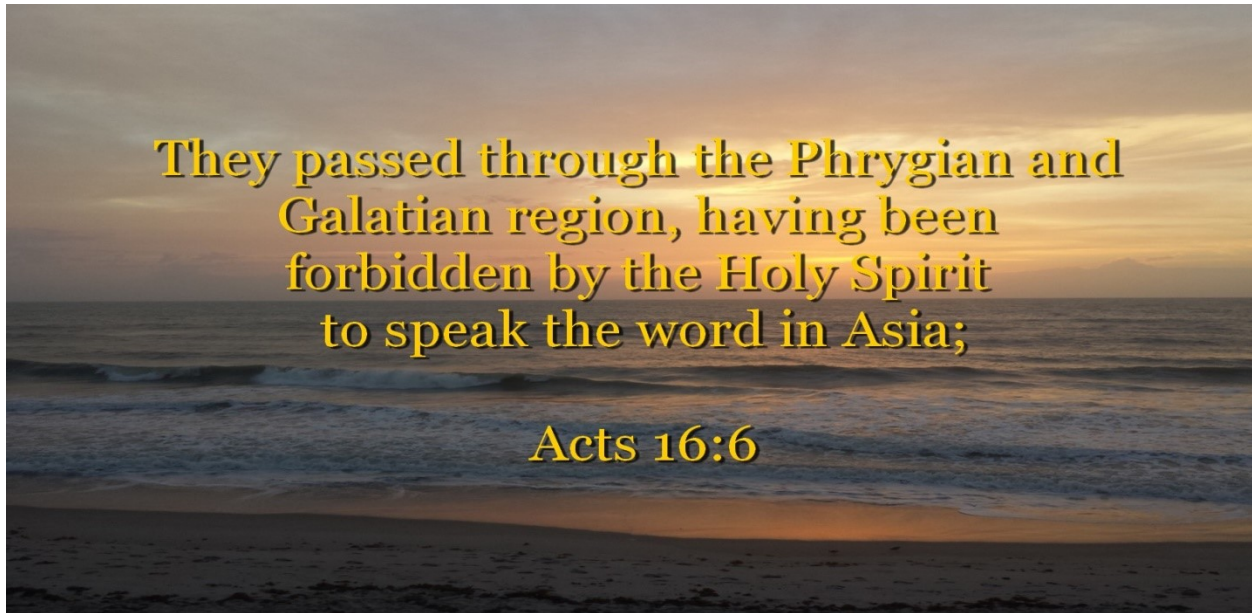
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by reaching out to other believers and strengthening their faith even as they strengthen ours. Will you live holy in the family of God today by strengthening the faith of other believers by visiting with them?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 566

## Passed Today



Why did the ministry team avoid speaking in Asia? They did not speak in Asia because the Holy Spirit forbade them from speaking there.

Paul and Barnabas had traveled to many cities in Galatia on their first missionary journey. By the sovereign will of God, the Holy Spirit directed them not to go back and speak. They had experienced intense persecution in the Galatian region.

The Holy Spirit provided very specific guidance to Paul and the ministry team. Paul had no fear of going back to Lystra where he had been stoned and left for dead. Paul never lacked for courage, although he experienced fear. Paul never turned back from his missionary work, although he followed the leading of the Holy Spirit to avoid further persecution.

The itinerary of the ministry team concerned spiritual needs and spiritual opportunities. The Galatian region had severe persecution, but also plenty of disciples were made there. Therefore, God could sustain them so that the ministry team could press on to new areas where the Gospel had not



been preached before. Paul followed the general rule, with some exceptions, in his travels to avoid proclaiming the Gospel where others had been before.

## ***Forbidden***

1. **They**. Why did Paul and the ministry team pass through Phrygia and Galatia without speaking the word? The Holy Spirit had forbidden them to speak the word in Asia.

2. **Passed**. The ministry team passed through Asia heading towards the coast.

3. **Phrygian**. Paul and Barnabas had been through Asia and planted churches in various cities.

4. **Galatian**. Paul would later write to the people of the Galatian region.

5. **Forbidden**. The Holy Spirit had forbidden the ministry team from preaching the word in Asia because God had other plans for the area.

6. **Spirit**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit provides very specific guidance about where to go and when to go there.

7. **Asia**. We rejoice today because as God, the Holy Spirit knows where the ministry team needed to spend its time and that was not in Asia.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by following the leading of the Holy Spirit as we seek to do ministry for God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God closes some doors for ministry while opening others.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**

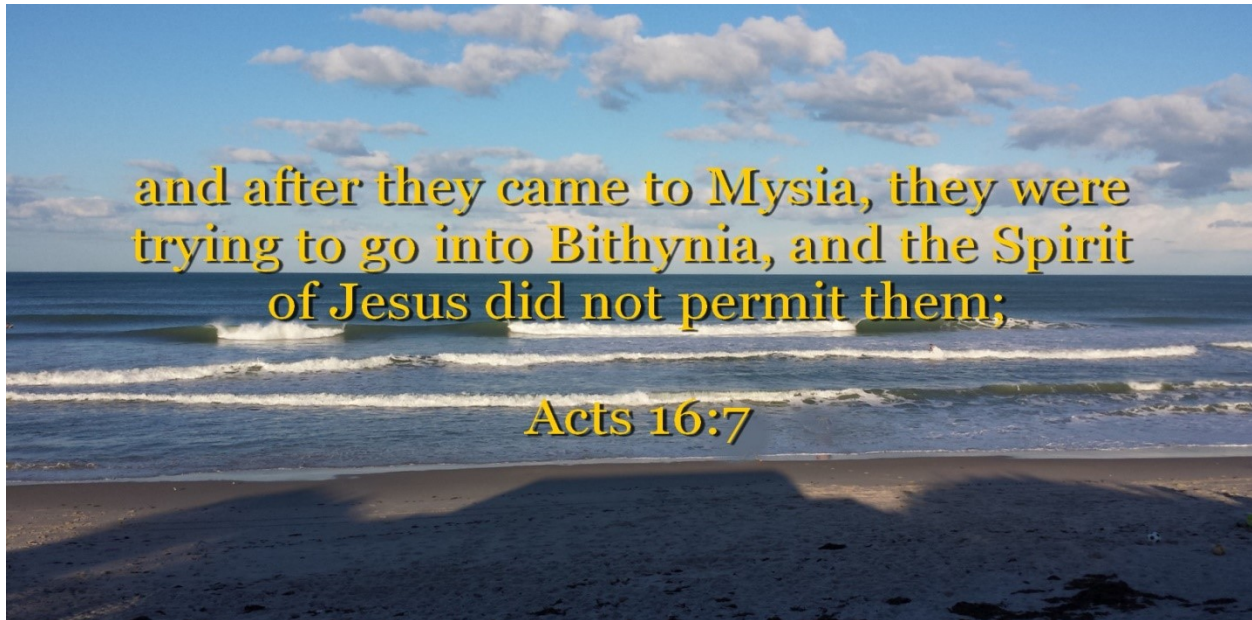
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon the Holy Spirit to direct our steps which grow brighter and brighter until the full light of dawn. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life and His leading day by day?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 567

## Trying Today



As the ministry team tried to get into Bithynia, what did the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit did not permit them to enter there.

Peter addressed his first letter to the saints in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia. He addressed those saints as if he had some personal contact with them. If indeed he had been to visit those regions proclaiming the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ, then Paul and his ministry team did not need to go there. So, the Holy Spirit directed them to Troas.

The Holy Spirit knows who needs to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He knows their need and the urgency of the need for ministry. The Holy Spirit opens doors and moves in men's hearts to follow His leading. God has very special plans for the ministry teams He creates and sustains.

Paul and Barnabas had not been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to go anywhere in their journeys. Indeed, they traveled to many cities but then persecution arose and they pressed on. At times in our lives, we may see a need and want to go there and minister in the Name of Jesus. Of course, we cannot see all the needs of all places, but the Holy Spirit can and does. By

committing our travel schedule to the Holy Spirit and following His leading, He directs us to the right place at the right time.

## ***Bithynia***

1. **Came**. Who stopped the ministry team from going into Bithynia? The Spirit of Jesus stopped the ministry team from going into Bithynia.

2. **Mysia**. Mysia was the area near Troas on the northeastern shores of the province of Asia.

3. **Bithynia**. The Spirit of Jesus explicitly directed the ministry team away from Bithynia to the north and east of Mysia.

4. **Spirit**. The Spirit of Jesus provided active guidance about where the ministry team should go to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Not**. The Spirit of Jesus did not permit them to go into Bithynia.

6. **Permit**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Spirit of Jesus did not permit the ministry team to go just anywhere they wanted to go, but provided very specific destinations to people he had prepared for them.

7. **Them**. We rejoice today because the Spirit of Jesus guided them to Troas so that they would be at the right place at the right time for further ministry.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God closes some doors for ministry so that He may move us through the open door at the right time.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the Spirit of Jesus provided very specific guidance for ministry.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He provides the direction and timing for ministry without error.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the Spirit of Jesus providing guidance for the ministry team. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting the Spirit of Jesus to lead you day by day?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 568

## Mysia Today



Why did Paul go to Troas? Troas was a region in the northwest area of Asia Minor.

Troas had access to the Mediterranean Sea and formed a jumping off point to leave Asia heading to Europe. Troas marks the end of the Asian ministry and the beginning of the European ministry. The Holy Spirit had directed Paul and the ministry team to Troas so that they would be ready to begin a new work in Europe.

Paul and others had very fruitful labors in Asia. Churches had been planted, elders had been appointed, and many people had turned to the Lord in Asia. Paul would even write a letter to the Galatians and Ephesians. John would write to the seven churches of Asia Minor in the Book of Revelation. The Lord Jesus took special note of the activity in Asia and the surrounding districts. Antioch would be a real hub of Christianity, where the disciples were first called Christians.

Paul and Barnabas had been commended by the church at Antioch for their first missionary journey. When they subsequently split over John Mark,

the church at Antioch commended Paul and Silas to the work. They returned to the general area of the first missionary journey, but clearly the Holy Spirit had other plans for them.

## ***Troas***

1. **Passing**. Why did the ministry team end up in Troas? The Spirit of Jesus had directed them by closing doors to Asia and Bithynia.
2. **By**. They passed by Mysia because they were heading to a seaport.
3. **Mysia**. The people of Mysia would be evangelized by others.
4. **They**. Having passed by Mysia, they came down from the upper ranges and mountains to the coastal region.
5. **Came**. Under the influence of the Spirit of Jesus, they made a straight course for Troas.
6. **Down**. Living holy in the family of God means that as they were coming down out of the mountains, they knew that God was driving them towards a specific destination, but they did not know where yet.
7. **Troas**. We rejoice today because the ministry team made its way to Troas, a well-known port connecting Asia and Europe.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that God closes some doors geographically so that we land at the destination He chose all along.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by doing God's plans for ministry and not our own.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by having a ministry team that follows the leading of God as the Spirit of Jesus closes doors.**

## **Application for Today**

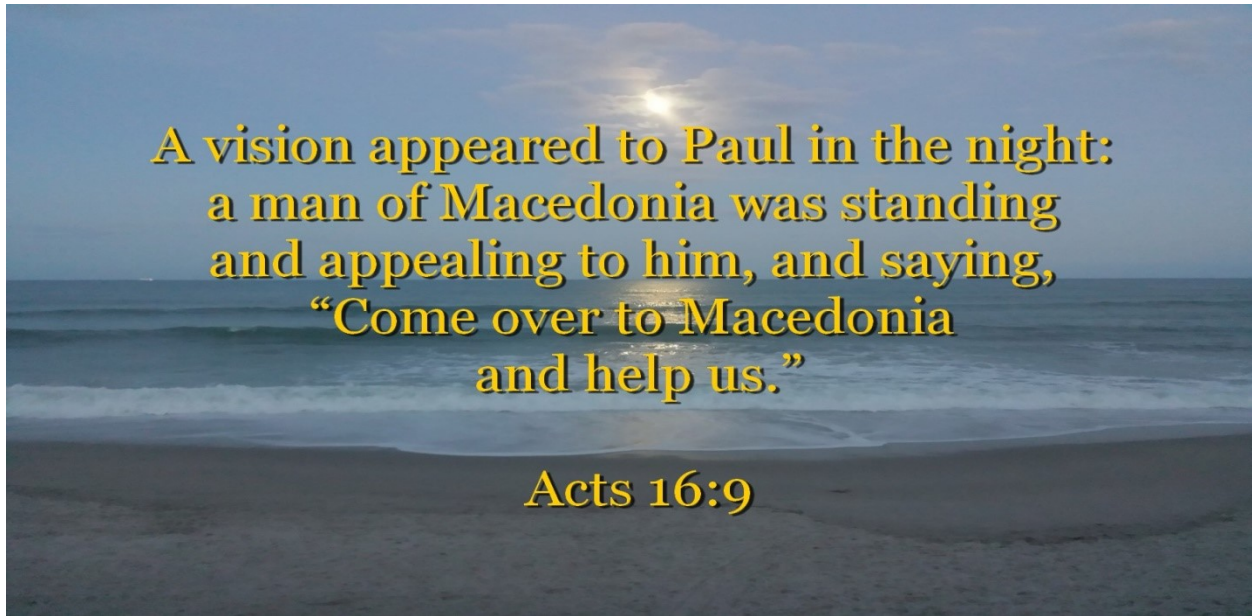
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that he closes doors so that we would pursue the right opportunities. Will you live holy in the family of God today by listening to the Spirit of Jesus guide you into perfect ministry opportunities?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day 569

## Vision Today



What happened to Paul at Troas? Paul had a vision at night.

The prophet Daniel had night visions himself. Daniel saw the future and how it related to the empires of the ancient world. Daniel saw very specific things about people and kingdoms and wars.

While Paul was in Troas, Paul saw a man in a night vision. The man was appealing to Paul asking him to come over to Macedonia and help them. This vision marks the call to European ministry. Paul did not yet know what awaited him in Macedonia, but he was sure the Lord was leading them there because of all the doors that had closed. The Holy Spirit did not let him spend more time in Asia, but directed his path to Troas and on to Macedonia.

Macedonia would require travel by boat. Paul had sailed to the island of Cyprus and then on to Perga. Paul was experienced in traveling by sea and by land. Often traveling by sea was much easier and quicker, because it avoided mountains and hilly terrain. Paul and the ministry team were ready to go to Macedonia and help the people they are by sharing the Gospel of the

Lord Jesus Christ with them. The Holy Spirit had already prepared hearts in the land of Macedonia.

## ***Macedonia***

1. **Vision**. How did God provide guidance to the ministry team? God gave Paul a vision in the night.

2. **Paul**. Peter had had a vision about the Gentiles being cleansed by God. Now Paul had a vision about a man calling for help in Macedonia.

3. **Night**. God had spoken to prophets in night visions before, and God had spoken to Paul in the night vision about Macedonia.

4. **Man**. In the vision, a man was calling for the ministry team to come and help us.

5. **Macedonia**. Macedonia would play a very important role in the evangelistic activities of the ministry team, particularly the cities of Thessalonica and Philippi.

6. **Standing**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul saw a man of Macedonia in his night vision calling for Paul to come and help us.

7. **Help**. We rejoice today because God speaks to people through visions that provide a call for help so that by the power of God, we can bring the greatest help ever known, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by trusting God to provide leading about the proper destination at the right time.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to send us pleas for help.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by responding to the pleas for help, knowing that God is opening the door to ministry opportunity.**

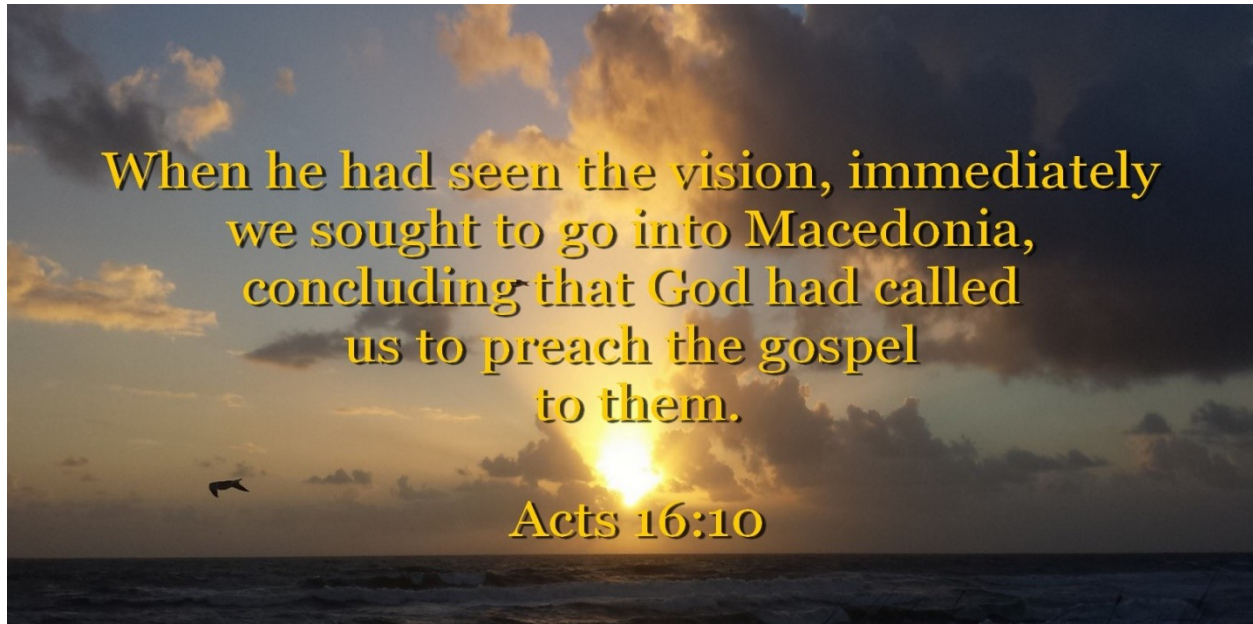
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by responding to calls for help. Will you live holy in the family of God today by listening to calls for help and then responding appropriately?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 570

## Immediately Today



How did Paul react to the Macedonian vision? Immediately Paul sought to go to Macedonia.

This verse marks the first of the “we” passages in the Book of Acts. The reference to “we” probably includes Luke the physician, who also wrote the Gospel. Luke apparently joined the ministry team at Troas for the trip to Macedonia.

Macedonia served as a bulwark against invasion from the north. The Romans considered it very important for the defense of their empire. Macedonia was a Roman province after it had been conquered by Rome in 196 BC. You may also recall that earlier Philip of Macedon had fathered a son named Alexander the Great. Alexander conquered the known Mediterranean world and beyond, spreading Greek culture and language throughout the region. Greek became the business language around the Mediterranean Sea. Therefore, the New Testament writers used koine Greek.

Thessalonica and Philippi thrived during the Roman Empire. Paul wrote letters to those cities, having spent time there with the ministry team. The Holy Spirit had specific plans for Macedonia and the surrounding region. The Thessalonians would be known all over that area for their great faith.

## *Preach*

1. **When**. What did they conclude about Macedonia? They concluded that God was drawing them to Macedonia to preach the Gospel there.
2. **Vision**. At Troas, Paul had seen a Macedonian man calling for help.
3. **Immediately**. Immediately the team sought to go to Macedonia.
4. **We**. For the first time in Acts the term “we” appears, indicating the author had joined the ministry team at Troas.
5. **Sought**. The ministry team sought to go to Macedonia as quickly as possible.
6. **Macedonia**. Living holy in the family of God means that the ministry team headed to Macedonia immediately after receiving the vision from God.
7. **Gospel**. We rejoice today because God called the ministry team out of Asia to Europe so that Macedonia could be helped with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by immediately responding to God's direction.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God moves us to proclaim the Gospel at the places He picked.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God moves us to help people hear the Gospel and be saved.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to guide us to people who need to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the Macedonian vision?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 571

## From Troas Today



Where did Paul and the ministry team go when they left Troas? They went to Samothrace.

Samothrace lacks a natural harbor, so boats often anchored in the lee of the island to get away from stiff winds. The island has the tallest mountain in that part of the Aegean Sea, serving as a landmark for navigation.

Having stayed the night at Samothrace, the ministry team pushed on to Neapolis. The eastern Macedonian seaport of Neapolis lies about 10 miles from Philippi.

Having joined the ministry team in Troas, Luke provided many details about places the ministry team went and the places they journeyed by boat. Paul and Luke apparently spent a good bit of time in boats traveling from place to place.

Paul was shipwrecked at least once and spent a night in a day in the deep. As Paul traveled to Rome for his appeal to Caesar, Paul spent

considerable time traveling by boat with a Centurion. That boat, however, sank in a severe storm but no lives were lost.

## *To Neapolis*

1. **So**. What route did they take across the sea? They ran a straight course to Samothrace and then on to Neapolis the next day.
2. **Sea**. Sea travel allowed them to cover more distance with less effort.
3. **Troas**. Paul had the Macedonian vision and they embarked immediately upon a boat to get to Europe.
4. **Course**. They ran a straight course to Samothrace.
5. **Samothrace**. Samothrace was a large island with a very tall mountain that served as a break from the wind.
6. **Day**. Living holy in the family of God means that sailing from Troas to Philippi only required one layover in Samothrace.
7. **Neapolis**. We rejoice today because they were heading to Neapolis, the seaport about 10 miles from Philippi, the place where God had sent the ministry team to begin the evangelization of Europe.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the voyage from Troas to Neapolis as God moved the ministry team to begin work in Europe.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for the efforts of a faithful man bringing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to new lands.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by joining a ministry team to use our spiritual gifts in concert with others.**

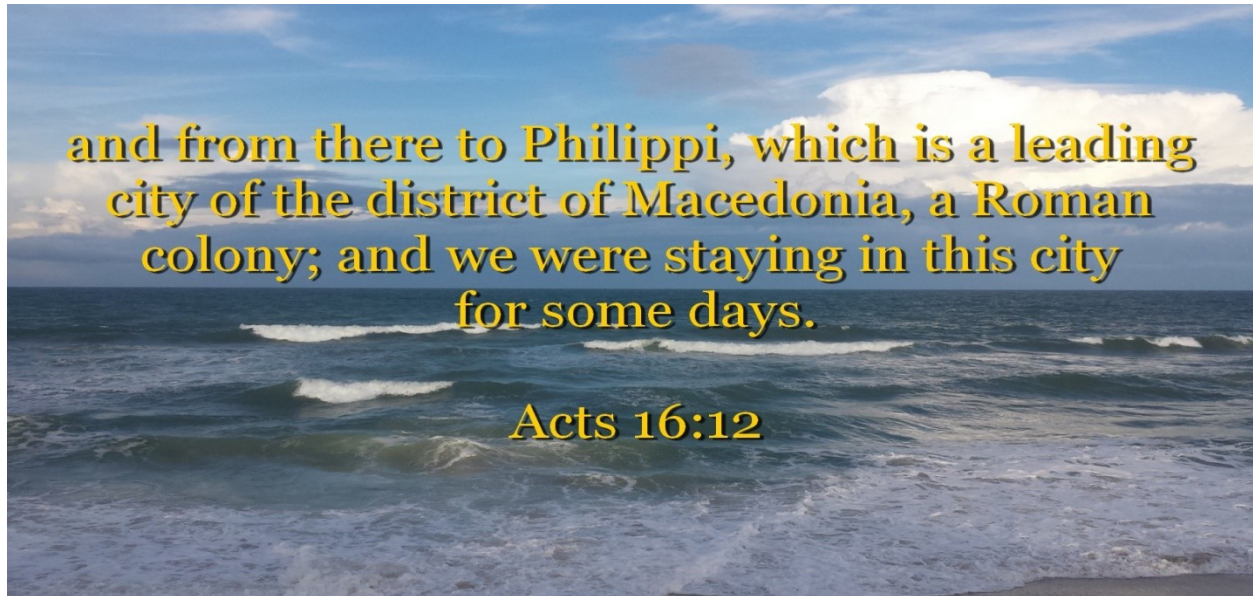
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the ministry teams that God sends to new places to begin the evangelization of very large lands. Will you live holy in the family of God today by beginning the evangelism of the place where you live by talking with your neighbors about Christ?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 572

## Philippi Today



Having landed at the seaport of Neapolis in Macedonia, where did Paul go next? Paul went to Philippi.

The ministry team had departed Troas because Paul had seen in the night vision a man calling to him and requesting his help. The man was calling from Macedonia. Having seen numerous doors closed for them in Asia, the ministry team immediately understood that God intended for them to go across to Europe and begin the evangelism of Europe, starting with Macedonia.

No greater aid can one country render to another country than to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ by sending messengers bearing the good news. God had moved the ministry team out of Asia into Europe. The mission remained basically the same, going from city to city and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

Paul often went from one leading city to another. Philippi was a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony. The ministry team stayed

there for some days. The ministry team went to Philippi because God had sent them there to meet some important people.

## *Staying*

1. **Philippi**. Having arrived in Neapolis, where did the team go next? They went into Philippi about 10 miles away.

2. **Macedonia**. Philippi was a leading city of the district of Macedonia and had been populated for hundreds of years. It had a rich history with the Greeks.

3. **Colony**. When the Romans conquered the area, they made Philippi a Roman colony, with limited self-government.

4. **Staying**. God called the ministry team to get to Philippi immediately, but once they arrived there, they stayed for a few days.

5. **City**. Philippi was a bustling city with many inhabitants.

6. **Some**. Living holy in the family of God means that as God moves His servants from place to place, they also spend time at one place.

7. **Days**. We rejoice today because the ministry team stayed several days in Philippi, proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by moving quickly from place to place until the Lord directs us to stay in one place for a while.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon God to move us and stop us at just the right time and place.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the way that God spreads the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the mouths of faithful men and women.**

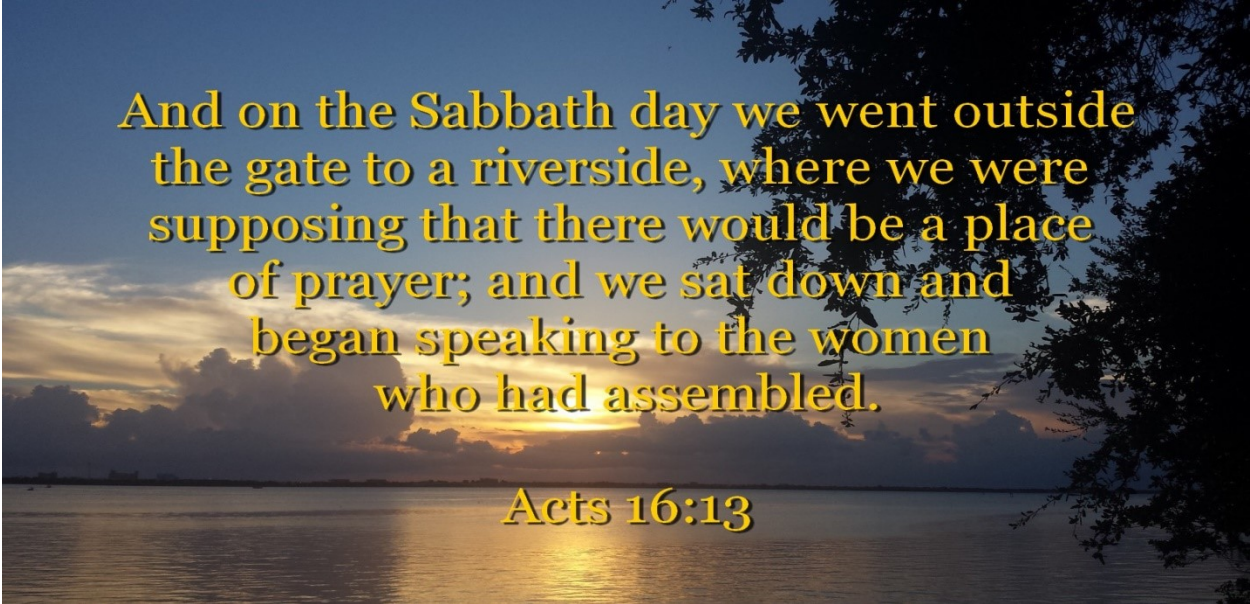
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by staying where God puts us to minister to a group of people there ready to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by staying sensitive to the will of God so that you will stay in the right place?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 573

## Riverside Today



And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.

Acts 16:13

Where did Paul go on the Sabbath day at Philippi? Paul and the ministry team went outside the gate to a riverside.

Paul often went to the synagogue as a first place. Typically, he would enter the synagogue on the Sabbath and wait for the synagogue officials to ask him to speak. In this case the evangelization of Philippi started at a riverside. Paul and the ministry team went there because they thought it would be a place of prayer.

Having arrived at the riverside, they sat down and began speaking to the women assembled there. You may recall Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob near Sychar of Samaria. When Jesus asked her for a drink from the well, the woman was surprised that a Jew would have anything to do with a Samaritan woman. Even so Jesus brought the words of life to the Samaritans there and stayed with them a few days. Many Samaritans turned to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, starting with a woman at the well.

At Philippi the ministry team had gone down to the riverside because it was apparently a place of prayer. Like Jesus before them, picking places for prayer often came with important benefits.

## *Women*

1. **Sabbath**. What did Paul do on the Sabbath day? Paul, with a ministry team, went down to the riverside outside the gate.
2. **We**. Paul said that we sat down there by the riverside.
3. **Riverside**. The riverside could not have been too far away because it was a Sabbath day and not wanting to arouse the Jews, they would not have broken the Sabbath by traveling too far.
4. **Place**. Paul thought the riverside would be a place of prayer.
5. **Prayer**. By going to a place of prayer, Paul could meet other people there interested in spiritual things.
6. **Sat**. Living holy in the family of God means that the ministry team sat down at the riverside and began to talk with the women there.
7. **Women**. We rejoice today because the ministry team, like Jesus before them, took time to talk to the women assembled there.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the ministry team going down to the riverside, a place of prayer.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the Macedonian vision sent Paul and the ministry team to a riverside to talk to some women outside of the gate of Philippi.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by not being a respecter of persons when it comes to salvation, so that we talk to rich and poor and male and female.**

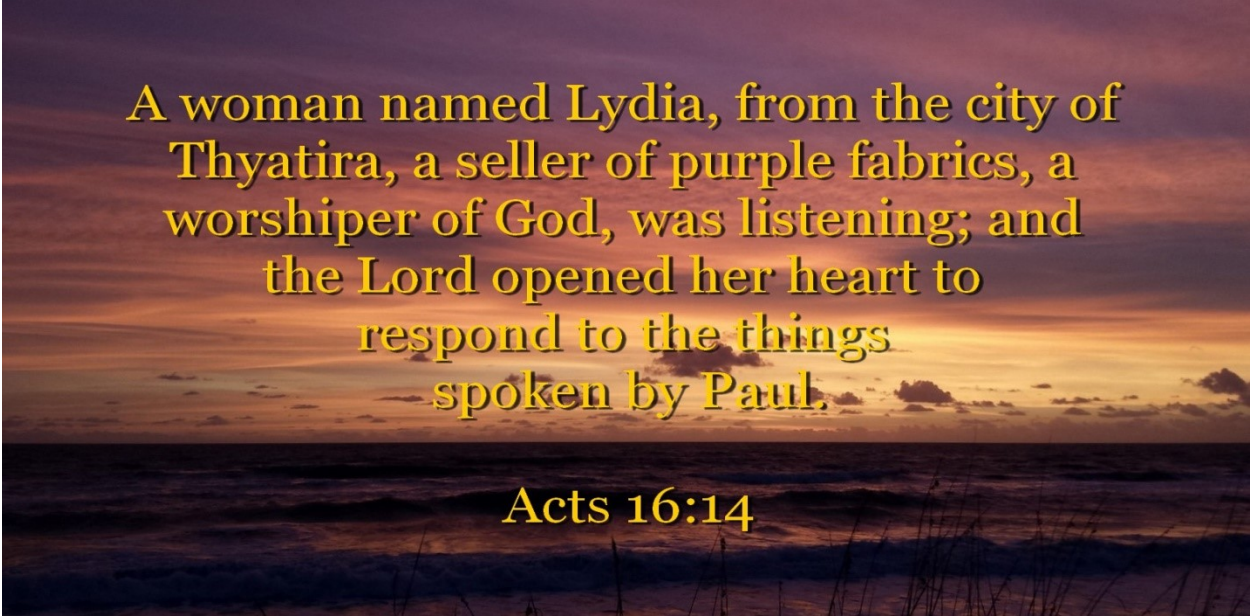
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by enjoying time by the river while we sit down and talk to people about Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to talk to people as you relax?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 574

## Lydia Today

A sunset over the ocean with text overlay.

A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

Acts 16:14

Who did Paul meet at the riverside? Paul and the ministry team met a woman named Lydia.

Lydia was from the city of Thyatira, mentioned in the Book of Revelation as one of the seven churches of Asia Minor, lies almost due east of Athens, Greece.

Lydia was a seller of purple fabrics, the color of royalty in the Greek world. She was also a worshiper of God. Paul began speaking at the river and then God opened the heart of Lydia to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

God had sent the ministry team on a sea voyage to Neapolis and then on to Philippi. In Paul's vision in Troas, a man appeared to him calling for help. The first person in the Bible that Paul talked to in Europe was Lydia. God had sent the ministry team to the woman by the river in the city of Philippi, and she was not even a Macedonian. God had great plans for the city of Philippi and Paul wrote a letter later to the Philippians.



God loves women and men. Both of them are saved by the same Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. A group of women used to travel and support Jesus during His ministry in the flesh.

## ***Respond***

1. **Woman**. Who was Lydia? Paul met Lydia at the riverside.
2. **Lydia**. Lydia was one of the women assembled there listening to Paul proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. **Thyatira**. Lydia was from Thyatira, a city of Asia Minor, from the region Paul had just left with the ministry team.
4. **Purple**. Lydia sold purple fabric, the color of royalty.
5. **Worshipper**. Lydia was a worshiper of God and listening to Paul proclaiming Jesus as Savior.
6. **Opened**. Living holy in the family of God means that God opened the heart of Lydia to receive the Lord Jesus as Savior.
7. **Respond**. We rejoice today because Lydia responded to the things spoken by Paul, so that all heaven rejoiced over the salvation of Lydia of Thyatira as she sat near a riverside in Macedonia.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by talking to the people whom God has called to listen to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to lead us on journeys to meet the right group of people at the right time at the right place, even if they are not from the place where we meet them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by counting upon God to draw us to people ready to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, no matter where they are from.**

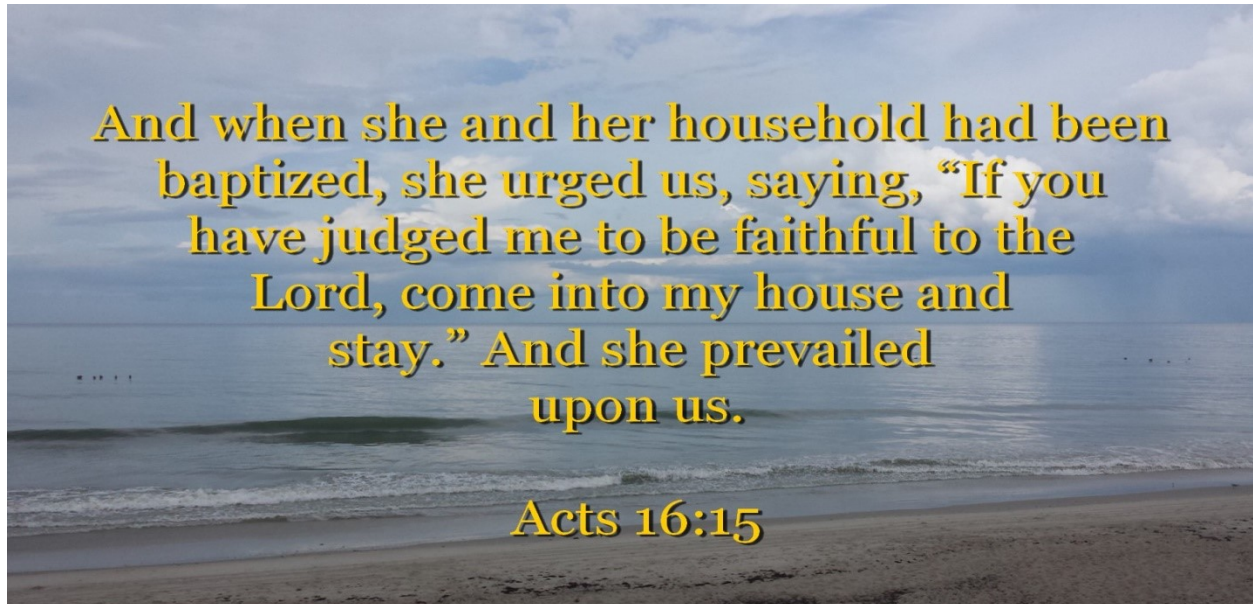
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that God sends us to places to have a spiritual rendezvous with people God has drawn to that exact place at that exact time. Will you live holy in the family of God today by talking with the people the Lord sets before you about the great love of Jesus Christ and the eternal life He offers everyone?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 575

## Household Today



What did Lydia prevail upon the ministry team to do? Lydia prevailed upon them to stay at her house.

When Paul was speaking by the river at Philippi, God opened the heart of Lydia to receive Jesus Christ as her Savior. In fact, her whole household believed and were baptized. In the New Testament, often the whole household was baptized because the leader of the house had faith and was baptized. Baptism, however, was always believer’s baptism. Therefore, Paul was not baptizing people in the house who were not believers.

After Lydia and her household were baptized, she urged the ministry team to stay with her. She said that if they had judged her to be faithful to the Lord, then they should come into her house and stay there. She prevailed upon them and they agreed. Lydia displayed great hospitality to the ministry team. By taking them into her home, she apparently intended for them to eat there and find safe lodging there. Jesus taught His disciples to stay in the home in the city that received them first and not move from house to house.

The first baptism in Europe appears to be Lydia and her household. God had brought the ministry team to Europe to meet Lydia, baptize her, and have a base of operations at Philippi.

## ***Baptized***

1. **She**. What did Lydia want the ministry team to do? She wanted them to stay at her house.

2. **Household**. Lydia and her household were baptized after faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

3. **Baptized**. They were baptized by the ministry team in obedience to the command of Christ.

4. **Urged**. Having been baptized, Lydia then urged the ministry team to stay at her house.

5. **Judged**. She pleaded her case by asking if they judged her faithful to the Lord, to come and stay at my house.

6. **Faithful**. Living holy in the family of God means that Lydia believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and received baptism as a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus.

7. **House**. We rejoice today because Lydia opened her house to the ministry team because she was faithful to the Lord Jesus.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by following the Lord in baptism after salvation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by urging other believers with saving faith to be baptized.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by opening our homes to ministry teams so that they have food and lodging.**

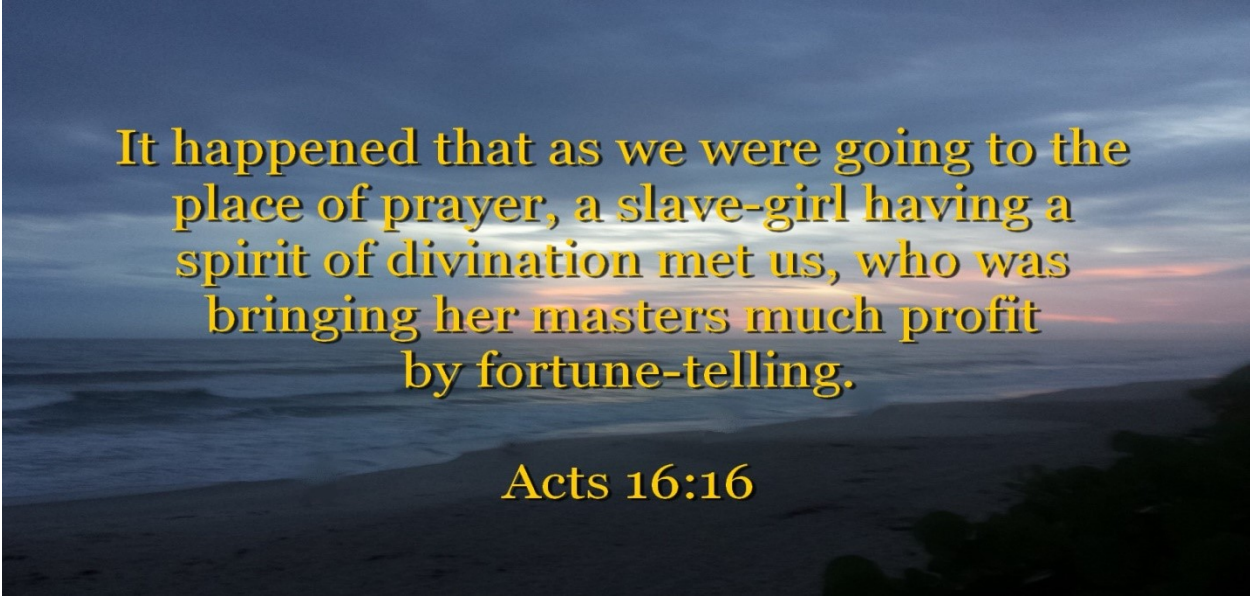
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Lydia and her household being baptized at Philippi. Will you live holy in the family of God today by opening your home to the servants of God so that they too will have food and lodging?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 576

## Divination Today



It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

Acts 16:16

What happened with the slave girl? As the ministry team was going to the place of prayer, a slave girl met them.

Paul and the ministry team arrived in Philippi. On the Sabbath they went down to the river and met Lydia. She and her household believed and were baptized and Paul and the ministry team stayed at her home.

One day when Paul and the ministry team were going to the place of prayer, a slave girl met the ministry team. That slave girl had a spirit of divination (python) in her, bringing her masters much profit. She told fortunes for profit.

Demon possessed people populate the world. Today, many people tend to ignore the presence of demons in people. In the New Testament world, people had a much keener awareness of demons. This demon allowed the slave girl to tell the future for people, but she also charged money so that her masters made a lot of money.

Notice that the demon girl met the ministry team. The Lord Jesus had drawn that woman to the team for a particular purpose.

## ***Profit***

1. **Going**. What happened when the ministry team was going to the place of prayer? A slave girl possessed by a demon met them.
2. **Prayer**. The apostles spent time praying and observed the hour of prayer at 3 p.m.
3. **Slave**. A slave girl came up to the ministry team.
4. **Spirit**. She had a spirit of divination within her.
5. **Met**. She met the ministry team as they were heading to prayer.
6. **Masters**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand that demons can use supernatural abilities to foretell the future and so bring their masters great profits.
7. **Profit**. We rejoice today because God always knows the future, but also know that demons can use supernatural powers to tell the future for money.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the slave girl who could tell the future because of the demon within her.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that demons can produce great profits to people who will do business with them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejecting all demons and all profits derived from demons.**

## **Application for Today**

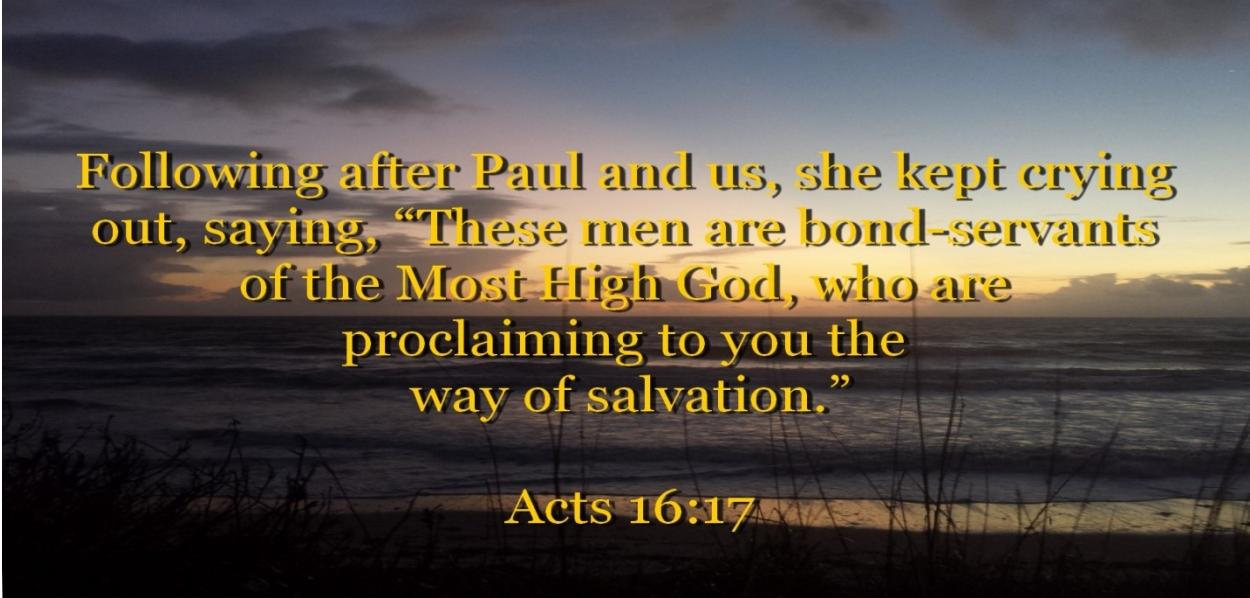
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the slave girl with the spirit of divination within her. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never embracing demons for money?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day 577

## Proclaiming Today

A photograph of a sunset over a beach. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with the sun low on the horizon. The ocean is dark with white-capped waves. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted grasses or reeds. Overlaid on the image is text in a yellow, serif font.

Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, “These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation.”

Acts 16:17

What did the slave girl do? She followed after Paul and the ministry team crying out.

The demon-possessed slave girl cried out that the ministry team were bond servants of the Most High God. She also stated that they were proclaiming the way of salvation to the people of Philippi.

On one level, the demon-possessed slave girl said nice things about Paul and the ministry team. First, she knew that they were servants of the Most High God and she was correct. Second, she said that the ministry team was proclaiming the way of salvation to the people of Philippi and she was correct. What could be wrong with someone saying those things?

The main problem concerns her demon possession. The ministry team was always very careful about the impression they created with the public. They wanted to be above reproach in all things. They thoroughly opposed the demon-possessed girl and her words. She was not a suitable spokesman for the ministry team. People knew her as a demon-possessed girl and so Paul and the ministry team wanted to distance themselves from her in every way.

They came to liberate people like her from demon possession. In the New Testament, the demons always recognize Jesus.

## *Salvation*

1. **Following**. Why was the slave girl following the ministry team? She followed because she kept crying out a message about the ministry team.

2. **Paul**. She followed Paul.

3. **Us**. She also followed us. At Troas, Luke joined the ministry team and began using the term “us.”

4. **Crying**. The slave girl, possessed by a demon, kept crying out.

5. **Servants**. She proclaimed that the ministry team were bond servants of the Most High God.

6. **Proclaiming**. Living holy in the family of God means that slave girl recognized that Paul and the ministry team were proclaiming the way of salvation.

7. **Salvation**. We rejoice today because God used Paul and the ministry team to bring salvation to many people in many places, but Paul did not want a demon involved in their ministry in any way.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the slave girl telling everyone about the ministry team.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the demons recognized the ministry team was from the Most High God, proclaiming the way of salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the demons recognize the Christians and then try to interfere in their ministries.**

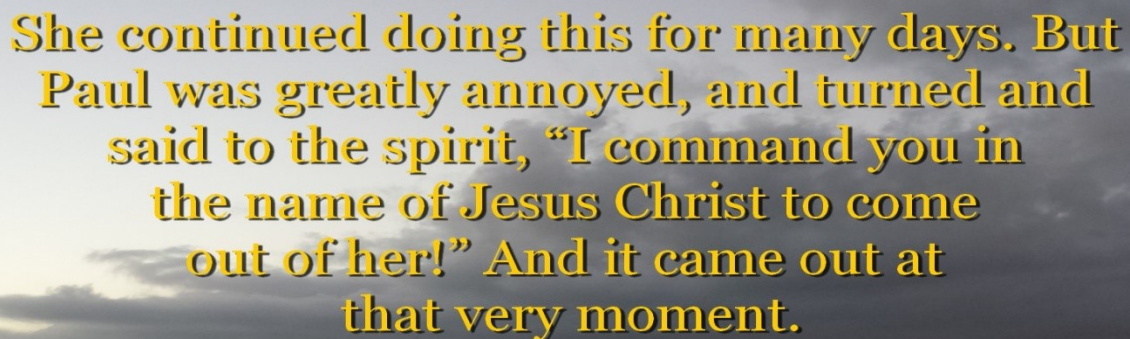
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the slave girl crying out about the ministry team. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejecting all efforts by demons to join the ministry team?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 578

## Annoyed Today



She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out at that very moment.

Acts 16:18

What did the demon-possessed girl continue to do? She continued announcing Paul and the ministry team were servants of the Most High who proclaim the way of salvation.

How did Paul respond to that announcement? Paul was greatly annoyed and turned and commanded the spirit to come out of the slave girl in the name of Jesus Christ. Immediately the possessing demon left the slave girl.

Demon possession in the New Testament was often solved by simply commanding the spirit to leave the person in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus explained also that some demons only go out through prayer and fasting. In this case Paul cast the demon out in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the result was immediate.

When Paul cast the demon out of the slave girl, her masters just lost their money machine. She would no longer be fortune-telling for anyone with the same supernatural abilities afforded to her by the demon within her.

People today tend to overlook the supernatural powers of demons and the way they bring worldly profits to those who follow them.

## ***Come Out***

1. **Continued**. What did the slave girl continue to do? She continued to annoy Paul with her statements about the ministry team.

2. **Many**. The slave girl followed Paul for many days making statements about the ministry team.

3. **Annoyed**. Her statements greatly annoyed Paul and he took action to stop it.

4. **Spirit**. Paul turned and addressed the spirit directly.

5. **Command**. Paul directly commanded the spirit in the slave girl.

6. **Name**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul had the authority in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ to command the spirit in the slave girl.

7. **Moment**. We rejoice today because at the moment Paul commanded the spirit in the slave girl to come out of her, the spirit came out at that very moment.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the slave girl who annoyed Paul with her statements about the ministry team.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by not allowing demons to have any influence over the ministry team.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by casting out demons that try to gain influence over the ministry team.**

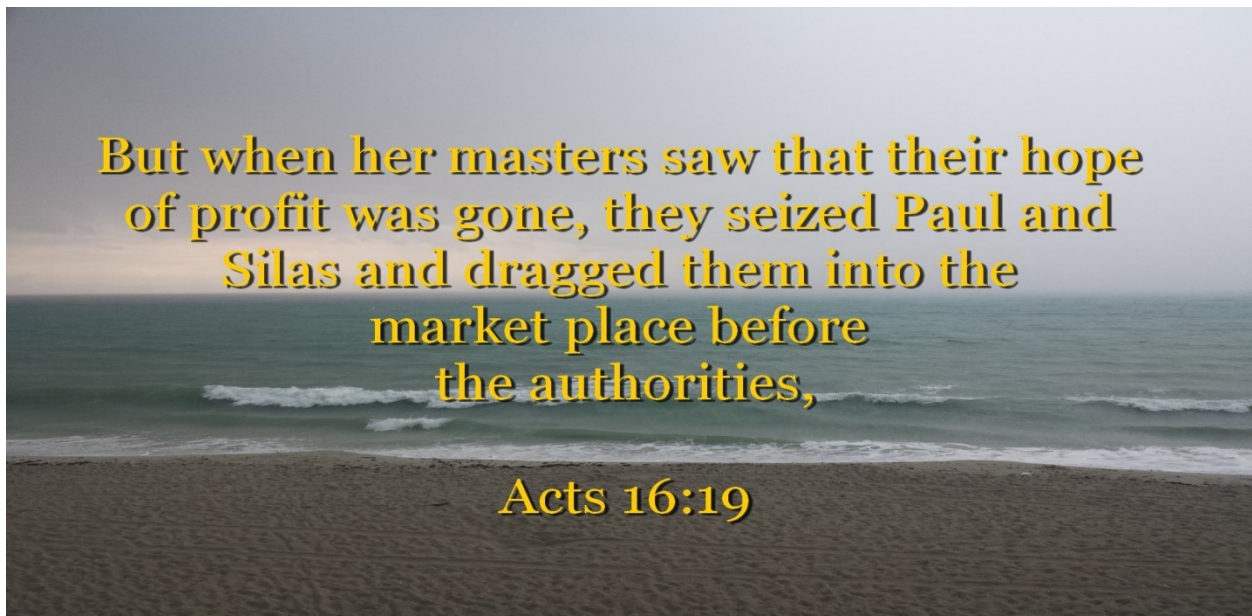
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ to cast out demons annoying the ministry team and trying to gain influence. Will you live holy in the family of God today by standing against all attacks by demons upon the ministry team?

**HALLELUJAH !**

## Day 579

### Seized Today



What did the masters of the slave girl do? After they saw their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas.

A slave girl possessed with the demon followed the ministry team for days, crying out that they were sent from God and proclaiming the way of salvation in truth. Paul became seriously annoyed with the girl and cast out the demon in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The slave girl made a fortune for her masters by fortune-telling. She had the power of the demon to foretell the future. People apparently paid a lot of money to hear what the slave girl had to say. When Paul cast out the demon, the slave girl lost her ability to tell the future and more importantly, her masters lost the income.

The masters of the slave girl were so angry at Paul and Silas that they seized them and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. They intended for the authorities to penalize Paul and Silas. Perhaps they could even recoup some of the money they had lost.

## ***Dragged***

1. **When**. What did the masters do to Paul and Silas when they saw Paul cast out the demon? They seized Paul and Silas.
2. **Masters**. The masters knew their profits from the slave girl had disappeared.
3. **Profit**. That slave girl had brought them much profit over time.
4. **Seized**. The masters then seized Paul and Silas with the intention of taking them to court.
5. **Dragged**. They dragged Paul and Silas to the marketplace to face the authorities.
6. **Market**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Silas suffered persecution for casting the demon out of the slave girl.
7. **Authorities**. We rejoice today because God protects His own and although their bodies may suffer on earth before the authorities, they have eternal life with Christ in heaven.



### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and Silas at Philippi being dragged before the authorities.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting that casting out demons will bring many consequences.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God knowing that delivering people from the oppression of demons will always be the best choice.**

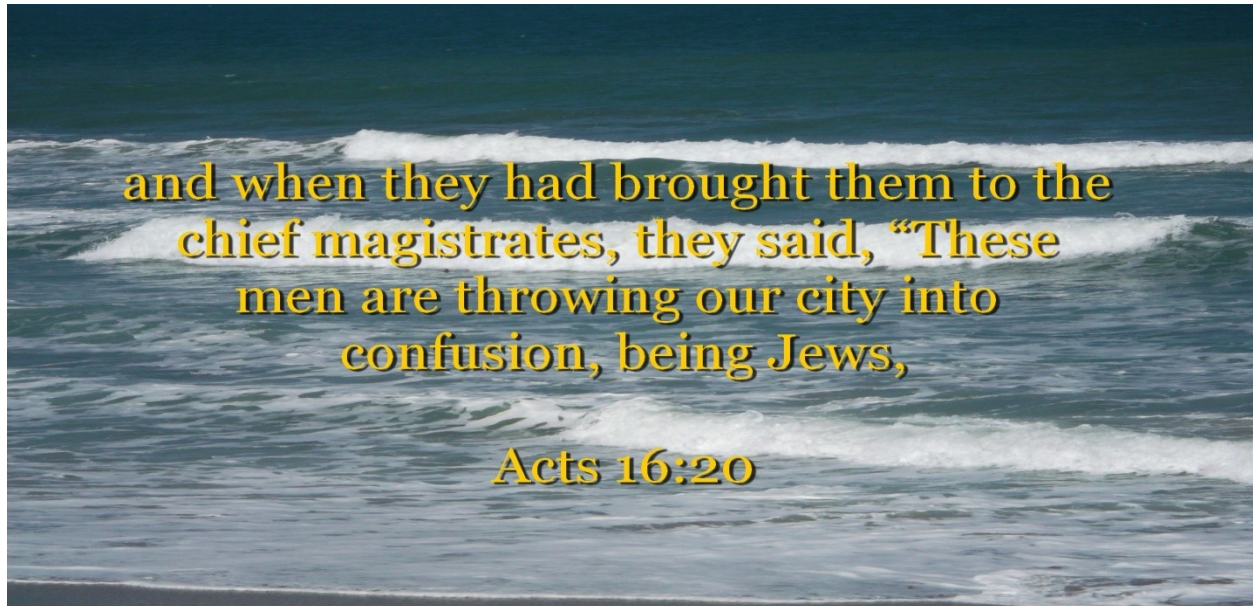
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and Silas being dragged before the authorities for casting the demon out of the slave girl. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that doing good may land you in trouble with the authorities?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 580

## City Today



What charge did the masters of the slave girl lay before the chief magistrates? They charged Paul with throwing the city into confusion.

The masters of the slave girl were upset because Paul had cast the demon out of her. When the demon left, so did the hope of profits from the slave girl's fortune-telling. The masters were so angry they hauled Paul and Silas before the city magistrates.

The masters of the slave girl trumped up charges against Paul and Silas. First, they charged Paul and Silas with throwing the city into confusion by casting out the demon from the slave girl. No doubt anyone watching the miracle would have been very impressed. Because Paul made it plain that the Lord Jesus Christ cast out the demon, no one should have been thrown into confusion.

The masters of the slave girl also made another more clandestine charge. They claimed that the confusion was tied to Paul and Silas being Jews. Apparently, the Jews were not well respected in Philippi. Of course,

Paul and Silas were Jews, but they were proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and operating under His power.

## *Confusion*

1. **When**. What charges did the masters bring against Paul and Silas before the chief magistrates? They charged them with causing confusion in the city.

2. **They**. The masters were enraged because Paul and Silas had taken away their source of income through the fortune-telling of the slave girl possessed by a demon.

3. **Brought**. The masters forcibly brought Paul and Silas before the chief magistrates.

4. **Them**. The masters brought them for punishment before the chief magistrates of Philippi. The motives of the masters seem plain. They were counting upon the magistrates to impose punishment upon Paul and Silas for proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and casting out the demon in His Name.

5. **Magistrates**. The chief magistrates were supposed to be impartial judges of right and wrong, applying the law of Rome to all matters.

6. **City**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Paul and Silas faced the charge that preaching the Gospel Lord Jesus Christ in a city caused great confusion.

7. **Confusion**. We rejoice today because the masters complained of confusion in the city, but actually they opposed the will of God by seizing Paul and Silas and in hampering their work for God in the city.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that some people will take missionaries to court, trying to stop them from spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for sending men of great courage and stamina like Paul and Silas to spread the Gospel the Lord Jesus Christ far and wide.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the endurance of missionaries facing criminal penalties based upon false charges because the reward is great in heaven.**

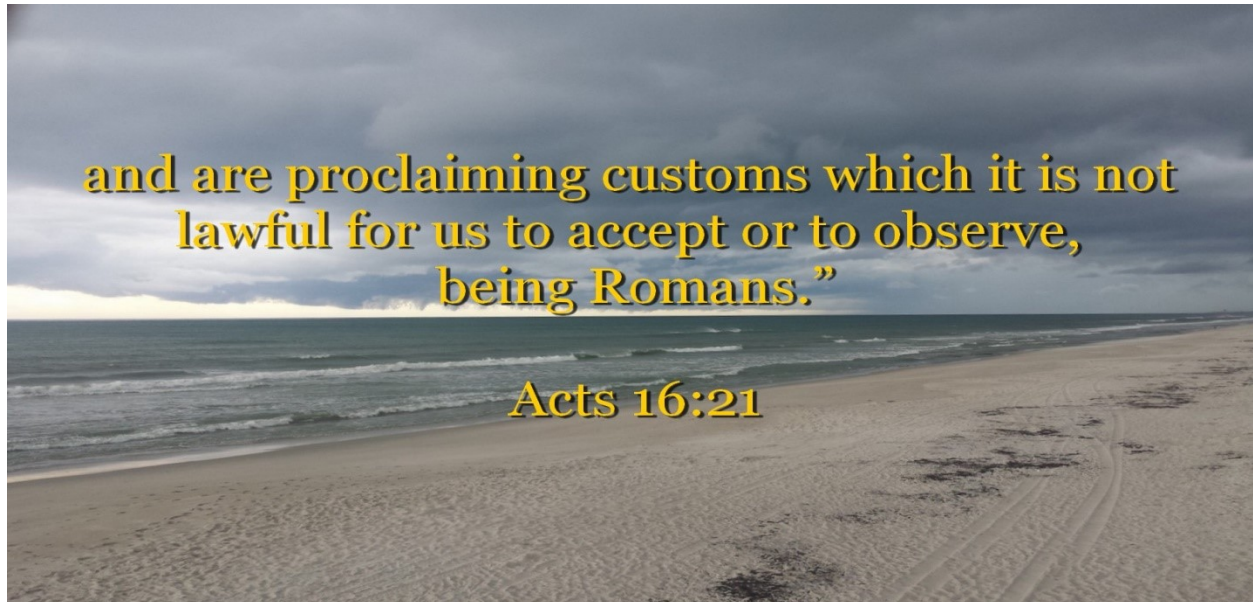
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God rewards those who suffer unjustly for the sake of Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that He never overlooks service for Him?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 581

## Customs Today



Why did the masters say that Romans could not accept the message of Paul and Silas? The masters said that the “customs” proclaimed by Paul and Silas violated Roman law.

The masters of the slave girl dragged Paul and Silas before the chief magistrates because they had cast the demon out of the slave girl. That demon allowed that slave girl to proclaim the future and earn great profits for her masters. Without the demon within her, the slave girl lost all her value to her masters as a fortune-teller.

The masters brought two basic charges against Paul and Silas before the magistrates. First, they claimed that they were Jews proclaiming customs that threw the city into confusion. Second, they charged that Paul and Silas, being Jews, proclaimed things that were unlawful for Romans to accept.

Paul and Silas were completely innocent of the charges brought against them. They had cast out a demon from the girl, by the power of Jesus Christ. While the demons lost the slave girl as a host, they still exerted their power

through the masters and sought to have Paul and Silas mistreated in many ways.

## ***Not Lawful***

1. **Proclaiming**. What did the masters tell the magistrates about Paul and Silas? The masters said that Paul and Silas were preaching strange customs, being Jews.

2. **Customs**. The masters stated that the Jews, Paul and Silas, proclaimed customs contrary to Roman law.

3. **Not**. The masters further alleged that Paul and Silas were promoting illegal activity which the masters could not support, being Romans.

4. **Lawful**. The masters pretended that they were only trying to obey the law and acting with lawful intent.

5. **Accept**. The masters also alleged that they could not accept what Paul and Silas were doing by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Observe**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the masters lying to the chief magistrates by saying that Romans could not observe the customs proclaimed by Paul and Silas.

7. **Romans**. We rejoice today because Romans from all over the Empire turned to Jesus Christ for salvation and Paul even wrote an epistle to the Romans.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God that He sustained Paul and Silas in Philippi.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the charges brought against Paul and Silas, alleging they were teaching unlawful customs of the Jews.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God sent Paul and Silas to Europe to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Philippi.**

### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that Paul and Silas endured much suffering for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that the early Christians did not get a fair shake in court?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# 3

## Philippian Jail Today

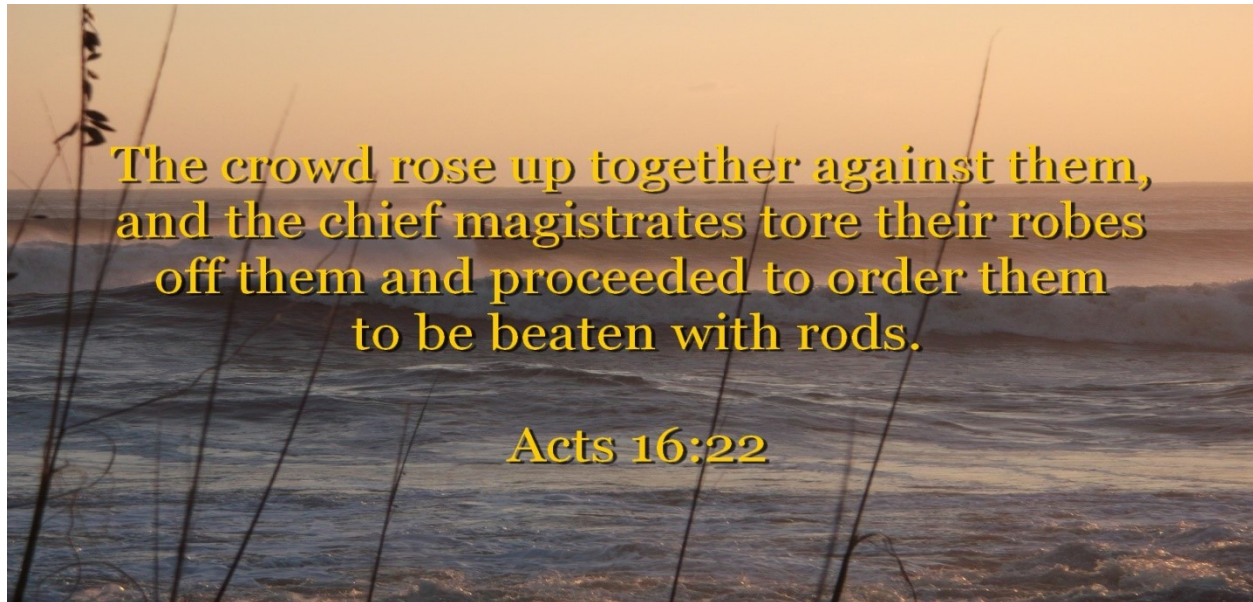
Paul and Silas were taken before the Ephesian authorities, beaten with rods, and imprisoned. At midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God and the prisoners were listening. A great earthquake shook the prison and the doors opened, but the prisoners did not leave. The Philippian jailer was ready to kill himself with his own sword, but Paul stopped him and he became a believer in Jesus Christ, along with his whole household. Because Paul was a Roman citizen and beaten without trial and imprisoned, he refused to leave the prison until the city officials led him out, which they did with great fear.

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day 582

## Magistrates Today



How did the crowd respond to the charges? The crowd rose up together against Paul and Silas.

The chief magistrates showed their complete lack of impartiality by tearing the robes off of Paul and Silas. They were then beaten with rods. Of course, being a Roman colony with Roman magistrates following Roman law, the chief magistrates should have heard the defense of Paul and Silas before they imposed any punishment. They were entitled to a fair trial which they never received.

Paul and Silas were persecuted for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because they served Him, they understood that they would face many different kinds of persecution. Rulers had opposed them before and now the chief magistrates beat them with rods without a trial.

The chief magistrates had committed a grave error against Paul and Silas. Apparently, thinking that they were Jews proclaiming Jewish customs, the chief magistrates never imagined they were dealing with

Roman citizens entitled to the full protection of Roman law. The chief magistrates had gone with the crowds and violated Roman law.

## *Order*

1. **Crowds**. What was the crowd doing while Paul and Silas were before the magistrates? The crowd became very militant.

2. **Rose**. The crowd rose together against Paul and Silas.

3. **Magistrates**. The magistrates appeared to be influenced by the crowd and immediately jumped into the punishment mode without trial.

4. **Robes**. The chief magistrates tore the robes off Paul and Silas.

5. **Order**. They ordered that Paul and Silas be punished immediately.

6. **Beaten**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Paul and Silas were beaten at Philippi by the chief magistrates for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Rods**. We rejoice today because although Paul and Silas were beaten many times with rods, they had done nothing wrong or illegal by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and Silas who willingly suffered beatings and imprisonment for the sake of proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for the courage and faithfulness of Paul and Silas to endure government persecution and beating.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His great plans to evangelize Philippi and the rest of the world.**

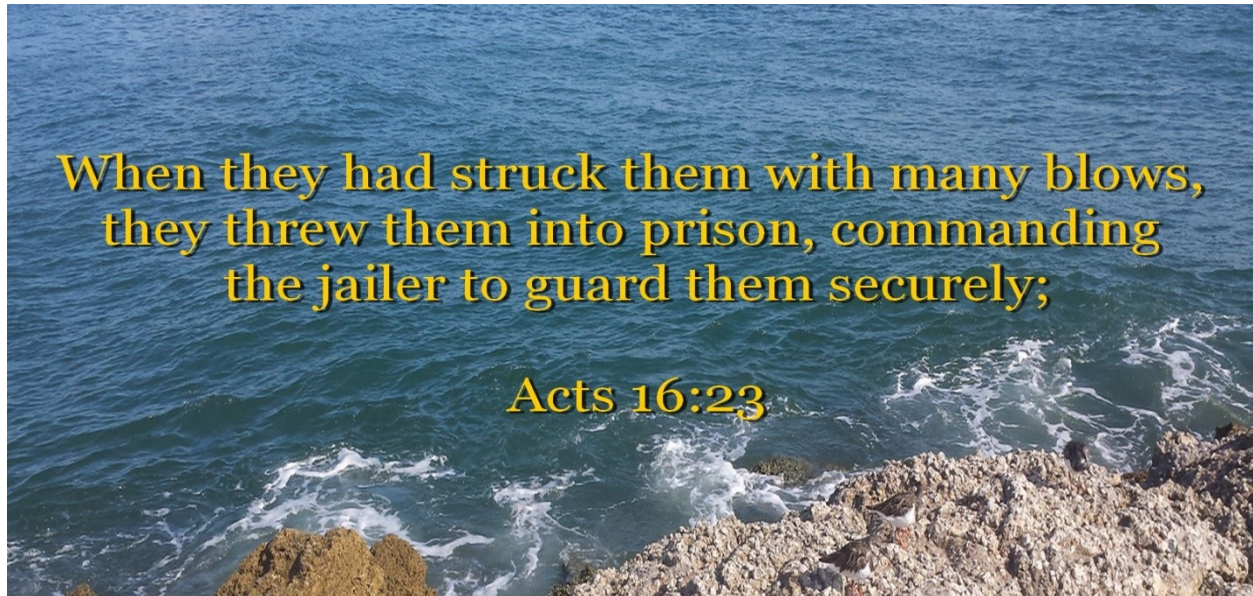
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that the government may turn against believers, particularly when the crowd rises up against the believers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to help you endure persecution because you proclaim the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 583

## Struck Today



How bad was the physical abuse thrust upon Paul and Silas? The chief magistrates had them struck with many blows.

The chief magistrates were obligated to follow Roman law. Yet, they completely ignored Roman law and followed the fervor of the crowd. They tore the robes off Paul and Silas, then beat them with rods. They had them struck with many blows.

When they struck them with many blows, then they put them in the prison. They commanded the jailer to guard them very carefully. Any soldier or jailer who loses a prisoner would be subject to immediate execution. Therefore, the jailer understood the gravity of the situation.

Paul and Silas had strong rights under Roman law. The chief magistrates ignored those laws and those obligations. Apparently, the chief magistrates had no idea that Paul and Silas were actually Roman citizens. By beating them with many blows without a trial, the chief magistrates had opened themselves up to serious criminal penalties. Even so, Paul and Silas were thrown into jail under the careful guard of the Philippian jailer.

## *Prison*

1. **Many**. What happened to Paul and Silas after they had received many blows? They were then thrown in jail.
2. **Blows**. The chief magistrates had ordered that Paul and Silas be struck with rods and receive many blows.
3. **Threw**. After beating them with the rods, the chief magistrates threw them into prison.
4. **Prison**. Paul and Silas were thrown in the prison without a trial and without anyone caring about justice for them.
5. **Commanding**. The chief magistrates threw them in the jail, commanding the jailer to be sure they were securely held there.
6. **Jailer**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Romans required the death penalty of soldiers and jailers who did not keep their prisoners secure.
7. **Securely**. We rejoice today because the Philippian jailer could never hold Paul and Silas securely in prison, unless the Lord Jesus Christ consented to such imprisonment.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the blows suffered by Paul and Silas for the sake of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the price that Paul and Silas had to pay for proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Europe.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the strength of encouragement of Paul and Silas as they suffered blows for the sake of Christ.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His desire to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to Philippi and other places where His servants were mistreated and tortured. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Paul and Silas imprisoned at Philippi after answering the Macedonian vision?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 584

## Command Today



What did the Philippian jailer do with Paul and Silas? He threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

The chief magistrates received the complaint against Paul and Silas. Without a trial or opportunity for the defendants to speak in their own defense or call witnesses, the chief magistrates had their robes torn from them and beat them many times with rods. Then they commanded the Philippian jailer to take them into custody and keep them in jail.

The Philippian jailer took them to jail, put them in the inner jail and then fastened their feet in the stocks. In essence, the Philippian jailer took all steps necessary to keep Paul and Silas in jail. The usual penalty for failure to keep someone in jail was death. Therefore, the Philippian jailer knew that his life was at stake whenever a prisoner was entrusted to him.

Paul and Silas were not your usual prisoners. As Roman citizens, they should have been afforded the full protection of law, including a trial where they could face their accusers and present their own witnesses.

## ***Stocks***

1. **He**. What steps did the Philippian jailer take to secure Paul and Silas in the jail? He put them into the inner prison and put their feet in the stocks.

2. **Received**. The Philippian jailer acted upon the command he received from the chief magistrates.

3. **Command**. That command came without a trial or any defense by the accused, Paul and Silas.

4. **Threw**. The Philippian jailer threw Paul and Silas into the inner prison.

5. **Inner**. Once in the inner prison, Paul and Silas would have had a much harder time escaping, but for the power of God.

6. **Fastened**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Philippian jailer fastened the feet of Paul and Silas in stocks to secure them against escape.

7. **Stocks**. We rejoice today because the stocks could never hold Paul and Silas unless the Lord Jesus Christ allowed others to persecute them.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Philippian jailer who threw Paul and Silas into the inner prison and put their feet in stocks.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God can change lives inside a prison in an instant.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by expecting the Lord Jesus Christ to do great things in prisons where His beloved servants suffer.**

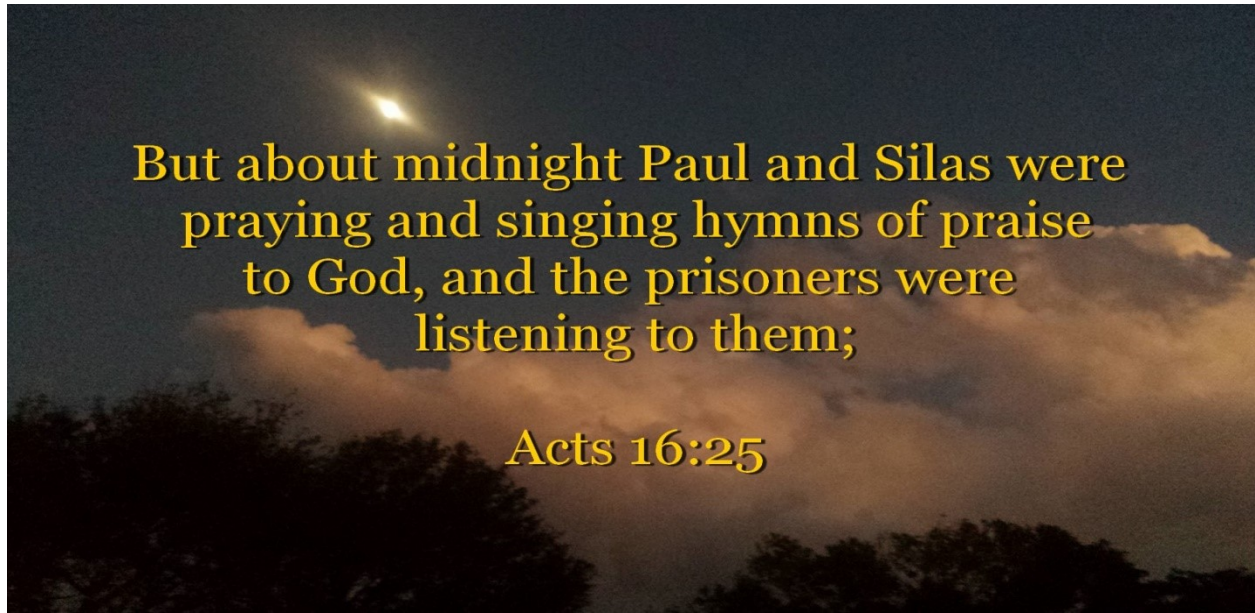
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His loving kindness that sustains His servants through beatings and imprisonments because they proclaimed the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting the lovingkindness of the Lord Jesus Christ to sustain you through thick and thin?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 585

## Midnight Today



What happened at midnight in the jail? Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God.

Midnight in the prison carried songs of praise and words of prayer to the inmates. Those other prisoners heard Paul and Silas praying and singing hymns of praise to God in the middle of the night. While many prisoners may have feared for their life, Paul and Silas were praising God. Some of the prisoners may have thought that their God was not very effective if they were in jail.

The God of Paul and Silas has all the power in the universe. If Paul and Silas were in jail in Philippi, it was only because God wanted them to be in that jail at that time. The testimony of Paul and Silas to the other prisoners in that jail was incredible. They were singing loud enough that other prisoners could hear them throughout the jail. They were also praying out loud. The men of God continued to act like men of God even in jail. They had begun the process of evangelizing not only all the people in Philippi, but also the prisoners and the guards in the Philippian jail.

## *Singing*

1. **Midnight**. What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight in the prison? They were glorifying God with loud voices.
2. **Praying**. In the inner prison, Paul and Silas were praying at midnight so loudly that the other prisoners could hear them.
3. **Singing**. They were also singing hymns at midnight so loudly the other prisoners could hear them.
4. **Hymns**. Paul and Silas chose to sing hymns while their feet were in the stocks.
5. **Praise**. Paul and Silas praised God even while they sat bruised and battered in the Philippian jail with their feet still in the stocks.
6. **Prisoners**. Living holy in the family of God means that the chief magistrates of the Philippians held Paul and Silas as prisoners in their jail under the watchful eye of the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. **Listening**. We rejoice today because the other prisoners were listening to Paul and Silas sing hymns and pray at midnight.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail praying and singing at midnight.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never failing to praise God and worship Him for His grace and goodness to us no matter where we are at the time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by loving God for the prompting of the Holy Spirit working in Paul and Silas to fill the ears of the prisoners in jail with hymns of worship and prayers to the only true God.**

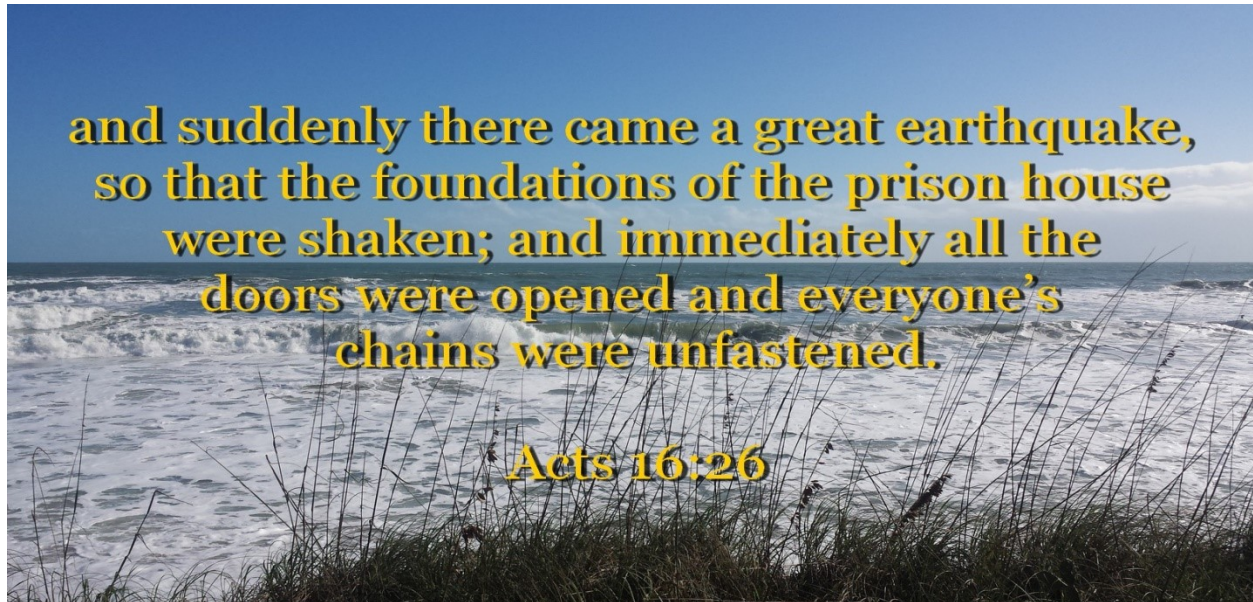
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God and worshiping God no matter where we are and who is listening. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Paul and Silas letting their praises and prayers rise to God from the depths of the prison at midnight while the other prisoners listened to them?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 586

## Earthquake Today



What effect what effect did the earthquake have upon the prison? All the doors of the prison were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

Paul and Silas had been arrested by the chief magistrates. Those officials had ordered Paul and Silas beaten many times with rods and then thrown in the prison. They were not afforded any of their legal rights and were beaten without a trial first.

The magistrates commanded the Philippian jailer to hold the prisoners Paul and Silas securely in the jail. In essence the Philippian jailer pledged his life that he would keep the prisoners secured within the jail. At midnight Paul and Silas were singing hymns and praying. The other prisoners could hear them.

When the earthquake hit and the prison doors swung open and all the chains were unfastened, the prisoners had their freedom at hand. If even one prisoner left the prison, then the Philippian jailer would pay with his life. At that moment things could not look darker for the Philippian jailer and brighter for Paul and Silas. The only question would be about what the

prisoners would do now that the doors were open and their chains had fallen off.

## ***Unfastened***

1. **Suddenly**. What happened with the earthquake? The earthquake shook the foundations of the prison house.

2. **Earthquake**. God caused a great earthquake to strike the prison.

3. **Foundations**. The foundations of the prison house shook.

4. **Prison**. The entire prison shook at God's command.

5. **Opened**. The prison doors opened and the prisoners could have escaped.

6. **Chains**. Living holy in the family of God means that God has the absolute power to loose the chains holding prisoners.

7. **Unfastened**. We rejoice today because God caused the chains holding Paul and Silas and all the other prisoners to be unfastened because of the earthquake and the power of God.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the earthquake that struck the prison in Philippi.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the doors were opened and the chains were loosened.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for controlling every square foot of earth on this planet and in the universe.**

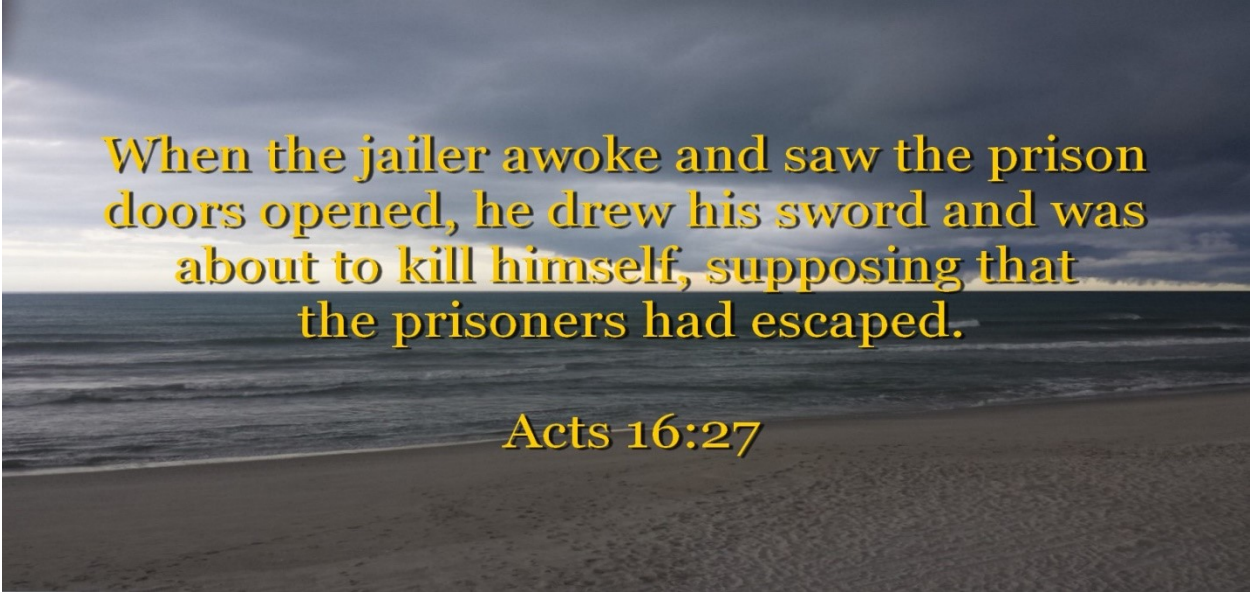
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that every prison has been built upon God's soil and God's planet. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for His absolute power over all things?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 587

## Jailer Today



When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

Acts 16:27

What did the Philippian jailer do after the earthquake? When the Philippian jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

The Philippian jailer knew the normal penalty in the Roman Empire for losing a prisoner was death. Therefore, the Philippian jailer took out his sword and was preparing to use it to kill himself. He could not conceive that no prisoners would leave when the doors were opened.

God had obviously sent an earthquake to open the doors and unfasten the chains of the prisoners. Anyone who wanted to try to escape could easily escape in the darkness. Of course, there would be consequences later when the missing prisoners were tracked down.

Paul and Silas saw the doors open and their chains unfasten. What would they do? Should they leave and flee persecution? Should they stay and face the magistrates? Paul and Silas always depended upon God to help them endure persecution. They also had a very keen sense of God's will. God did



not open the prison doors and loosen the chains so that they would leave. God had far greater plans and freedom for Paul and Silas from the prison.

## ***Prisoners***

1. **When**. Why did the Philippian jailer want to kill himself? Because he thought the prisoners had escaped.

2. **Jailer**. The earthquake woke up the jailer.

3. **Awoke**. When he awoke, he feared the prisoners had all escaped because the doors were open.

4. **Doors**. Having seen that all the prison doors were open, the Philippian jailer knew he was in deep trouble.

5. **Sword**. Because he knew he would be executed for any loss of prisoners, he drew out his sword, ready to kill himself.

6. **Kill**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Philippian jailer was ready to kill himself because God had worked a great miracle through the earthquake.

7. **Escaped**. We rejoice today because God opened the doors of the prison and loosed the chains of the prisoners at Philippi.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the sword of the Philippian jailer, ready to take his life.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for the miracle of opening the doors and unfastening the chains.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for sending Paul and Silas to prison so that the whole jail, and particularly the Philippian jailer himself, would hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

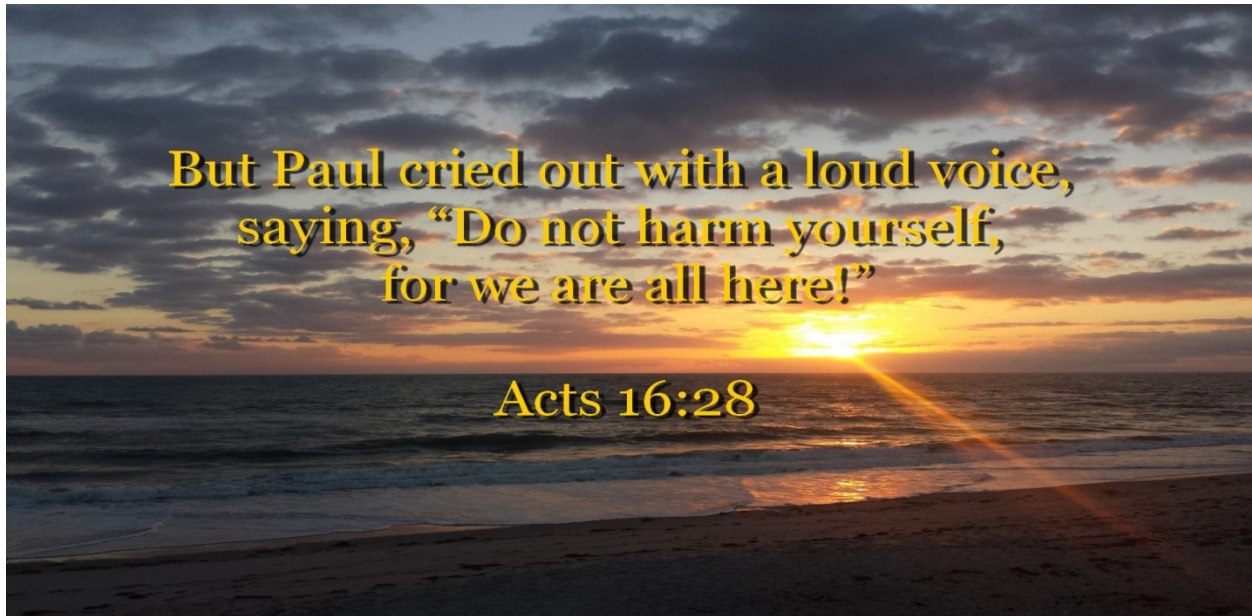
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God can send earthquakes at any time He deems best. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that Paul and Silas were in just the right place at the right time to save the Philippian jailer?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 588

## Cried Out Today



After the earthquake, what did Paul cry out in the darkness of the jail? Paul cried out for the Philippian jailer not to harm himself.

The Philippian jailer understood immediately and perfectly that with the doors open and the chains off, the prisoners could leave immediately. If the prisoners escaped, then the Philippian jailer would have to pay with his life. He was in dire circumstances. His life was in immediate jeopardy. He understood his predicament and pulled out his sword, preparing himself for death at his own hand.

As the Philippian jailer prepared for his death by his own hand, he heard wonderful words coming from Paul. Paul cried out and said for the jailer not to harm himself because all the prisoners were still there. God had just spared the life of the Philippian jailer from certain death because God loved that Philippian jailer. The earthquake had not come to free the prisoners alone, but it also came to free the Philippian jailer from eternal death.

Paul and Silas knew exactly what to do when the doors were opened and their chains fell off. They understood that God was working a miracle for the benefit of the Philippian jailer. Paul and Silas spared his life that night.

## ***Loud***

1. **Voice**. Why did Paul call out to the Philippian jailer? Paul raised his voice in the darkness of the prison, calling to the Philippian jailer not to harm himself, because the prisoners were all there.

2. **Loud**. Paul used a loud voice to carry through the prison and reach the Philippian jailer.

3. **Voice**. Paul used his voice to save the life of the Philippian jailer that day.

4. **Not**. Paul told him not to take further action by trying to kill himself.

5. **Harm**. Through the night in the prison, Paul commanded the Philippian jailer not to harm himself.

6. **We**. Living holy in the family of God means that at just the right time and place we raise our voice to stop people from harming themselves.

7. **All**. We rejoice today because God kept all the prisoners in place when the doors opened and their chains were unfastened.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for sending Paul and Silas to the Philippian jail to stop a man from killing himself for no reason.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for sending the earthquake and opening the heart of the Philippian jailer.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding God's plans for us to be in a particular time and place so that we can proclaim salvation to people in dire circumstances.**

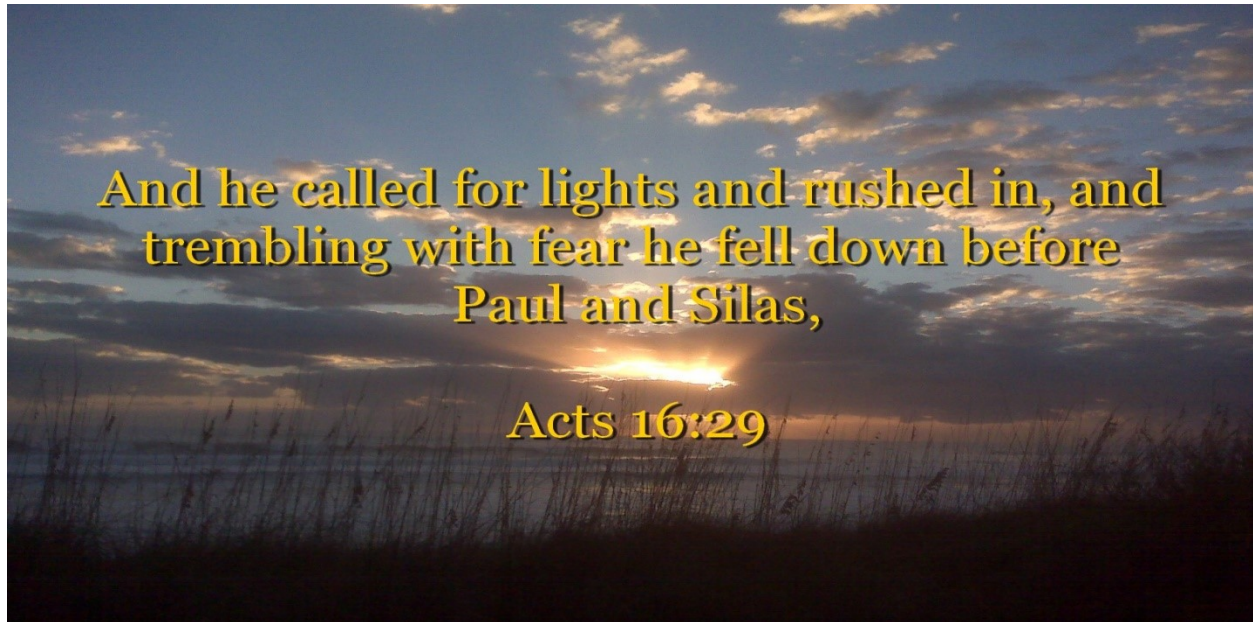
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by always staying in tune with God's will as He puts us in difficult places so that we may be at the right time at the right place to help others find peace with God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that wherever you are, you can share God's peace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ with the people around you?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 589

## Trembling Today



What did the Philippian jailer do when he heard Paul's voice? He called for the lights and rushed into the prison.

A great earthquake had opened all the prison doors and unfastened the chains of all the prisoners. In an instant the Philippian jailer's life was imperiled. If even one prisoner escaped from the prison, then the Philippian jailer would have to answer with his life.

As he prepared to kill himself with his own sword, Paul cried out urging him to stop. The Philippian jailer then called for the lights and rushed into the inner prison. He fell down before Paul and Silas, trembling with fear. Notice that the Philippian jailer understood the link between the earthquake and Paul and Silas being in that jail talking to him. Instantaneously the Philippian jailer understood that something supernatural was taking place in his prison.

God had sent Paul and Silas to Europe to talk to the people of Macedonia and particularly Philippi. So far they had met Lydia who turned

to God with all of her household and was baptized. Now they had met the Philippian jailer and God had done something supernatural for that Philippian jailer to turn to God and find salvation.

## ***Fear***

1. **Called**. What did the Philippian jailer do in the darkness? He called for lights and rushed into the inner jail.

2. **Lights**. Calling for the lights indicates that darkness filled the prison.

3. **Rushed**. The Philippian jailer rushed inside, full of fearful excitement.

4. **Trembling**. Trembling, the Philippian jailer ran in to find the prisoners.

5. **Fear**. Fear had gripped him because he knew his life was on the line if a single prisoner escaped.

6. **Fell**. Living holy in the family of God means that once he saw the doors open and the chains unfastened and all the prisoners still there, the Philippian jailer, trembling with fear, fell down.

7. **Paul**. We rejoice today because Paul and Silas had been beaten with rods and imprisoned so that they would be at the right place at the right time to lead the Philippian jailer to saving faith in Jesus Christ in the darkness of a prison where the doors opened and the chains loosened from the prisoners who remained in place.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for touching the Philippian jailer with fear and trembling so that he sought salvation from the living God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by being ready at all times to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, even after being treated unjustly.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His grace and mercy to the persecutors of the church.**

## **Application for Today**

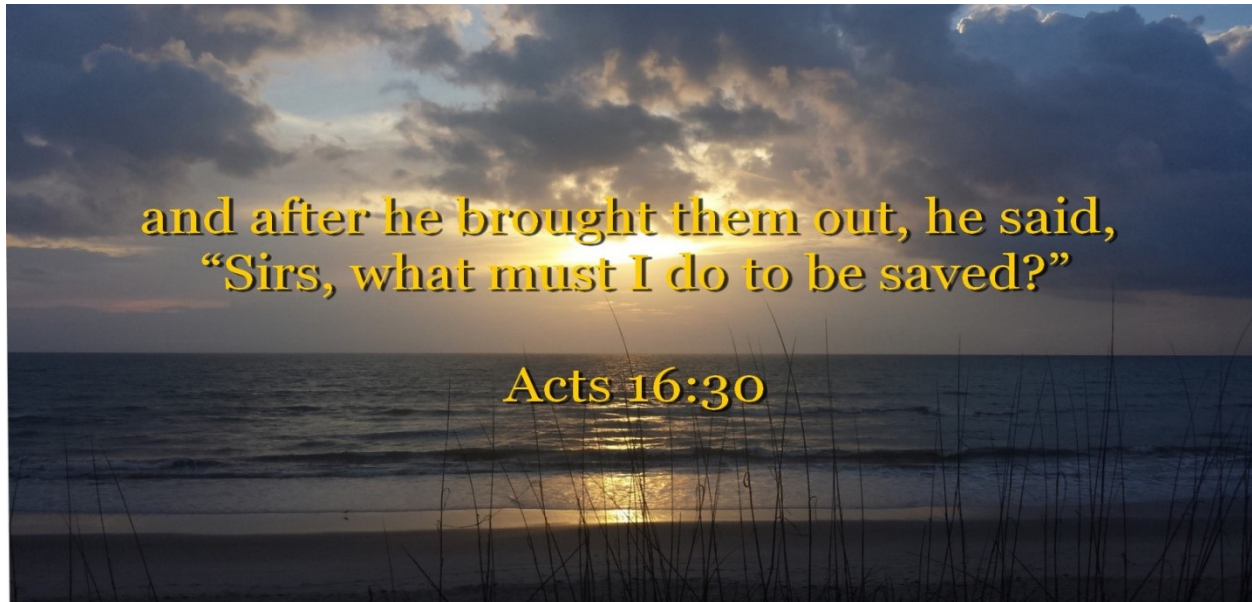
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by appreciating the miracles God works to draw people to faith in Christ at the expense of suffering and shame by the believers who will share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being ready to share the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior with people who are persecuting you?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day 590

## What Today



What did the Philippian jailer ask Paul and Silas? The Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas what he must do to be saved.

God had sent Paul and Silas to Europe to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. God had arranged supernatural circumstances at the prison to bring about the conversion of the Philippian jailer. Of course, other prisoners had heard Paul and Silas singing hymns and praying at midnight. That night in the jail was unlike any other. God was working mightily in the jail at Philippi.

When God sent people on a particular mission for Him, he often provided confirming works. God had sent Paul and Silas to Macedonia because Paul had seen the Macedonian vision at Troas. Having left Asia, Paul and Silas went straight to Philippi. God had already made plans for Philippi and they included Lydia and her household, and the Philippian jailer. Paul and Silas went where God sent them and met the people God had prepared for them.

God was calling a jailer and a seller of purple to be the first converts at Philippi. The Philippian church would remember those two for their response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed by Paul and Silas.

## *Saved*

1. **He.** What did the Philippian jailer do with Paul and Silas? He brought them out of their jail cells.

2. **Brought.** During the earthquake, the jail cell doors were opened and the chains unfastened, yet Paul and Silas and the prisoners remained in their cells.

3. **Them.** The Philippian jailer, having witnessed the miracle, brought them out of their jail cell.

4. **Out.** By leading them out, the Philippian jailer signaled that he knew they had spared his life.

5. **Sirs.** By addressing them “sirs”, the Philippian jailer recognized them as people deserving honor and respect and the Lord for saving his life.

6. **What.** Living holy in the family of God means that the Philippian jailer knew that God had spared him and that the messengers of God were imprisoned in his jail. The only question was what he should do now to be saved spiritually.

7. **Saved.** We rejoice today because the Philippian jailer cried out in fear and trembling wanting to know what he must do to be saved.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that God works miracles to lead people to salvation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by always being ready to answer the question from people about what they must do to be saved.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for drawing people to salvation in Jesus Christ through many times of fear and pressure.**

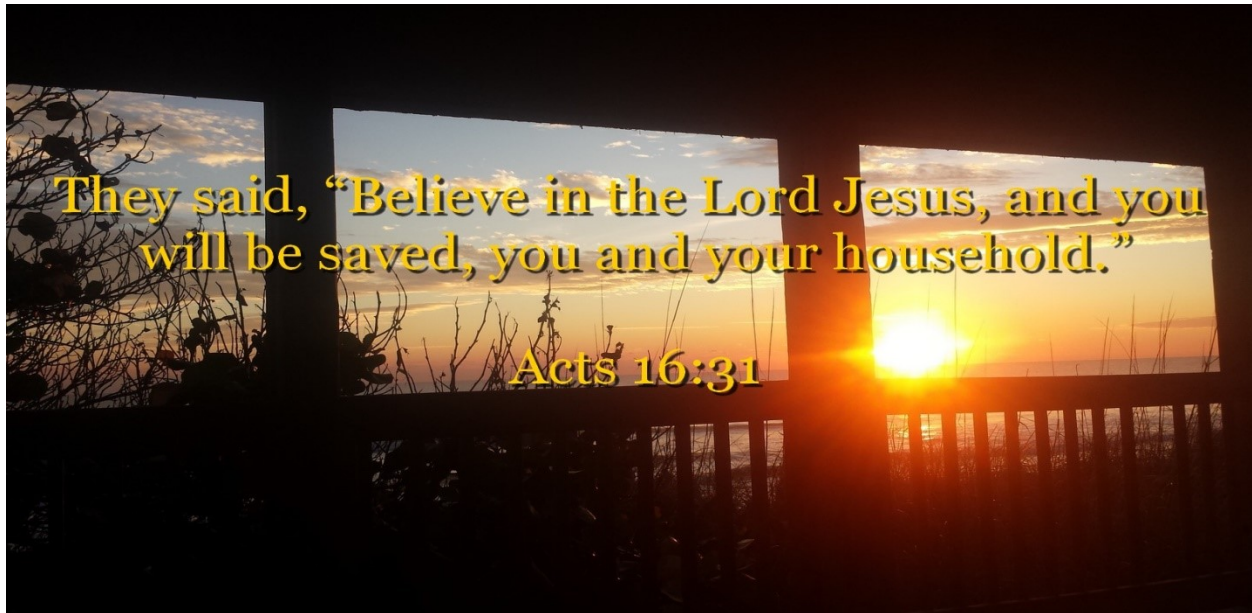
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by being ready and prepared to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with people whom the Lord Jesus Christ has touched with His power and love. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking up when the Lord Jesus Christ touches people with His power and love?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 591

## Believe Today



What did Paul say to the Philippian jailer? Paul told the Philippian jailer how to go to heaven.

A great earthquake opened the prison doors and unfastened the chains of the prisoners. When the Philippian jailer awoke, he prepared to kill himself with his own sword, fearing that all the prisoners had escaped. Paul cried out to him and told him that the prisoners were all there.

The Philippian jailer then led Paul and Silas out and asked them what he must do to be saved. Paul then explained to him, "believe in the Lord Jesus, and you and your household will be saved." Households frequently believed what their master believed.

God used an earthquake to open the prison doors and unfasten the chains so that the Philippian jailer would ask Paul that wonderful question. Whenever somebody asks what they must do to be saved, great things may happen if they will accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior. In this case, Paul and Silas had been beaten many times with rods without

being given a trial first. They had been mistreated under Roman law and it was a serious offense.

## *Saved*

1. **They**. What did Paul and Silas tell the Philippian jailer? They told the Philippian jailer that he would be saved, and his household, by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **Said**. Both Paul and Silas proclaimed the good news to the Philippian jailer.

3. **Believe**. They emphasized that salvation comes by faith.

4. **Lord**. The Lord Jesus Christ grants salvation by faith.

5. **Saved**. They promised the Philippian jailer that if he believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, then he would be saved.

6. **You**. Living holy in the family of God means that when you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, you are eternally secure in Christ.

7. **Household**. We rejoice today because both the Philippian jailer and his entire household would be saved.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and Silas sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with the Philippian jailer.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He loves even jailers who imprison His servants.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His great love for all men and their households.**

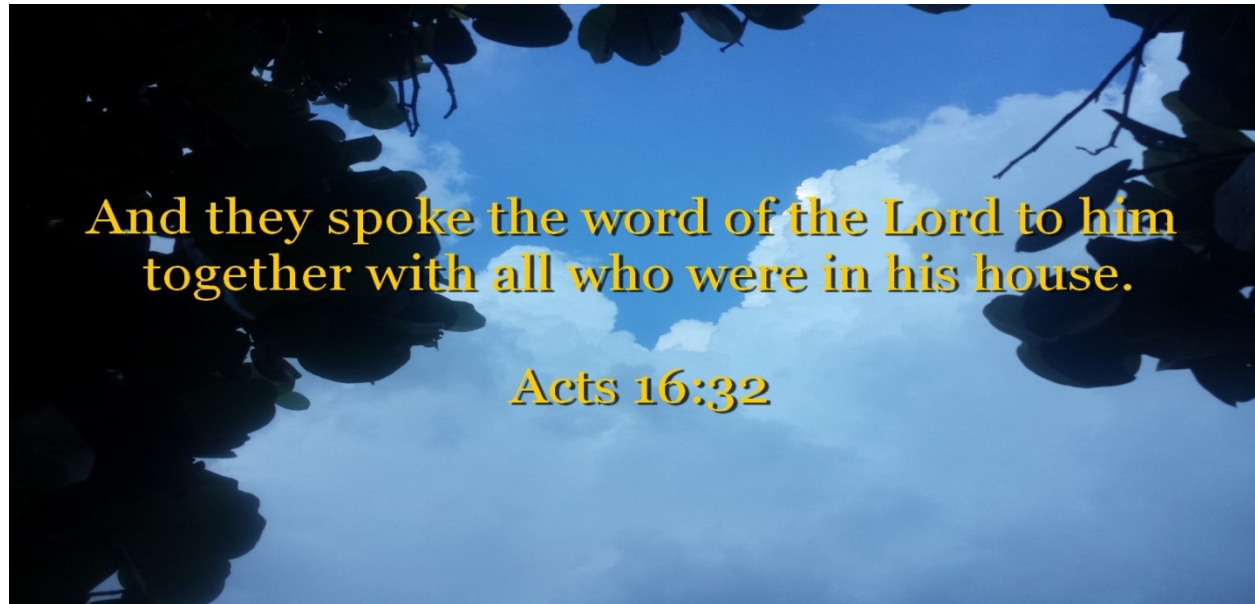
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to always keep His word regarding salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being sure that your household hears the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 592

## Spoke Today



Why did Paul and Silas speak the word of the Lord to the Philippian jailer and his whole household? Faith always comes by hearing, so they all needed to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul had already prophesied to the Philippian jailer that not only he would believe, but that also his whole household would believe. Frequently, in New Testament times, the household followed the master of the house. Therefore, when the Philippian jailer believed, and his household had heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the whole household believed as well.

Paul and Silas had been beaten at the command of the chief magistrates without giving them a trial and an opportunity to present a defense against the charges brought against them. Under Roman law their rights had been seriously violated. Paul and Silas had no intention of leaving that jail because they intended to enforce those legal rights.

God brought the earthquake so that the Philippian jailer and his whole household would be saved. Paul had received the Macedonian vision and

came to Europe to share the Gospel with the Philippian jailer so that his entire household would become believers.

## *All*

1. **They**. To whom did Paul and Silas proclaim the word of the Lord? They proclaimed the word of the Lord to the Philippian jailer and his household.

2. **Spoke**. Paul and Silas spoke the word of the Lord to them.

3. **Word**. The word of the Lord includes the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. **Lord**. By proclaiming the word of the Lord to the Philippian jailer and his household, Paul and Silas were watching God fulfill the promise that Paul and Silas had made about the Philippian jailer and his household.

5. **Him**. Paul and Silas spoke the word of the Lord to him.

6. **All**. Living holy in the family of God means that as they spoke to the Philippian jailer, they also proclaimed the word to all the people living in the household of the Philippian jailer.

7. **Household**. We rejoice today because God wanted both the Philippian jailer and all the people in his house to hear the word of the Lord at the same time so that they would all be saved the same time and place, just as Paul and Silas had promised.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the word of the Lord to individuals and groups.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He sent messengers with the word of the Lord to the entire household of the Philippian jailer.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking for every opportunity to share the word of the Lord with households, as well as with individuals.**

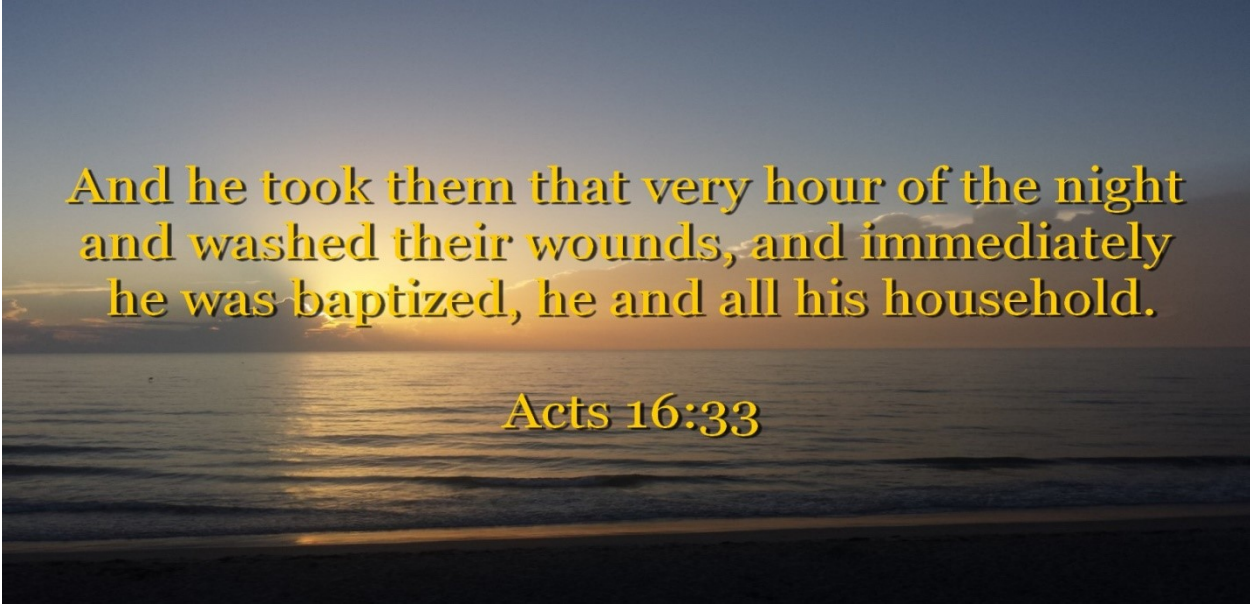
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by urging people to believe in the word of the Lord, along with their whole household. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking the word of the Lord to all members of the household as God gives opportunity?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 593

## Washed Today

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with the sun low on the horizon. The water is dark with some white foam from waves. The text is overlaid in a yellow, serif font.

And he took them that very hour of the night  
and washed their wounds, and immediately  
he was baptized, he and all his household.

Acts 16:33

What did the Philippian jailer do for Paul and Silas after his salvation? The Philippian jailer washed the wounds of Paul and Silas.

The Philippian jailer received the love of Jesus Christ into his heart. He was very grateful to Paul and Silas for sharing the good news of salvation with him. As part of his joy in Christ, he ministered to the wounds of Paul and Silas.

By the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, God had saved not only the Philippian jailer, but also his whole household. The first saints of Europe included Lydia, the Philippian jailer, and their households. Such were the people that God wanted to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ from the ministry team in Asia.

God had worked a great miracle in the prison that night. Using supernatural means, He completely changed the mind and heart of the Philippian jailer. Instead of falling on his sword that night and dying because the prisoners escaped, he fell before the Lord Jesus Christ and received Him

as Savior. God had great plans for Philippi and Paul would write a letter to them thanking God for their faith and perseverance.

## ***Baptized***

1. **He**. What did the Philippian jailer do with Paul and Silas? He took them and washed their wounds. The beating with rods inflicted by the chief magistrates had left wounds needing attention.

2. **Took**. The Philippian jailer took Paul and Silas for help.

3. **Them**. The Philippian jailer personally ministered to their wounds and needs.

4. **Hour**. Without delay at that very hour the night, the Philippian jailer began his ministry to Paul and Silas.

5. **Washed**. He washed their wounds.

6. **Baptized**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Philippian jailer was baptized that very night.

7. **Household**. We rejoice today because not only was the Philippian jailer baptized that night, but he and his household were all baptized that night.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by not delaying for people in immediate need of our attention.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by baptizing new believers immediately after salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that the Philippian jailer and his entire household believed in Jesus Christ for salvation and were baptized together.**

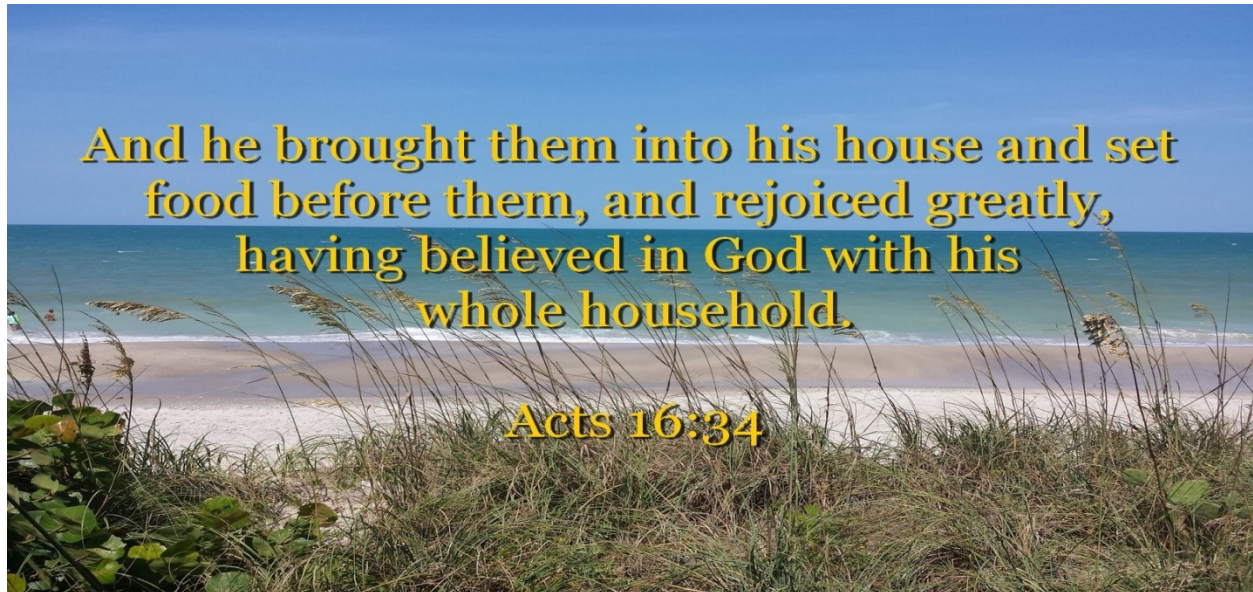
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by baptizing all the people who turned to the Lord for salvation, including the entire household upon their profession of faith. Will you live holy in the family of God today by ministering to the needs of the wounded as they arise?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 594

## Rejoiced Today



After ministering to the wounds of Paul and Silas, what did the Philippian jailer do next? The Philippian jailer brought them into his house and fed them.

The Philippian jailer understood his salvation. Moments before, he was contemplating suicide for failing in his duty to the Roman Empire. He thought the prisoners had escaped and his life was doomed. Then Paul shared the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with him and his entire household. They all believed.

In an expression of gratitude, the Philippian jailer washed the wounds of Paul and Silas. Then he took them into his own house and fed them. He rejoiced greatly, having believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. His entire household had come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's plans do not always make sense at the time. When Paul and Silas were arrested for sharing the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ and casting out a demon, they did not know that the blows they received by the chief

magistrates would bring the Philippian jailer and his entire household to faith.

## ***Believed***

1. **He**. Why was the Philippian jailer so happy? He was so happy because he believed that his sins were forgiven by the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. **Brought**. He brought Paul and Silas into his own personal house.
3. **Them**. He brought them out of the prison.
4. **House**. By taking Paul and Silas to his house, he could attend better to their needs.
5. **Food**. The Philippian jailer set food before them at his house.
6. **Rejoiced**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Philippian jailer who rejoiced greatly because of his new faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. **Believed**. We rejoice today because the Philippian jailer believed along with his whole household.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing over the salvation which came to us and other members of our household.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by sharing our joy of salvation with other people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing with the people in their households who come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior.**

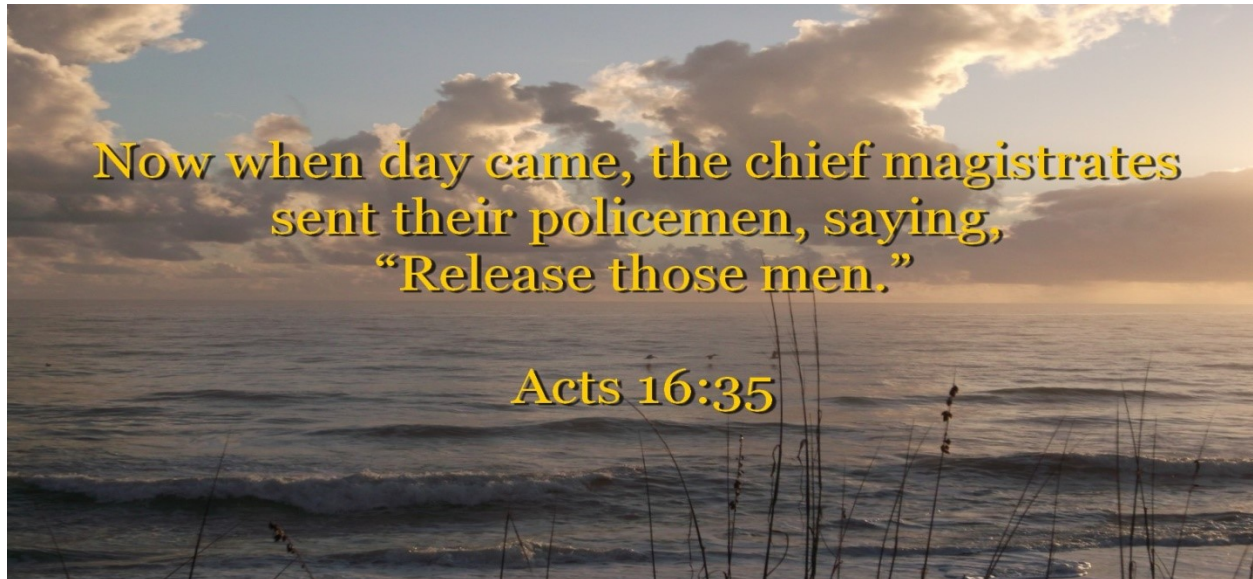
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the joy you had when you first knew that your sins were forgiven. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never forgetting the joy of salvation?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 595

## Magistrates Today



What happened when the day came? The chief magistrates gave their policeman orders to release Paul and Silas.

The chief magistrates had ordered Paul and Silas to be beaten with rods and they received many blows. The crowd had gathered and the chief magistrates sought to appease the crowd at the expense of the foreigners in town harming the business of the slave-girl's masters. Those chief magistrates had set a chain of events in motion that they did not anticipate.

Their order reflects that they did not know that Paul and Silas had an opportunity to go free, but did not take it. They had specific reasons to stay in the jail, even after the doors were opened and their chains fell off. They had been beaten and unjustly imprisoned.

Paul and Silas had come to Philippi from Asia. Paul had a vision of a Macedonian calling for help. The entire ministry team immediately embarked upon a boat and went to Philippi. They shared the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the city which prided itself on being a Roman colony. The chief magistrates held their position at the will of the Roman



government. They had very limited authority under Roman rule. They were absolutely bound by Roman law.

## *Release*

1. **Day**. What happened when day came? The chief magistrates sent the policeman to release Paul and Silas.

2. **Magistrates**. The chief magistrates had beaten Paul and Silas with rods without giving them a trial.

3. **Policemen**. The policemen were ordered by the chief magistrates to release Paul and Silas.

4. **Saying**. The chief magistrates gave very specific directions to the policeman concerning Paul and Silas.

5. **Release**. By releasing Paul and Silas from the prison, the chief magistrates admitted that they had been punished sufficiently for their alleged crimes.

6. **Those**. Living holy in the family of God means that when the magistrates sought to release those men, they were about to find out the truth of what really happened.

7. **Men**. We rejoice today because those men, Paul and Silas, had gone to prison so that the Philippian jailer and his household would be saved. Those men still had unfinished business with the chief magistrates.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by waiting our time to enforce our legal rights as God leads us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to open doors for salvation even in the midst of prisons.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God works in many ways, even when the government authorities oppose us and persecute us.**

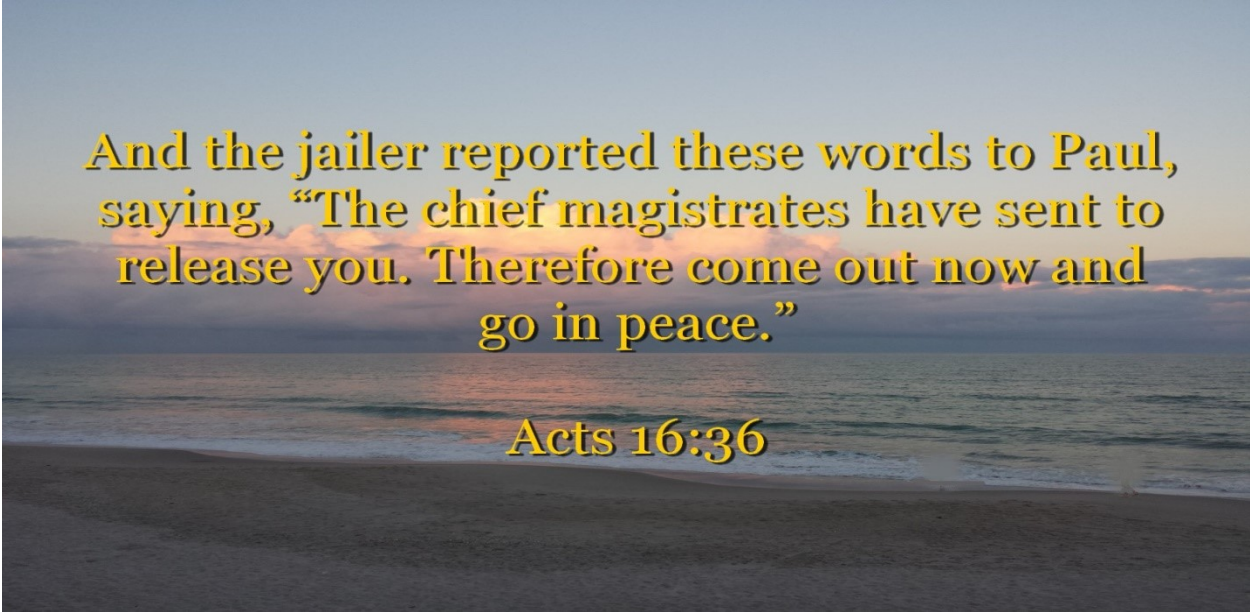
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the joy of sharing the word of the Lord no matter where God sends us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by carefully assessing your legal rights when you have been seriously wronged by the government?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 596

## Reported Today



And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, “The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go in peace.”

Acts 16:36

What did the Philippian jailer report to Paul? The Philippian jailer told Paul that the magistrates had ordered his release.

Most people would be thrilled to find out there was a get out of jail order. The Philippian jailer brought the news that the chief magistrates had ordered the release of Paul and Silas. The Philippian jailer told Paul and Silas to come out and go in peace.

The Philippian jailer had been saved along with his household. They had all been baptized. Life could not be better for them at the moment. Now, word had come that Paul and Silas can be released from the jail and go in peace. The chief magistrates had deemed the beating they received sufficient punishment for their acts.

Paul and Silas had legal rights they had not exercised yet. As Roman citizens, they had rights against torture and beatings and imprisonment. No one had considered even for a moment that Paul and Silas may have had those legal rights. Many times people look upon Christians and do not realize that they too have legal rights.

## *Release*

1. **Jailer**. What did the Philippian jailer what Paul to do? The Philippian jailer reported that the chief magistrates had ordered his release and he was free to go.

2. **Reported**. The chief magistrates had sent the policeman to the prison and informed the Philippian jailer of the news of the release of Paul and Silas.

3. **Words**. The Philippian jailer in turn informed Paul and Silas of the news from the chief magistrates.

4. **Paul**. The Philippian jailer thought that Paul and Silas would be leaving the prison shortly, free to go in peace.

5. **Release**. The Philippian jailer invited Paul and Silas to come out and get going.

6. **Go**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that word came to the prison for Paul and Silas to go in peace.

7. **Peace**. We rejoice today because Paul and Silas were invited to leave the jail and go in peace.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by counting upon God to help us when we are imprisoned unjustly.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by carefully considering our legal rights before making any legal moves.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by seeking to glorify God in all that we do, including how we respond to new orders from the government.**

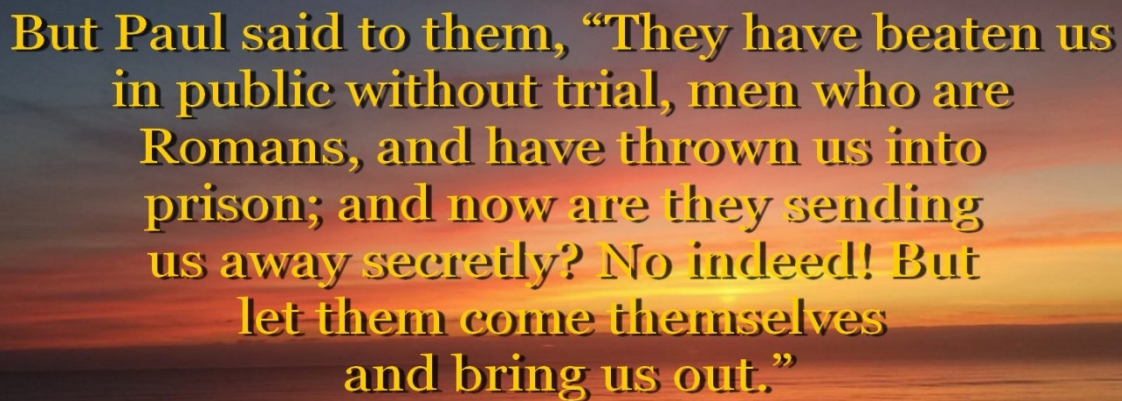
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the long history of persecution by the government against Christians. Will you live holy in the family of God today by carefully weighing your legal rights when you are the victim of unjust government persecution?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 597

## Public Today



**But Paul said to them, “They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out.”**

**Acts 16:37**

How did Paul respond to the Philippian jailer? Paul told the Philippian jailer that the chief magistrates had beaten Paul and Silas in public without a trial and they were Romans.

Paul explained his legal rights to the Philippian jailer. First, Paul had a right to trial. Second, Paul had a right, if found guilty, to punishment fitting the deed. Third, Paul should not have been subjected to religious persecution. Fourth, Paul had a right not to be imprisoned before trial. Fifth, Paul should not have been beaten in public. Sixth, Paul had a right to take legal action against the chief magistrates and seek appropriate punishment for them.

Paul had not waived any of his legal rights. Just because no one knew that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens does not excuse the illegal acts of the chief magistrates. The chief magistrates operated solely at the pleasure of the Roman government, with limited authority. If Paul and Silas chose to enforce their legal rights, the chief magistrates would be in serious legal jeopardy. Therefore, rather than enforce their rights immediately, they chose

to teach everyone a lesson by demanding that the chief magistrates come and release them from jail personally. The chief magistrates would lead them out from the prison publicly so that everyone could understand what had happened in the wrong inflicted upon Paul and Silas. The chief magistrates sought to send Paul and Silas away secretly, but Paul and Silas were having none of it.

## *Secretly*

1. **Paul**. How did Paul respond to the Philippian jailer? Paul explained the wrongs inflicted upon Paul and Silas by the chief magistrates.
2. **Them**. Paul responded to them through the Philippian jailer.
3. **Beaten**. Paul explained that Paul and Silas had been beaten by the chief magistrates.
4. **Public**. They had also punished Paul and Silas in public, with the whole crowd cheering them on as they were beaten with rods and many strokes.
5. **Trial**. They were not afforded a chance to defend themselves or a trial on the merits.
6. **Romans**. Living holy in the family of God means that as Roman citizens, Paul and Silas had legal rights which the chief magistrates trampled upon.
7. **Secretly**. We rejoice today because Paul and Silas were not ready to be released by the chief magistrates secretly, but they sought a public demonstration of their vindication by the chief magistrates.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul's reply to the Philippian jailer when he heard that he was about to be released secretly.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by carefully appraising the legalities before accepting secret release.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His deliverance and the legal rights Christians enjoy, including a public apology of sorts from the chief magistrates.**

## **Application for Today**

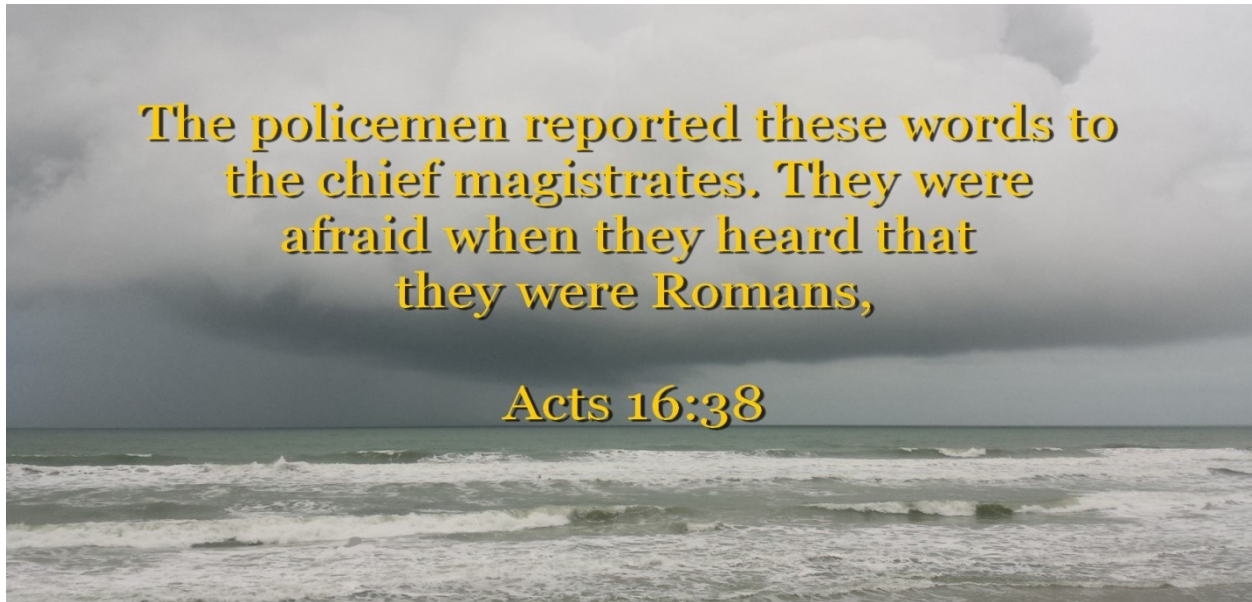
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by carefully using our legal rights to the glory of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Paul and Silas declining to leave the prison secretly?

**HALLELUJAH !**



# Day 598

## Magistrates Today



How did the chief magistrates react when they learned that Paul and Silas were Romans? They were afraid when they heard that news.

Paul and Silas had not asserted their legal rights earlier. They had been beaten with rods many times in public. They had been imprisoned with their feet fastened in the stocks. They had been publicly humiliated and tortured. No legal basis existed under Roman law for the punishment they received at the hands of the chief magistrates.

The chief magistrates had sent policemen to release Paul and Silas. They thought the whole matter ended there because they ordered the release of Paul and Silas immediately. They thought they had found a peaceful end to the whole matter. The crowd had been satisfied, the magistrates had punished the missionaries, and the chief magistrates had curried favor with the populace.

The chief magistrates had publicly insulted the living God and His apostles. Paul and Silas intended for the chief magistrates to make a public demonstration and acknowledgment of their unlawful behavior. The chief

magistrates feared what Paul and Silas could do to them for the beating, imprisonment, and public humiliation without a trial.

## *Afraid*

1. **Policemen**. What did the policemen tell the chief magistrates about Paul and Silas? He told them that Paul and Silas were Romans.

2. **Reported**. The policeman reported back the words of Paul and Silas concerning their imprisonment.

3. **Words**. Those words carried great power and had a great effect upon the chief magistrates.

4. **Magistrates**. When those words fell upon the ears of the chief magistrates, they became afraid, knowing the penalty they faced for publicly beating Paul and Silas, Roman citizens, without a trial first.

5. **Afraid**. The chief magistrates were rightly afraid because they had seriously broken Roman law.

6. **Heard**. Living holy in the family of God means that the magistrates heard what Paul and Silas required of them.

7. **Romans**. We rejoice today because the Roman citizenship of Paul and Silas helped them proclaim to the city of Philippi that they had been unjustly imprisoned and beaten.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the fear of the chief magistrates.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding how legal rights may provide a strong defense against further persecutions of Christians.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding the magistrates would be far more cautious about persecuting Christians without understanding their legal rights.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and Silas striking fear into the hearts of the chief magistrates who had beaten them with rods in public the day before. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding the fear some government officials feel when they know they have treated Christians illegally?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 599

## Appealed Today



and they came and appealed to them, and  
when they had brought them out, they  
kept begging them to leave the city.

Acts 16:39

What did the chief magistrates do next? The chief magistrates came to the prison and appealed to Paul and Silas.

The chief magistrates had acted harshly and impetuously in ordering the beating of Paul and Silas in public. They struck them with many blows, leaving wounds. They never thought that Paul and Silas were actually Roman citizens.

When the chief magistrates tried to release Paul and Silas quietly, Paul and Silas declared their Roman citizenship to the great dismay of the chief magistrates. Paul and Silas demanded that the chief magistrates come and escort them personally out of the prison.

Upon hearing the news from the policemen they sent to release Paul and Silas, the chief magistrates feared the consequences of their actions. They understood that Paul and Silas had been mistreated and they were responsible for those evil actions. The chief magistrates came directly to the jail and appealed to Paul and Silas to leave the city immediately. From the

point of view of the chief magistrates, the sooner and quieter they left the city, the better.

## ***Begged***

1. **Came**. What did the chief magistrates do after hearing from the policeman? They came to prison to see Paul and Silas.

2. **Appealed**. The chief magistrates who had passed judgment upon Paul and Silas less than 24 hours before, now came and appealed to Paul and Silas for mercy.

3. **They**. They came to Paul and Silas as people looking for a favor.

4. **Brought**. Just as Paul and Silas requested, the chief magistrates came to the prison and led them out of the prison for everyone to see.

5. **Them**. Having brought them out of the prison as their personal escorts, the chief magistrates had only one wish of the apostles.

6. **Begging**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the chief magistrates begging Paul and Silas to leave their city.

7. **City**. We rejoice today because the city of Philippi had been evangelized according to the plan of the Lord Jesus Christ, with the households of Lydia and the Philippian jailer converted.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the diverse ways that He reaches people in various cities.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Lydia and the Philippian jailer at Philippi.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God called every believer to Himself using very diverse means.**

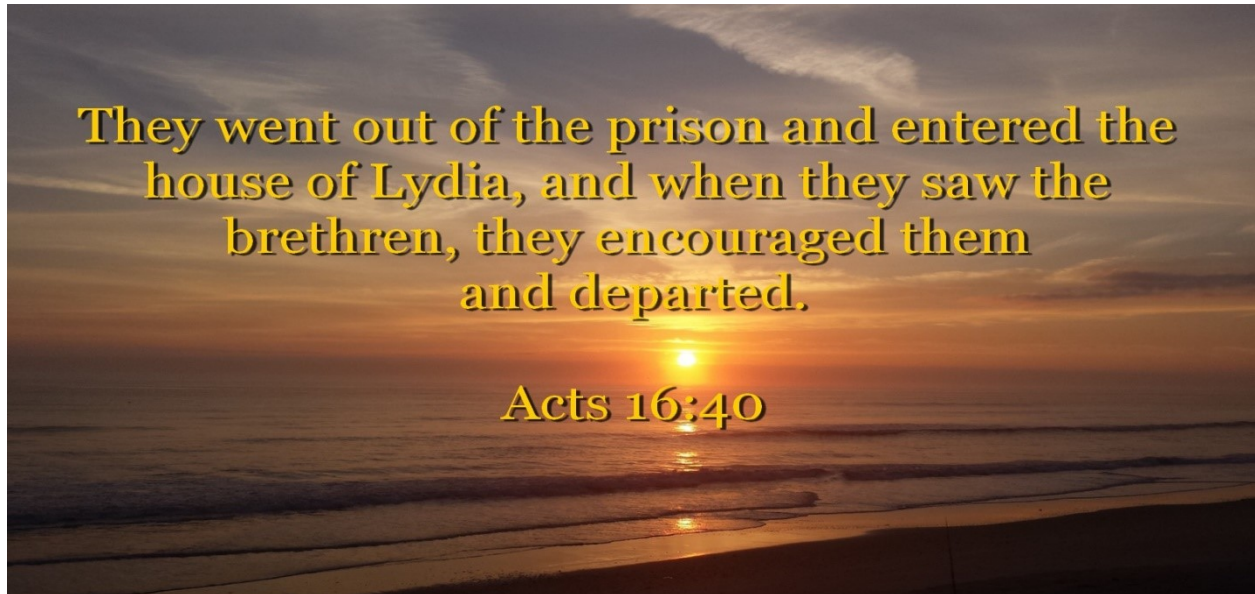
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by being ready for the Lord Jesus Christ to use our lives in very unusual ways to bring people to salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for Lydia, the Philippian jailer, and their households coming to Christ in very different ways?

**HALLELUJAH !**

# Day 600

## Encouraged Today



What did Paul and Silas do upon release? They went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia.

Paul and Silas, as Roman citizens, let the chief magistrates know that they had publicly beaten Roman citizens without a trial. Then they demanded that those chief magistrates personally escort them out of the prison. The chief magistrates appealed them to leave the city immediately.

Upon their release, Paul and Silas went to the house of Lydia. They had been staying with Lydia while in Philippi. Lydia and her household had come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and Paul and Silas stayed with her during their time in Philippi because she insisted they do so.

Having returned to the home of Lydia, Paul and Silas spent time encouraging her and her household. They also encouraged the brethren. Paul and Silas often spent time building people up in the faith. They understood the need of disciples to be strengthened, especially when they lived in hostile territory like Philippi. Paul and Silas had taught the chief magistrates a

lesson about persecuting Roman citizens who also happened to be Christians.

## *Departed*

1. **They**. What did Paul and Silas do before they left Philippi? They strengthened and encouraged the brethren.

2. **Out**. After the chief magistrates led them out of the prison, they made their own way.

3. **Prison**. The prison at Philippi would never be the same after Paul and Silas left there, because it stands in history as a place of salvation for the Philippian jailer and a place of humiliation and shame for the chief magistrates.

4. **Lydia**. Faithful Lydia provided lodging for Paul and Silas while they were in Philippi and so it was only fitting that they would return to her house to see the brethren as a point of departure.

5. **Brethren**. Paul and Silas had been preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Philippi. The brethren had gathered at Lydia's home.

6. **Encouraged**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Silas took time to encourage the brethren at Lydia's home before they left the city.

7. **Departed**. We rejoice today because Paul and Silas departed from Philippi, leaving some disciples behind who would carry on the work begun by the missionaries and blessed by the Lord Jesus Christ.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and Silas seeing the brethren at Lydia's house before leaving Philippi.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by always taking time to encourage the brethren before we leave.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another as God moves us to new places, according to His plans.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by leaving one place with disciples growing together in the Lord so that God may use us in new places. Will you live holy in the family of God today by reaching out to new places, knowing that God has blessed your work of making disciples?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# 4

# Thessalonica

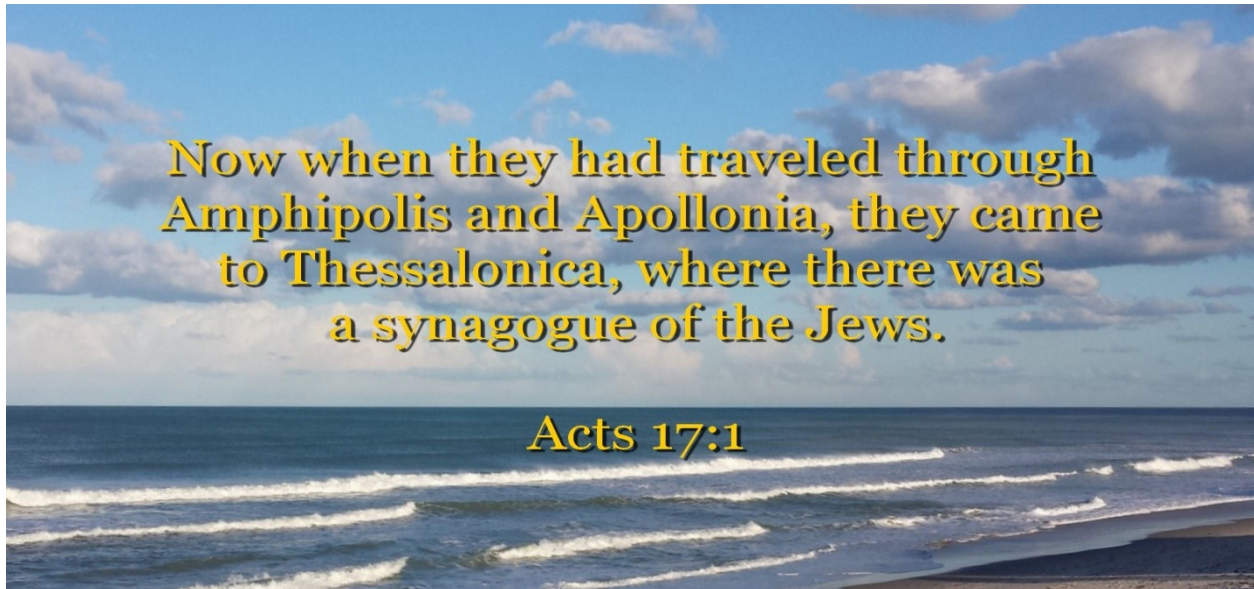
# Today

Having left Philippi, Paul went to Thessalonica. Following his usual custom, Paul went to the synagogue and proclaimed Christ to them and a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number the leading women believed, along with some Jews. The other Jews became very antagonistic and formed a mob, setting the city in an uproar. The Jews once again used the government's authority to persecute Christians.

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 601

## Traveled Today



Where did Paul and Silas go after Philippi? They made their way to Thessalonica.

Paul and Silas left Philippi after being escorted out of the jail by the chief magistrates. They left behind Lydia and her household and the Philippian jailer and his household, all converted to Christ during the visit of the ministry team.

Paul and Silas then traveled through Amphipolis, a city approximately 35 miles southwest of Philippi. They also passed through Apollonia, about 40 miles from Thessalonica and thirty miles from Amphipolis. Apparently, Paul and Silas did not stop in the cities, but passed through heading to Thessalonica. As a passing note, Roman miles were about 1,000 steps.

Paul and Silas traveled highways throughout the Roman Empire. The Holy Spirit controlled their stops along the way. The Holy Spirit had closed the doors to parts of Asia Minor and now selected specific destinations for them. So far, Philippi had been a place of beating and imprisonment, but also

glorious salvation for two households. The ministry team left disciples behind in Philippi and they would grow into a thriving church.

## *Thessalonica*

1. **Traveled**. What landmarks did Paul and Silas travel through in Macedonia? They traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia on their way to Thessalonica.

2. **Through**. Paul and Silas traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, indicating they did not spend time there.

3. **Amphipolis**. Amphipolis was about one third of the way from Philippi to Thessalonica.

4. **Apollonia**. Apollonia was about two thirds of the way from Philippi to Thessalonica. Luke included these important historical details so that later readers, like us, would understand where they went and stayed and where they passed through.

5. **Thessalonica**. Paul and Silas intended to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Thessalonica. The greeting they had received from the government officials in Macedonia so far had been brutal and public.

6. **Synagogue**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Silas, pursuant to their Sabbath custom, were heading to the synagogue at Thessalonica.

7. **Jews**. We rejoice today because God loves the Jews and called them a people for His own possession, for salvation is of the Jews.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by traveling to new places as God leads us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ wherever He takes us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul and Silas stayed in some cities and passed through others.**

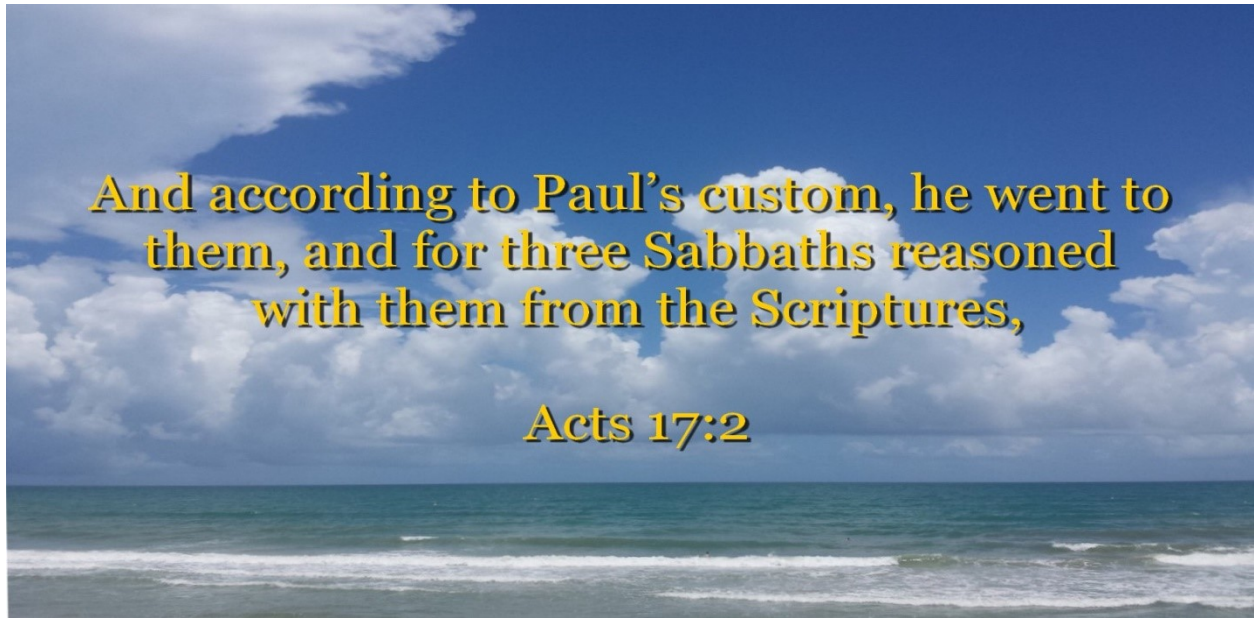
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by staying in one place until God tells us that it is time to move on. Will you live holy in the family of God today by moving when God says move and staying when God says stay?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 602

## Custom Today



What was Paul's custom for the Sabbath? Paul went into the synagogue first in a new destination and reasoned with them from the Scriptures.

When Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, he went into the synagogue at Damascus right away. The people in the synagogue knew Paul as the great persecutor of the church, bearing letters from the chief priests to arrest followers of the Way in Damascus. Instead, he began proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ. As a Pharisee of the Pharisees, Paul was well-versed in the Scriptures. When the Holy Spirit entered him at salvation, the Holy Spirit led him into all truth, as promised in the New Testament.

Paul dialogued with the Jews from the Scriptures. This dialogue included a back-and-forth discussion. The use of the Scriptures shows that they used the Scriptures to gain understanding of God and His ways. The Jews in the synagogue had no conception of Jesus of Nazareth being the Son of God and Messiah of Israel. The Jews did not recognize Jesus in Israel because they never knew the God of the Old Testament. Therefore, when Paul spoke to Thessalonica, the people there who rejected Jesus of Nazareth

as the Messiah of Israel never knew the God they claimed to worship every Sabbath.

## *Scriptures*

1. **Faith**. What custom did Paul follow in Thessalonica? Paul followed his custom of going first to the synagogue on the Sabbath.

2. **Them**. Paul went to them at Thessalonica, meaning the Jews and others in the synagogue there.

3. **Three**. Paul met with them in the synagogue on three successive Sabbaths.

4. **Sabbaths**. On the Sabbath in the synagogue, the people read Moses and often a prophet.

5. **Reasoned**. Paul dialogued with the people in the synagogue about Jesus of Nazareth being the Christ of God.

6. **From**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul dialogued with the Thessalonians in the synagogue using the Scriptures.

7. **Scriptures**. We rejoice today because Paul mightily proved from the Scriptures that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ and only Savior.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the courage of Paul to go first to the synagogues in a new city.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding Paul's desire to see the Jews receive the Lord Jesus as Savior.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for faithful servants like Paul and Silas who risked their lives to bring the Gospel to both Greeks and Jews in Thessalonica and elsewhere after suffering at Philippi and other places.**

## **Application for Today**

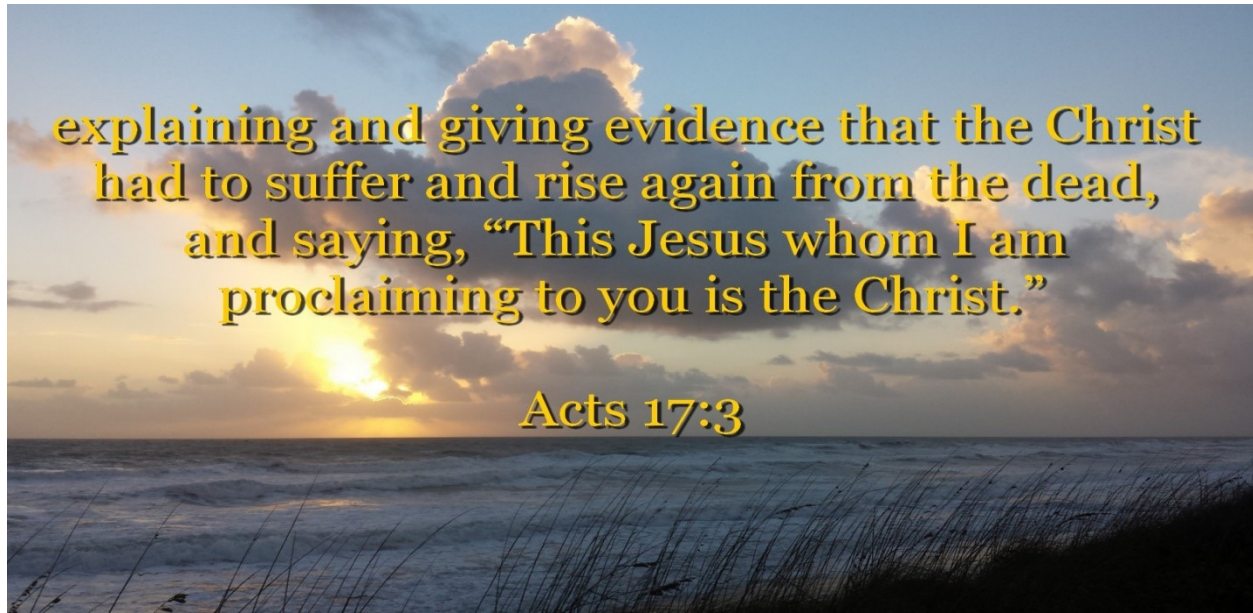
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by never letting anyone convince us that we should remain silent about the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ because of persecution. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for supplying the courage and diligence Paul and Silas required to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ after serious bouts of persecution?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 603

## Evidence Today



How did Paul prove that Jesus is the Christ? He opened and set forth the Scriptures.

Paul used the Scriptures to prove that Jesus really is the Christ of Israel. Although the Jews generally expected a Savior King, Jesus came as the Suffering Servant first, with glory to follow later. The Jews were blinded in their view of the Scriptures, like the veil of Moses hid the fading glory on his face.

The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ arises from the Scriptures. Jesus came to fulfill the Scriptures. Paul showed that Jesus fulfilled the Messianic Scriptures. Jesus had told the Jews face to face that they did not know Him, because they did not know God the Father. The Jews thought they followed the Law of Moses, but in fact they never knew the God of Moses.

Paul used the Scriptures and dialogued about them to show the Jews at Thessalonica in the synagogue that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah. That message had met stiff resistance in previous places, starting at Nazareth with Jesus Himself. That same resistance continued because Israel rejected their

Savior and crucified Him. He triumphed over death and was resurrected three days later. He commissioned apostles to spread the Good News to all the world.

## *Christ*

1. **Dialoging**. How did Paul share the Scriptures at Thessalonica? Paul dialogued with the Jews in the synagogue.

2. **Set Forth**. Paul also set forth from the Scriptures proving that Jesus was indeed the Christ.

3. **Christ**. Although many people thought the Christ would redeem Israel and reign as king immediately, Paul showed that Jesus is the Christ, but He was also the Suffering Servant.

4. **Suffer**. Messiah must suffer before He reigns in glory on the earth.

5. **Rise**. Messiah must also rise from the dead.

6. **Dead**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul took time to prove from the Scriptures that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ of God, the Savior of Israel, risen from the dead.

7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because Paul steadfastly proclaimed Jesus as the Christ.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by using the Scriptures to prove that Jesus is the Christ of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by dialoguing with people from the Scriptures about Jesus being the Christ of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by proclaiming that Jesus Christ is the Christ of the Scriptures.**

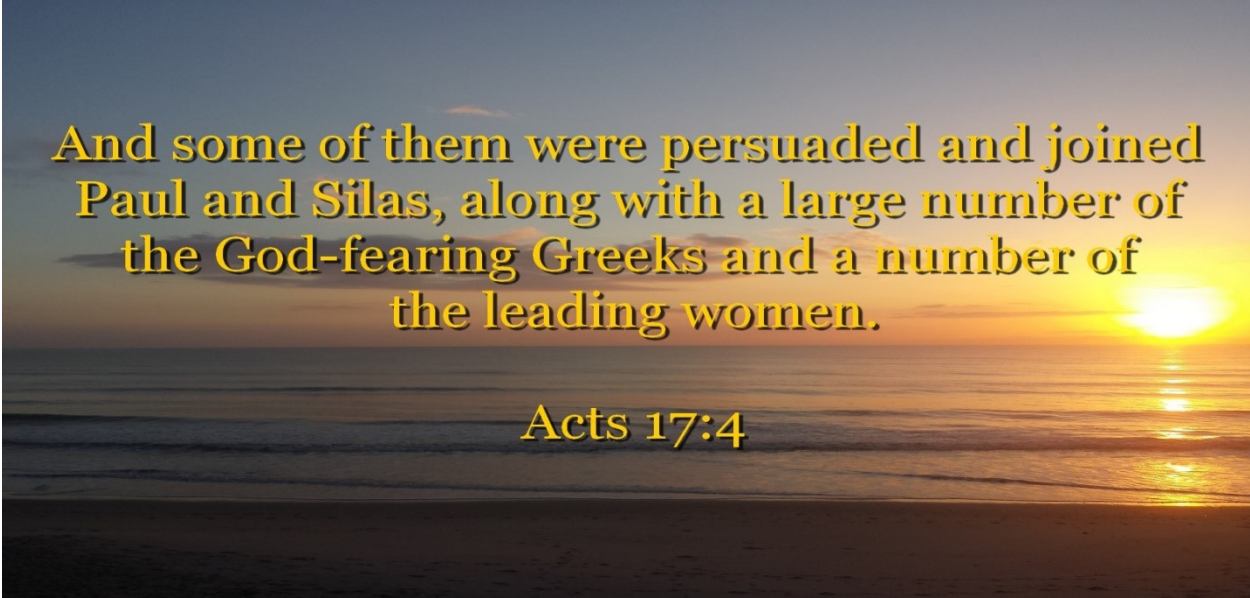
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking time to dialogue with people from the Scriptures and proving that Jesus is the Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for faithful saints proclaiming that Jesus is the Christ at just the right place and at just the right time arranged by God?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 604

## Persuaded Today



And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.

Acts 17:4

How did the people in the synagogue at Thessalonica respond to Paul and Silas? Some of the people in the synagogue were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas.

Following his usual custom when entering a new city, Paul went to the synagogue at Thessalonica and dialogued with them about Jesus being the Christ for three Sabbaths. Some of the people in the synagogue were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas.

The group that joined Paul and Silas consisted of a number of God-fearing Greeks and a number of the first women. At Antioch, the place where Paul and Silas left on this missionary journey, some saints had begun to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with both Jews and Greeks. They had both seen many Greeks come to faith in Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed by Paul and Silas provides the only means of salvation. In essence, Paul and Silas were telling the Jews at Thessalonica in the synagogue that without Christ, they had no salvation. When Paul demonstrated from the Scriptures that Jesus of

Nazareth was the Christ, Paul showed that salvation now depended upon accepting Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ.

## *Number*

1. **Some**. Who believed that Jesus is the Christ? Some of the Jews believed that Jesus was the Christ, and joined Paul and Silas.

2. **Persuaded**. They were persuaded by Paul's dialogue using the Scriptures.

3. **Joined**. They joined Paul and Silas in believing that Jesus is the Christ and the Scriptures prove it.

4. **Number**. A large number of the Greeks also joined Paul and Silas.

5. **Greeks**. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ provides salvation by faith for all who believe, to the Jews first, but also to the Gentiles.

6. **First**. Living holy in the family of God means that some of the first women of Thessalonica also believed that Jesus is the Christ and joined Paul and Silas.

7. **Women**. We rejoice today because God loves women and men, rich and poor.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the people who joined Paul and Silas at Thessalonica.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, knowing that God saves people by faith in the Lord Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by as first and last, male and female, Jew and Gentile, all saved by one faith in the one Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

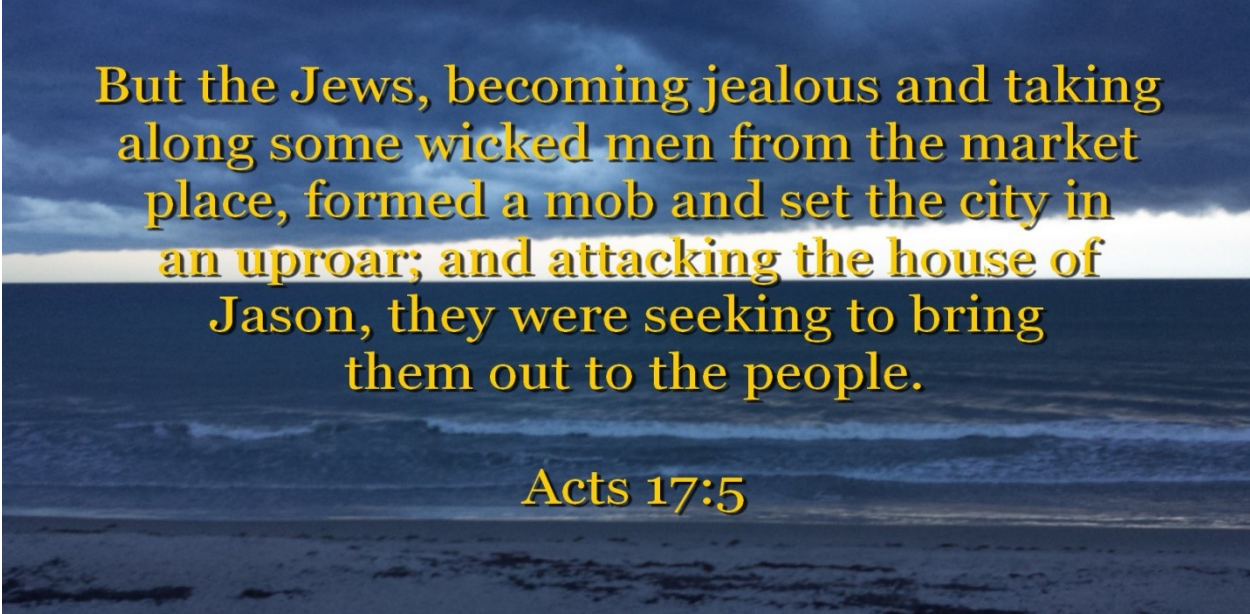
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He is not a respecter of persons. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the first and last people in society?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 605

## Jealous Today



But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.

Acts 17:5

What reaction did the Jews of Thessalonica have to the conversion of many Greeks and the first women? The Jews became very jealous.

The jealousy in the Jews claimed their actions against Paul and Silas. They took some wicked men from the marketplace and formed a mob. That mob set the city in an uproar. Things were spiraling out of control at the instigation of the Jealous Jews.

The Jealous Jews of Thessalonica not only rejected the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but they sought to oppose the new saints in the city and the work of salvation in Thessalonica. Paul and Silas had faced persecution and beating before. Paul had seen organized opposition in Asia Minor and how that opposition chased him.

Whenever the Lord Jesus saves people in one location, the spiritual forces of evil react strongly. In this case jealousy about the conversion of so many Greeks and the first women spurred them to drastic action against the ministry team. With the entire city inflamed by that jealousy working its way

out through organized attacks, Thessalonica had just become a hub of persecution against the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and His followers.

## ***Attacking***

1. **Jews**. What drove the Jews to violently oppose Paul and Silas? The jealousy of the Jews provoked them to anger.

2. **Jealous**. The Jews were jealous because many Gentiles and some of the first women and some of the Jews from the synagogue all turned to Christ as Savior and joined Paul and Silas.

3. **Wicked**. The Jealous Jews found some wicked men in the market and hatched a plan with them.

4. **Market**. The Jealous Jews drew men from the market to oppose Paul and Silas by creating an incident.

5. **Mob**. The Jealous Jews used the men from the market to create a very evil mob.

6. **Uproar**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Jews from the synagogue in Thessalonica formed a mob and caused an uproar in the city.

7. **Jason**. We rejoice today because God knows how to deal with a mob, even as they attacked the house of Jason, seeking to drag them out to the people.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that evil men can form mobs to persecute Christians.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Jason was dragged out by the mob.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that very evil man can foment trouble for believers by instigating mob violence.**

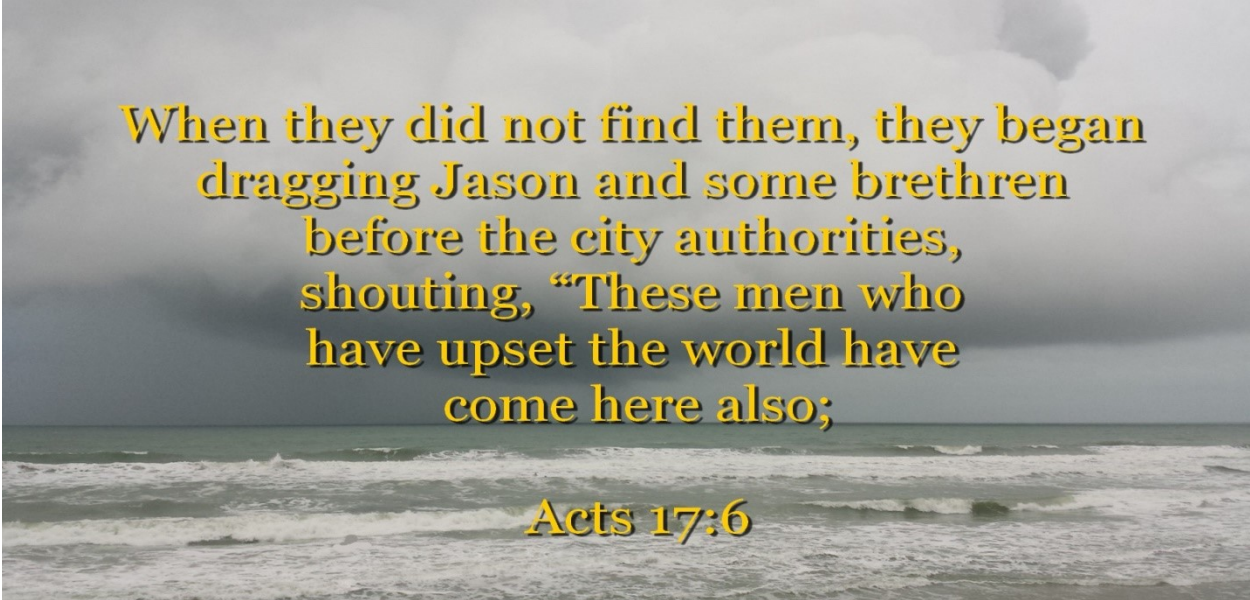
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to help us when mobs attack us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding that persecution can take many forms, even mob violence?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 606

## Dragging Today



When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have upset the world have come here also;

Acts 17:6

What happened when the mob could not find Paul and Silas? They began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities.

Paul and Silas proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the synagogue at Thessalonica for several Sabbaths. Some Jews and Gentiles and first women all turned to the Lord for salvation. Some Jews reacted with violent aggression towards Paul and Silas.

The Jews were jealous because of the conversion of so many people. The Jealous Jews then whipped up a mob of men and threw the city into an uproar. They attacked the house of Jason, but did not find Paul and Silas. Therefore, they dragged off Jason and some brethren before the city authorities. They were shouting that these men have upset the whole world and now have come to Thessalonica.

The Jealous Jews brought government pressure to bear upon Paul and Silas and the ministry team. Other persecutors had used similar tactics before, such as they faced at Philippi previously and Asia Minor. Paul and

Silas were no strangers to persecution and had been incarcerated for their faith. As Roman citizens, they had legal rights that benefited them.

## *Shouting*

1. **When**. What did the Jealous Jews do when they could not find Paul and Silas? They dragged Jason and some brethren before the city authorities.

2. **Dragging**. The mob was dragging Jason and the brethren before the authorities.

3. **Jason**. Jason and the brethren were associated in some way with the ministry team, but the exact relationship remains unclear.

4. **Authorities**. The authorities represented the local government which operated under Roman authority.

5. **Shouting**. The mob was shouting charges against Paul and Silas and, by extension, Jason and the brethren.

6. **Upset**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that the mob charged Paul and Silas with upsetting the world.

7. **Come**. We rejoice today because God sent Paul and Silas to Thessalonica so that they would come with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ for all who would believe there.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that some unbelievers think that conversions to Christ upset the whole world.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some mobs vent their fury upon anyone they can find at the time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for His protection from many types of attacks upon Christians.**

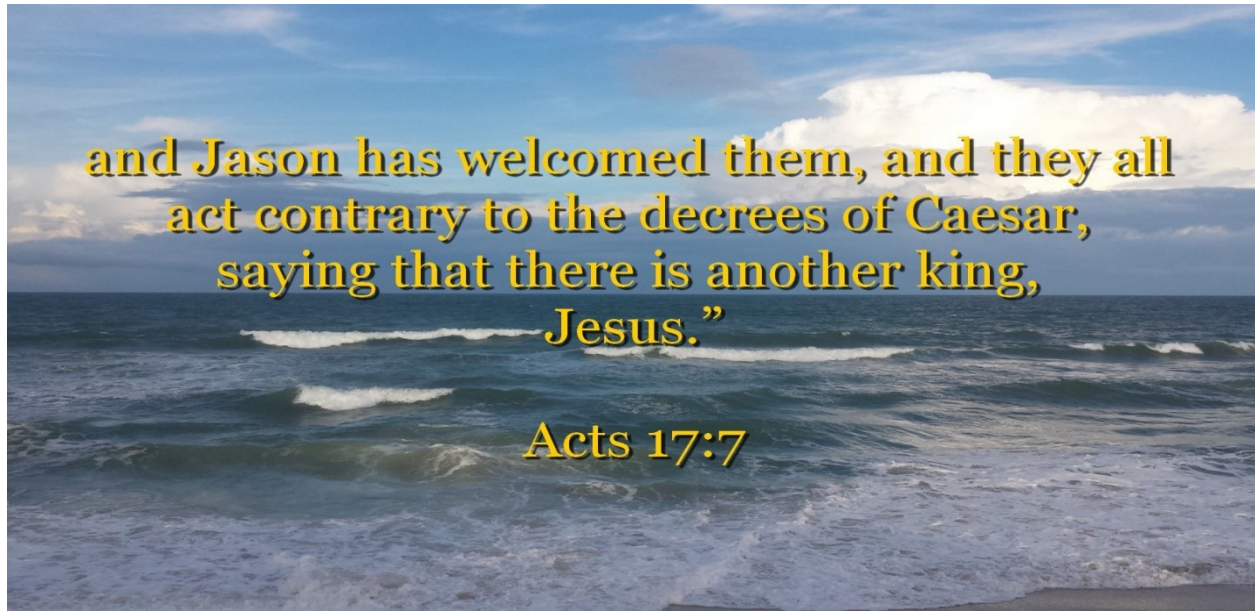
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the mob dragging away Jason and some brethren for welcoming Paul and Silas. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding that some people may persecute you for simply welcoming Christians into your city?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 607

## Welcomed Today



What other charges did they bring against Jason? They charged Jason with welcoming Paul and Silas.

The Jealous Jews sought to harness the power of the government to persecute the saints. By their actions, they apparently sought to undo the work of the Lord Jesus Christ to Thessalonica. Stirring up a mob and bringing charges against the brethren may have seemed like a good idea to the Jealous Jews at that time.

The Jealous Jews charged that Paul and Silas, along with Jason as a co-conspirator, were urging people to act contrary to the decrees of Caesar. According to the Jealous Jews, the saints were saying there is another king, Jesus. The Jealous Jews thought they could claim a political reason for incarcerating Paul and Silas. In fact, the charge of treason may result in the death penalty.

Of course, neither Jesus nor Paul and Silas had ever instigated political rebellion against Caesar. The people who would act contrary to the law of

Caesar were those who created a mob and threw the entire city into an uproar.

## ***Contrary***

1. **Jason**. Why did the mob seize Jason? The mob seized Jason because he welcomed Paul and Silas and the ministry team.

2. **Welcomed**. Jason welcomed the ministry team and so incurred the wrath of the Jealous Jews.

3. **Them**. Jason welcomed them and apparently provided them with some means of support.

4. **Contrary**. The Jealous Jews alleged that Paul and Silas were acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar.

5. **Caesar**. Caesar demanded to be recognized as the absolute ruler of all lands in the Roman Empire.

6. **King**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jealous Jews charged that Paul and Silas were proclaiming another king.

7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because Jesus is the King of kings, but He has not yet come in His glory as king.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that enemies of Christ will fabricate charges against us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that enemies of Christ will also persecute people who support the missionaries.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the Lord Jesus is the King of kings.**

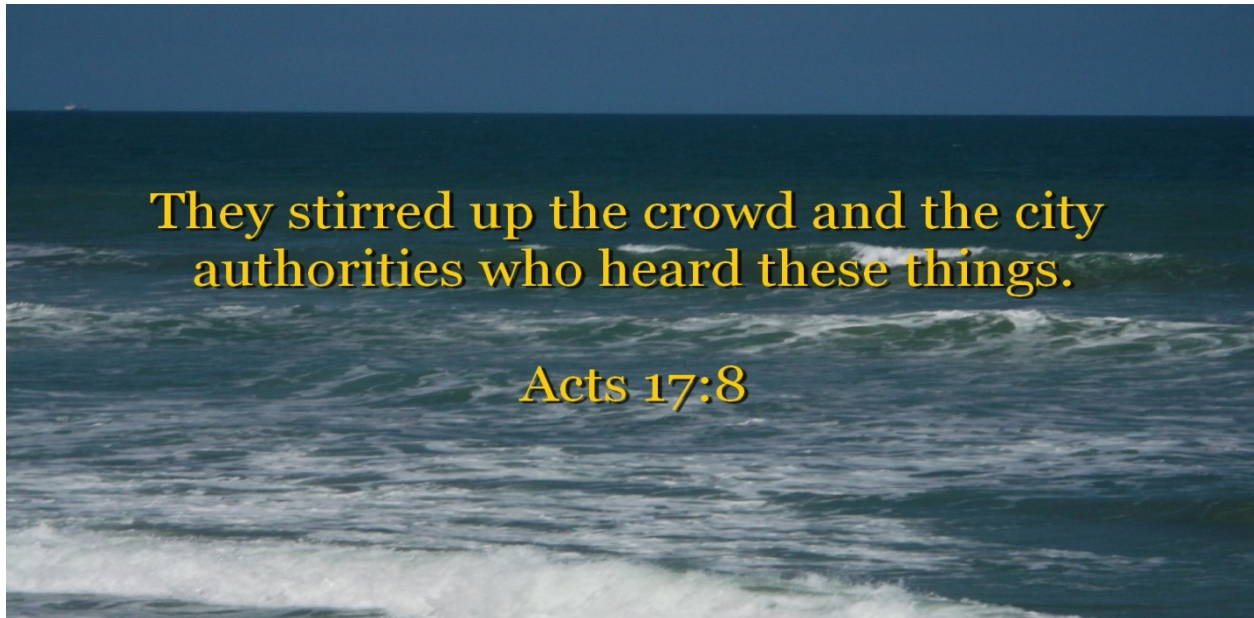
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords. Will you live holy in the family of God today by expecting that enemies of Christ will persecute all the people who proclaim Jesus Christ as King and Savior?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 608

## Stirred up Today



Who did the Jealous Jews stir up? They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things.

The Jealous Jews tried to mount a political campaign against the brethren. They brought various charges which could not be proven or sustained in any way. Paul and Silas did not foment rebellion and did nothing to stir up the crowds. The Jealous Jews had stirred up the crowds and the Council who heard the charges. The Jealous Jews then dragged Jason and the brethren before the Council.

Paul and Silas were not there before the Council. The Jealous Jews were so enraged and jealous that they dragged out Jason and the brethren from his home. They charged Jason with helping Paul and Silas commit treason. Apparently, Jason had provided lodging or other help to Paul and Silas. The Jealous Jews went to his home looking for Paul and Silas, giving rise to the implication that they were staying there.

The Jealous Jews felt deeply about Paul and Silas. They truly hated them, because they were messengers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus



had prophesied, those Jews hated Jesus without cause and so hated his messengers without cause.

## *Authorities*

1. **Stirred**. How did the charges against Paul and Silas affect the crowd? The mob stirred up the crowd and the city authorities.

2. **Crowd**. The crowd gathered because of the mob dragging Jason and the brethren before the city authorities.

3. **City**. The city authorities in Macedonia had limited ruling power governed by Roman law.

4. **Authorities**. Those authorities tried to keep the peace in the city and resolve civil disputes.

5. **Who**. The Jealous Jews were able to negatively influence all the people who heard the false charges against Paul and Silas.

6. **Heard**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jealous Jews used the mob to inflame everyone who heard their false charges against Paul and Silas.

7. **Things**. We rejoice today because Paul and Silas and the brethren who supported them labored under persecution arising from the enemies of Christ saying false things about them.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the enemies of Christ will always try to stir up crowds against us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting that the enemies of Christ will bring saints before the city authorities for punishment based on false charges.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that persecution often follows the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

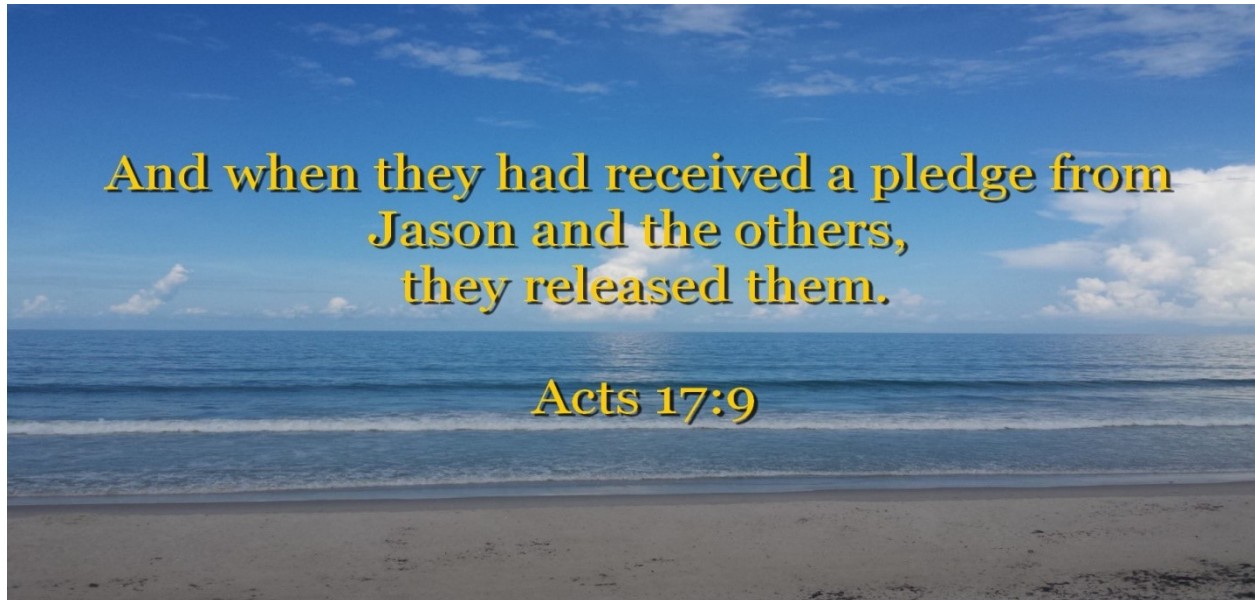
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He helps us through every persecution. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that everyone who proclaims the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will face persecution of one type or another?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 609

## Pledge Today



Why did the council release Jason and the others? Jason and the others made a pledge satisfying the Council.

A pledge represents a guarantee. In this case the terms of the pledge were not disclosed. The main point, however, was that Jason and the others made some promises to the Council that satisfied the Council. Having received the pledge, the council released them.

The Council apparently did not take much time reviewing the matter. They saw the mob and the Council had been stirred up by the mob. Perhaps they understood that the best and quickest solution was to take a pledge and release the accused. The Council had the authority to take further action, but declined to do so.

The Jealous Jews had made a point and required a pledge. The Jealous Jews also put the brethren on notice of their strong opposition and to the lengths they would go. They lied about the brethren and sought to use government power to suppress the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Such

actions against Jesus and His church were not unheard of, but they did not stop Paul and Silas from their ministry.

## *Released*

1. **When**. What did the city authorities require from Jason and the brethren? They required a pledge.

2. **Received**. Jason and the brethren agreed to provide a pledge to the city authorities.

3. **Pledge**. God did not reveal the exact substance of the pledge, but generally a pledge means you provide something to secure your promise.

4. **Jason**. Jason had welcomed Paul and Silas and the ministry team, according to the charge laid against them by the Jealous Jews.

5. **Others**. Others with Jason were also saints who had joined Paul and Silas.

6. **Released**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand that city authorities may be caught up in a crowd frenzy and make very bad choices.

7. **Them**. We rejoice today because the city authorities released Jason and the brethren without further trouble for them, once they provided a pledge.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the city authorities released Jason and the brethren after they provided a pledge.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trying to appease civil authorities without violating the commandments of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that the enemies of Christ stir up crowds and authorities trying to stop the progress of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trying to appease civil authorities without violating commandments of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Jason and the other brothers offering a pledge for their release?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# 5

## Berea

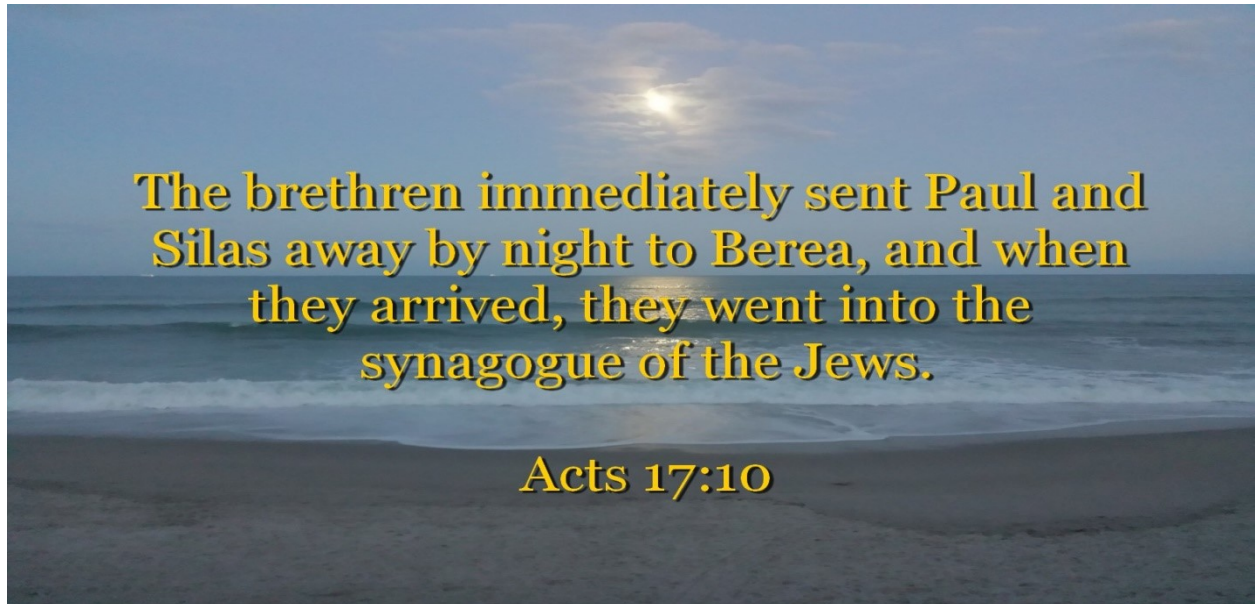
### Today

Having left Thessalonica, Paul and Barnabas went to Berea and went into the synagogue. The Bereans were more noble minded than the Thessalonians and received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if those things were true. The Jews from Thessalonica, however, came to Berea and stirred up the crowds. In response, the Bereans sent Paul on his way to Athens.

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 610

## Immediately Today



What did the brethren do after submitting their pledge? By night they sent Paul and Silas away to Berea.

The brethren at Thessalonica had given a pledge for their release by the city Council. The Jealous Jews had stirred up the mob and stirred up the Council. The city was in an uproar. The mob could not find Paul and Silas, so they dragged Jason and some brethren before the Council. The terms of release for Jason and the brethren required them to make a pledge to the Council.

Having been released, Jason and the brethren sent Paul and Silas away by night. Apparently, the brethren had not pledged to produce Paul and Silas before the Council. Paul and Silas left for Berea situated about 50 miles west of Thessalonica. Berea was not known as a great city, but was relatively quiet when compared to Thessalonica and Philippi, leading cities of Macedonia.

Paul and Silas left to avoid further persecution in Thessalonica. God frequently moved His missionaries from place to place to avoid further

conflict. Paul and Silas did not stop their work of spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through Macedonia.

## ***Berea***

1. **Brethren**. What did the brethren do with Paul and Silas after Jason and the brethren were released? They sent Paul and Silas away to Berea at night.

2. **Sent**. The brethren sent Paul and Silas away immediately, because they knew that things would tend to quiet down after they left Thessalonica.

3. **Night**. They sent Paul and Silas away by night, indicating the urgency.

4. **Berea**. Paul and Silas went straight to Berea and continued their work of spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Arrived**. When they arrived in Berea, Paul followed his usual custom on the Sabbath.

6. **Synagogue**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul normally went to the synagogue on the Sabbath to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Jews first.

7. **Jews**. We rejoice today because God loves the Jews and directed Paul and Silas to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the synagogues as they traveled from place to place.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by continuing our work for the Lord by moving on to the next place.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by leaving places of intense persecution as God directs us forward.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His wise leadership in letting us know when it is time to move on.**

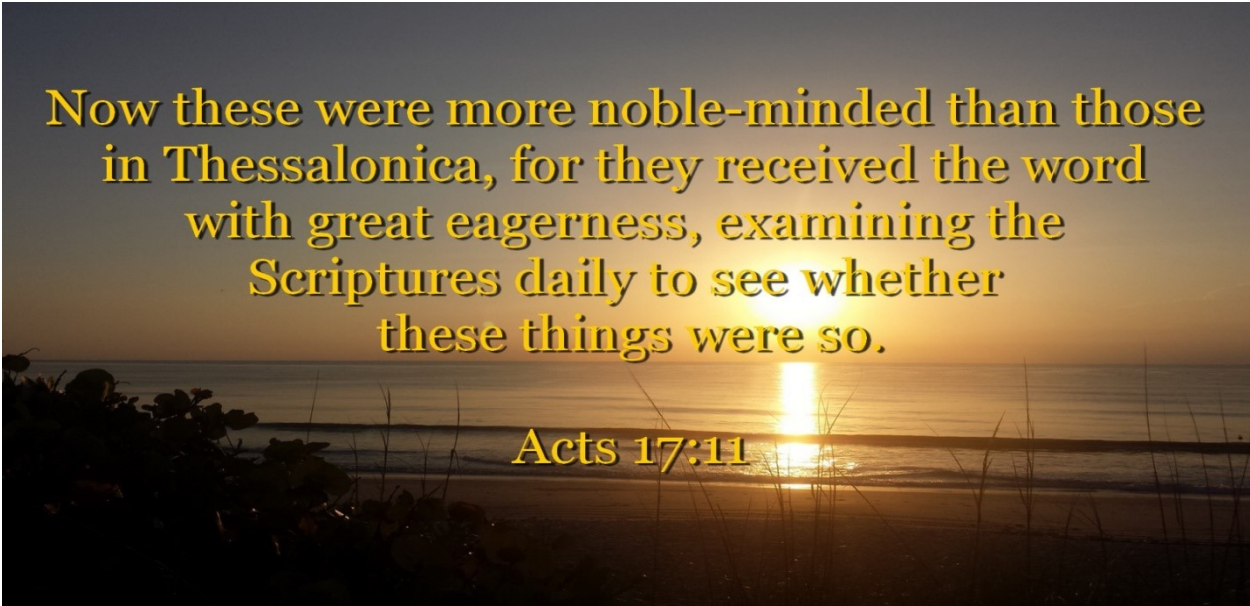
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon God to move us to new places that need to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by continuing to spread the love of Jesus Christ wherever you go?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 611

## Noble-Minded Today



Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

Acts 17:11

What were the Bereans like? They were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians.

The Bereans received the word of God with great eagerness. They examined the Scriptures daily to see whether or not the things proclaimed by Paul and Silas were true.

The hallmarks of Godliness included a desire to know the truth and distinguish it from lies. The spirit of anti-Christ spreads lies all the time. He takes advantage of people who do not read the Scriptures and know nothing about them.

In contrast, the Bereans loved the truth and knew that the way to be certain of the truth was to compare the Scriptures with what people proclaimed. Some people may talk a good game and say much about the Lord Jesus, but actually they never knew Him as Savior.

The Jealous Jews of Thessalonica claimed to know God and love God, but like so many others, they never knew God. Therefore, when Paul and

Silas came to their city and proclaimed the Lord Jesus Christ the Savior, many Greeks and some of the leading women received Christ as Savior. The Jealous Jews, however, reacted with anger and never searched the Scriptures to see if those things were true, even though Paul explained the Scriptures to them.

## ***Examining***

1. **Noble-Minded**. How were the Bereans different from the Jealous Jews at Thessalonica? The Bereans were more noble-minded than the Jealous Jews of Thessalonica.

2. **Thessalonica**. The Jealous Jews of Thessalonica refused to accept the Scriptures, clinging instead to their corrupt interpretations of Moses.

3. **Received**. In contrast the Bereans received the word of the Lord Jesus with eagerness.

4. **Word**. People who receive the word of the Lord like to compare what people tell them about God with what God said about Himself in the Scriptures.

5. **Eagerness**. The Bereans received the word from Paul and Silas but searched the Scriptures, comparing what Paul and Silas said to what God said in the Scriptures.

6. **Examining**. Living holy in the family of God means that we receive the word with eagerness when we examine the Scriptures for ourselves to see if things are true or not.

7. **Scriptures**. We rejoice today because the Scriptures reveal God and His ways so that we may love Him more.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by searching the Scriptures daily.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by examining the Scriptures so that we may know the truth about what people tell us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by receiving the word with eagerness and so glorify God.**

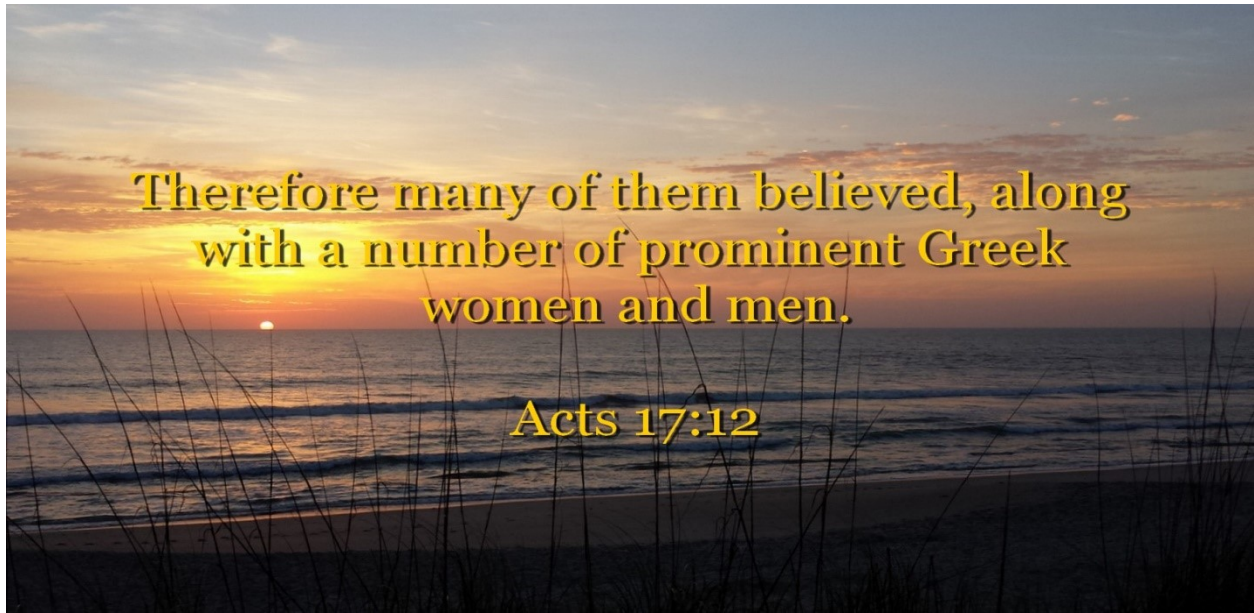
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by examining the Scriptures daily so that we may love God more by practicing the truth. Will you live holy in the family of God today by walking in the truth and examining the Scriptures today?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 612

## Many Today



Who believed at Berea? Many of the Jews in the synagogue there believed, plus a number of prominent Greek men and women.

As in other cities, Greeks received the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Although Paul made it his custom to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath, Paul also proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to both Jews and Greeks and males and females.

God was well pleased through the message proclaimed to bring many souls to salvation. Some of the prominent Greek men and women also believed. At Philippi the city authorities used their power unlawfully to beat and imprison Paul and Silas, Roman citizens. Their flagrant violations of law led them to lead Paul and Silas out from the jail and urge them to leave the city immediately.

Berea reminds all believers that some cities welcome the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, while many others repudiated Jesus and His messengers. God is no respecter of persons, but welcomes rich and poor, male and female, Jews and Gentiles in the kingdom of God.

## *Believed*

1. **Therefore**. What happened when the Bereans searched the Scriptures? Many Bereans believed the word of God and turned to Christ for salvation.

2. **Many**. Many people at Berea searched the Scriptures and found the truth about Jesus of Nazareth, the Savior of the world.

3. **Believed**. Having searched the Scriptures daily, examining them carefully, many Bereans came to faith in Jesus of Nazareth because the Scriptures testified of Him.

4. **Number**. A number of Bereans searched the Scriptures and came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Prominent**. That number included both men and women, because God is no respecter of persons.

6. **Women**. Living holy in the family of God means that God loves women just like He loves men and both of them can study the Scriptures.

7. **Men**. We rejoice today because both men and women can learn from the Scriptures the truth of God's word and His great love for all men.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the prominent men and women at Berea who came to faith in Jesus of Nazareth as Savior of the world.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by searching the Scriptures daily so that our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ grows continually.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for putting His word in the Scriptures so that we may read them, examine them carefully, and glorify God.**

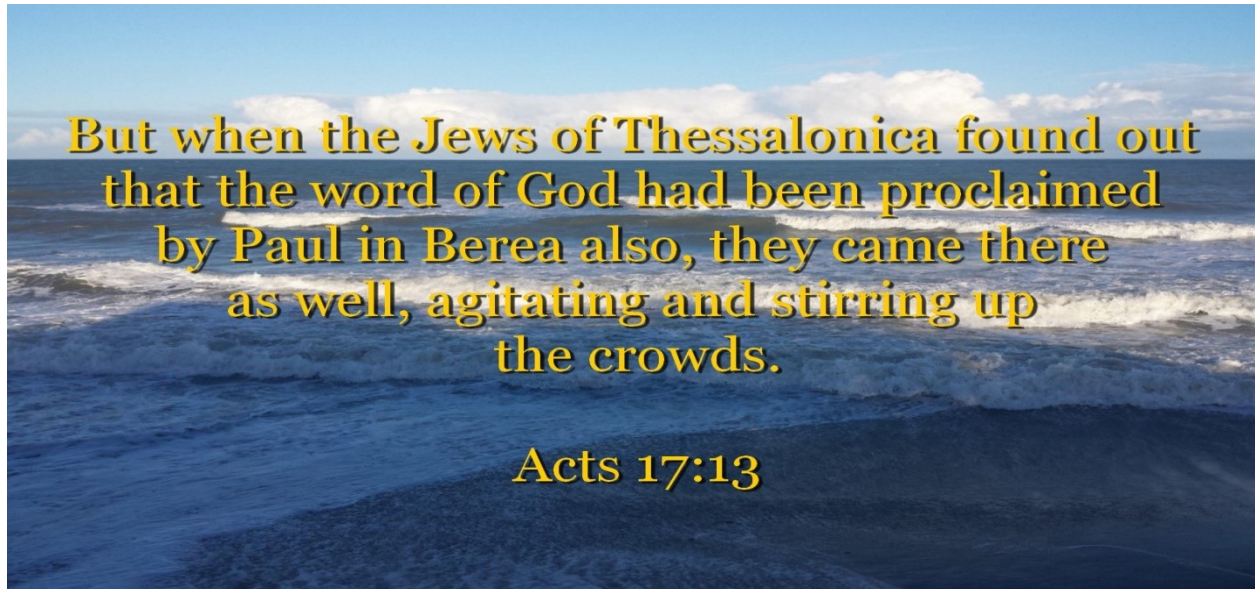
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by believing the Scriptures which testify of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior of all people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by welcoming prominent men and women into the family of God?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 613

## Agitating Today



What did the Jews of Thessalonica do when they heard about Berea? The Jealous Jews from Thessalonica came to Berea.

Having learned from their tactics of Thessalonica, the Jealous Jews stirred up the crowds in Berea. In Thessalonica they went through the market and found men willing to do their bidding. They formed a mob and dragged the believers in front of the city authorities. Those city authorities exacted a pledge from Jason and others, who sent Paul and Silas out of the city by night.

The Jealous Jews of Thessalonica only came to Berea because they wanted to agitate and stir up the crowds against Paul and Silas and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. By stirring up the crowds, they hoped they could sway popular opinion against Paul and Silas and stunt the growth and development of the word of God there. Humans, however, forget that the word of God will always achieve God's purposes.

Despite the best efforts of the Jealous Jews from Thessalonica, the word of God will not return to God void. The cross of Jesus Christ is the



power and wisdom of God to those are being saved, but foolishness to all others.

## ***Crowds***

1. **But**. What did the Jealous Jews of Thessalonica do? They came to Berea.

2. **Jews**. The Jealous Jews had chased Paul out of Thessalonica.

3. **Found**. When they found out that Paul was in Berea, they came to Berea.

4. **Word**. The Jealous Jews of Thessalonica did not want anyone to hear the word of God.

5. **Proclaimed**. Paul had come to Berea proclaiming the word of God and many people believed.

6. **Agitating**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Jealous Jews of Thessalonica came to Berea, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

7. **Crowds**. We rejoice today because God brings crowds of people to faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, while the opponents of God stir up the crowds, agitating them to oppose God and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that some opponents will chase missionaries from place to place.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that our reward in heaven is great when people say all kinds of bad things against us and persecute us because we serve the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His love for all kinds of people in all kinds of places.**

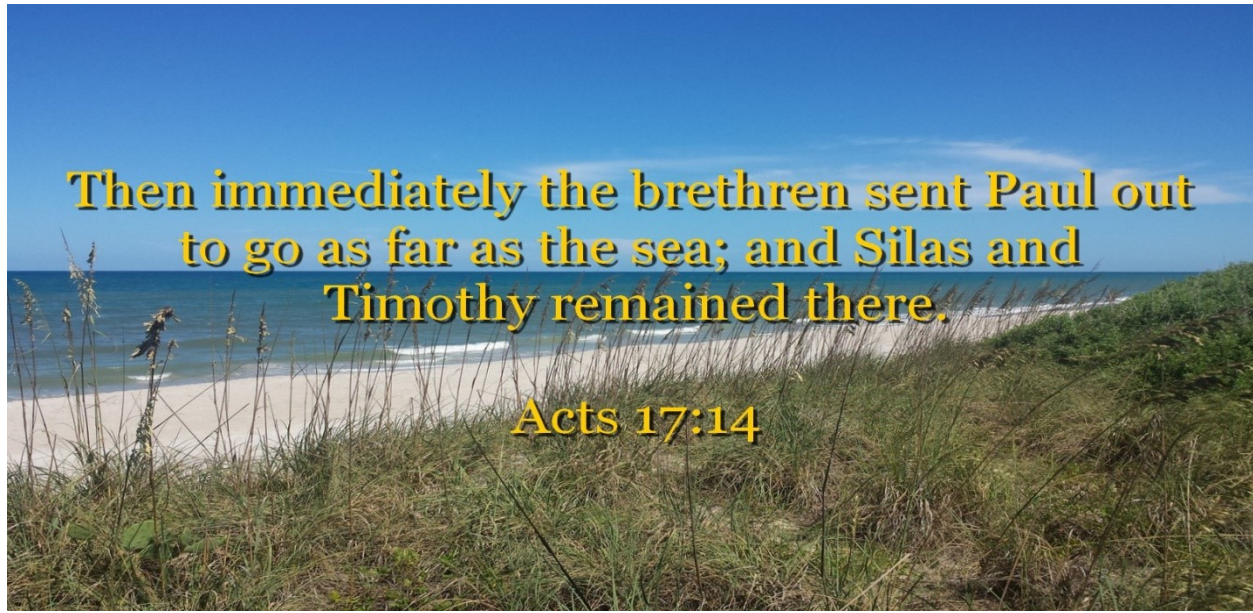
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that some people chase missionaries to hinder the proclamation of the gospel wherever they go. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that His word spreads, despite the opposition?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 614

## Silas and Timothy Today



What did the brethren of Berea do with Paul? The brethren immediately sent Paul out of the city.

The Jealous Jews from Thessalonica effectively drove Paul out of Berea. By stirring up the crowds, the brethren knew what was coming next. Because Paul and Silas had already proclaimed the gospel and many people believed, the Lord Jesus Christ had many evangelists ready to go in Berea.

At times the best solution to a problem is to move on. God provides leadership so that we follow Him to the next destination. The Berean brethren sent Paul away not only for his sake, but also for the sake of everyone else in town. No one wanted their city to be thrown into an uproar by a mob. In Thessalonica Jason and the brethren suffered when the mob could not find Paul and Silas. The Bereans knew how to avoid the problem by sending Paul on to seaport where he could move on to the next destination selected by God.

God also left Silas and Timothy in Berea. Along with the brethren who had already believed, the work of God could continue there without unnecessary persecution.

## *Remained*

1. **Immediately.** What did the Berean brethren immediately do with Paul? They sent Paul out of the city to the sea.
2. **Brethren.** The brethren had Paul's best interest at heart, and also acted to preserve their city from the uproar.
3. **Sent.** The brethren sent Paul away with their help.
4. **Paul.** Paul left Thessalonica and God blessed Berea with his presence.
5. **Sea.** By going to the sea, Paul was ready to embark on the journey to the next destination chosen by God.
6. **Silas.** Living holy in the family of God means that Silas and Timothy remained behind with the brethren, continuing to do God's work in Berea.
7. **Remained.** We rejoice today because Timothy and Silas stayed behind to continue the encouragement of the believers who had turned to Christ after examining the Bible daily to see if those things proclaimed by Paul were true, and they were.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God when we understand that God sends missionaries from place to place, knowing beforehand that persecution awaits His missionaries wherever they go.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for the brethren who help us leave times of persecution.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by accompanying saints who are persecuted as they travel to a new place.**

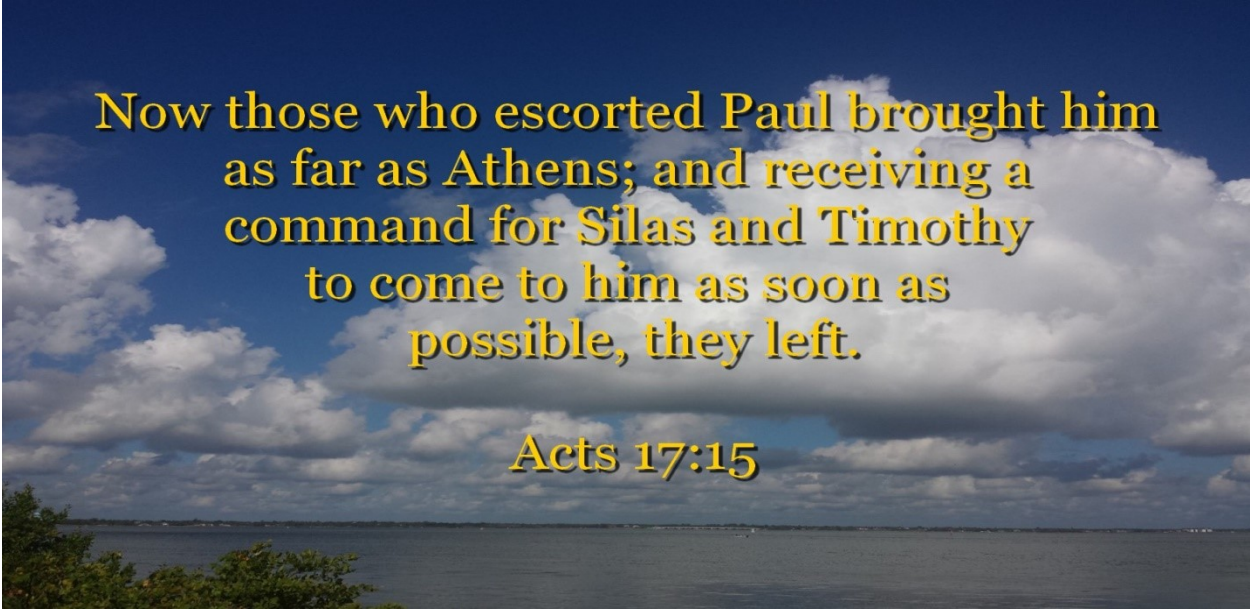
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His plans that lead us to new cities to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, knowing that persecution and suffering often await His messengers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the missionaries who risk their necks for the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 615

## Escorted Today



Now those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they left.

Acts 17:15

Where did Paul go after leaving Berea? Paul went to Athens.

Paul had left Asia to go to Macedonia. Paul had received the Macedonian vision in which a man cried out for his help. God closed the doors to other places in Asia Minor so that the ministry team could immediately go to Macedonia. Having arrived in Macedonia, Paul met Lydia and then the Philippian jailer, and along with their households, they became new saints in the church at Philippi.

Having left Berea, the brethren who accompanied Paul went with him to Athens, Greece. Athens was nothing like Philippi and Thessalonica. The Greeks at Athens gloried in sharing new gods and new ideas. Paul would have ample opportunity to proclaim the word of God among the Athenians.

Paul commanded the brethren from Berea to send Silas and Timothy to Athens as quickly as possible. Paul loved a ministry to many, and loved making disciples. Paul knew that Berea also had believers there who would search the Scriptures and serve the Lord Jesus Christ accordingly. Because

of the great opportunity that Athens afforded, Paul wanted Silas and Timothy to be with him as he pursued ministry opportunities in Athens.

## *Athens*

1. **Escorted**. How far did the brethren from Berea escort Paul? They escorted him as far as Athens.

2. **Paul**. The brethren sent Paul away from Berea because of the persecution from the Jealous Jews of Thessalonica who followed Paul to Berea.

3. **Athens**. Athens was a thriving city of Greece, known for its culture.

4. **Receiving**. Before the escort from Berea left, Paul had something that he wanted them to do.

5. **Command**. Having received the command from Paul, the escort left for Berea where they were to send Silas and Timothy to Paul in Athens.

6. **Silas**. Living holy in the family of God means that God separates ministry teams for a while as the need of the moment requires.

7. **Come**. We rejoice today because Paul was eager for Silas and Timothy to come to Athens and join them in the ministry there.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God separates ministry teams for a while as needs arise in different places.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for using missionaries from one team in different places at different times.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by realizing we are all missionaries sent by God to the place where we live.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to our friends and family and neighbors near and far. Will you live holy in the family of God today by joining a local missionary team?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# 8

# Athens

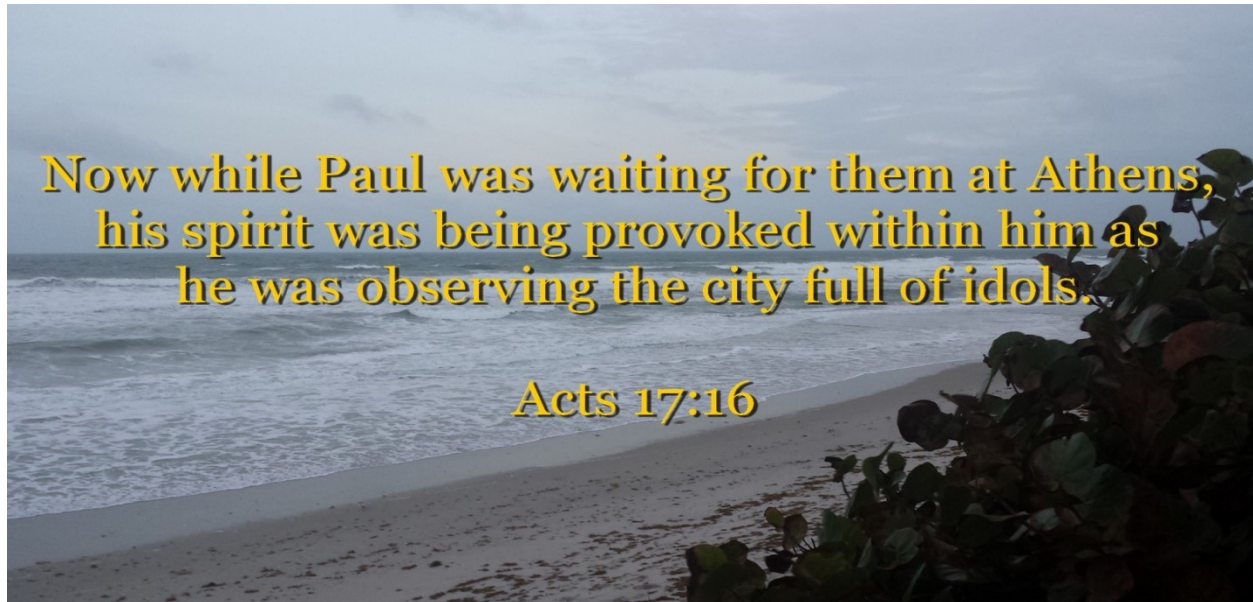
# Today

At Athens Paul observed the city full of idols and his spirit was being provoked. He was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, plus talking in the marketplace. Some philosophers took Paul to the Areopagus, because he was proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ and they wanted to hear more. Standing in the midst of the Areopagus, Paul delivered a sermon about the God who made everything, but the Athenians called Him the unknown God and built an altar to Him. When Paul spoke about the resurrection of the dead and invited the people to repent and turn to God, some people began to sneer, but others wanted to hear more. Dionysus the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris believed at Athens

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 616

## Waiting Today



What provoked the spirit of Paul? A city full of idols provoked the spirit of Paul.

Having left Berea behind, Paul arrived in Athens. Idols filled the city of Athens. They had an entire pantheon of gods, with temples for many gods. Paul normally went to the synagogue when he arrived in a new town.

Paul was waiting on Silas and Timothy to arrive in Athens. They had been left behind in Berea, when Paul left quickly to avoid the mob in the uproar in Berea.

Notice the spirit of Paul was being provoked within him. The spirit within Paul had keen spiritual perception. Looking upon the idols revealed to Paul the kinds of people inhabiting Athens. Their idols reflected their spiritual outlook on life.

Paul looked at more than just the physical appearance of people. The idols of Athens indicated to Paul that they were very religious people, seeking

to know God. They were, however, spiritually blinded. Paul had left persecution behind in Philippi and Berea.

## ***Observing***

1. **Paul**. What was Paul feeling in Athens? Paul's spirit was being provoked by the idolatry in Athens.

2. **Waiting**. Paul was waiting on Timothy and Silas to come to Athens from Berea.

3. **Athens**. As Paul waited in Athens, he had time to observe the people of Athens in their spiritual ways.

4. **Spirit**. Paul's spirit perceived the idolatry spread all over the city, full of temples and alters and other forms of idolatry.

5. **Provoked**. The idolatry provoked Paul in his spirit so that he wanted to speak to them about the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Observing**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Paul being provoked in his spirit because of all the idolatry in Athens.

7. **Idols**. We rejoice today because idols provoked the spirit of Paul because the people worshiping those idols were lost and without God in this world.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the spirit of Paul being provoked by the idols in Athens.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by not ignoring the idolatry around us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by recognizing the people who worship idols as people who need to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

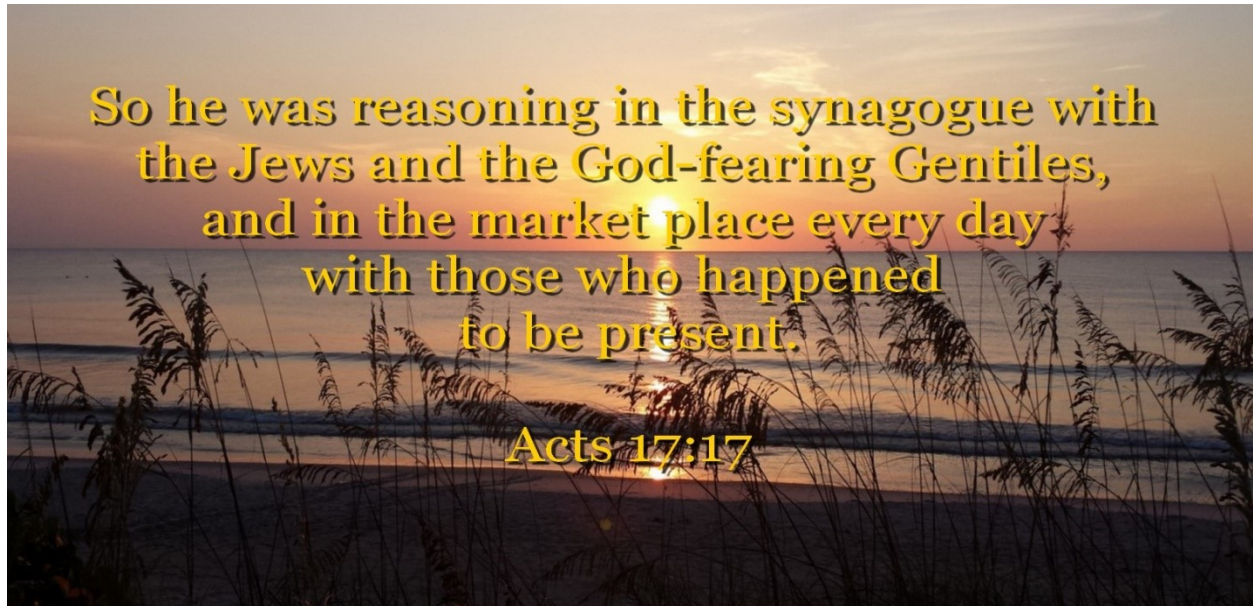
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for men like Paul who notice the idolatry around them which spurs them on to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by noticing all the idolatry around you each day?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 617

## Reasoning Today



Did Paul visit the synagogue in Athens? Paul reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing.

Paul continued his habit of visiting the synagogue in a new city on the Sabbath. Paul followed the general plan of bringing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Jews first. Paul also proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the marketplace every day. Paul spoke to whomever was present there.

Paul traveled across the world so that he could talk with people about the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. God loves the world and sent his Son Jesus of Nazareth to give His life for the world. God chose Paul to spread that message in Asia and Europe. Paul had fulfilled the Macedonian vision by spending time proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea.

The time had come to push into Greece. Athens was a hub of spiritual activity and cultural diversity. As Paul visited the marketplace, he talked

about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and His great love for all people. Many people heard Paul's message of salvation in Christ.

## *Every Day*

1. **Reasoning.** How did Paul spend his days in Athens? Paul reasoned with the Jews and God-fearing in the synagogue and the people in the marketplace.

2. **Synagogue.** Paul customarily went to the synagogue first when he arrived in a city and reasoned with the Jews there from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

3. **Jews.** Paul gave special attention to the Jews in the synagogues, knowing that they often provided the stiffest persecution against him.

4. **God-Fearing.** The God-fearing Greeks in the synagogues also heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ from Paul.

5. **Marketplace.** Paul did not limit himself to the synagogue in Athens, but also went to the marketplace to talk to whomever he could find.

6. **Every.** Living holy in the family of God means that Paul spent time every day sharing his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ with people in the marketplace.

7. **Present.** We rejoice today because Paul spoke to everyone present in the marketplace without any partiality.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by speaking to everyone in the marketplace about Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to idolaters.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that we were all idolaters of one type or another before we came to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.**

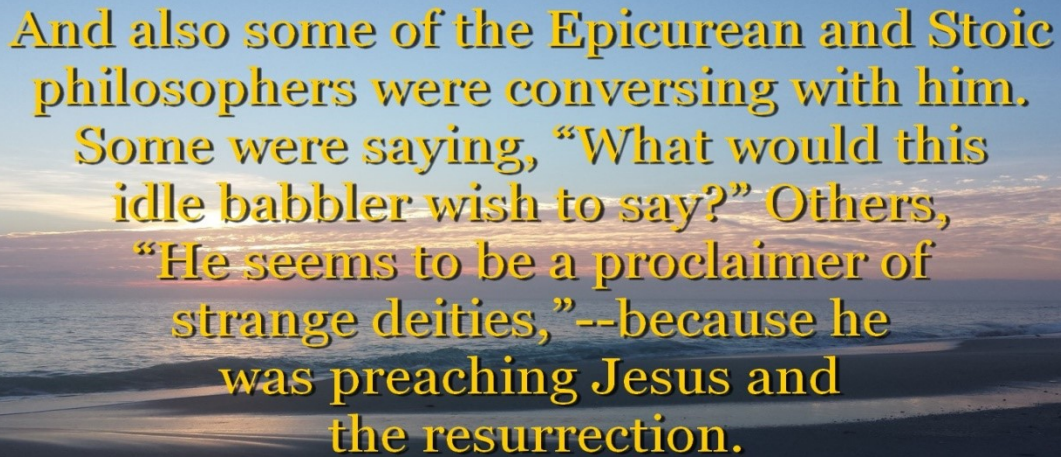
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by seizing every opportunity God provides to speak to people about the Lord Jesus Christ as we meet them in gathering places every day. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering Paul speaking in the marketplace every day to whomever happen to be present there?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 618

## Philosophers Today



And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, “What would this idle babbler wish to say?” Others, “He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,” --because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

Acts 17:18

Why did the people think that Paul was proclaiming strange deities? They thought Paul was proclaiming strange deities because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

Paul did not sit tight at Athens waiting on Timothy and Silas. Paul did what Paul always did, seizing every opportunity to talk about Jesus and His resurrection. Paul grasped the urgency of the situation because if people were to die without Christ as Savior, they would spend an eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Paul met Epicurean philosophers. Those philosophers sought a life of pleasure with an absence of pain and fear. In contrast, the Stoic philosophers valued virtue and wisdom, attaining freedom from passion and fear.

Paul brought the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ to both Epicureans and Stoics. Only through Jesus can people be relieved of the fear of death and Paul was living proof of that fact. Paul had suffered beatings and imprisonment and had been stoned and left for dead. Yet, for the sake of the



Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, he continued on proclaiming Jesus as Savior. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ never takes a backseat to any philosophical system.

## ***Resurrection***

1. **Some**. What kind of people did Paul meet at the marketplace? Paul met some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers.

2. **Epicurean**. The Epicureans tended to indulge themselves in earthly pleasures.

3. **Stoic**. The Stoics sought virtue and wisdom and tried to avoid indulging in anything.

4. **Conversing**. Paul was conversing with both groups because Paul loved everybody and wanted everyone to hear and believe the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Idle**. The philosophers looked upon Paul as an idle babbling.

6. **Wish**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul spoke with all kinds of people in the marketplace and they asked about what Paul wished to say.

7. **Say**. We rejoice today because they wanted to hear what Paul was saying because Paul spoke to them of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and His great love for all people.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking time to talk with philosophers about spiritual truth in Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by spending time in public places where we can meet people who need to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that when idolatry provokes our spirits, then we can reach out to the people who worship idols and share with them about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and the good news that He proclaims to everyone.**

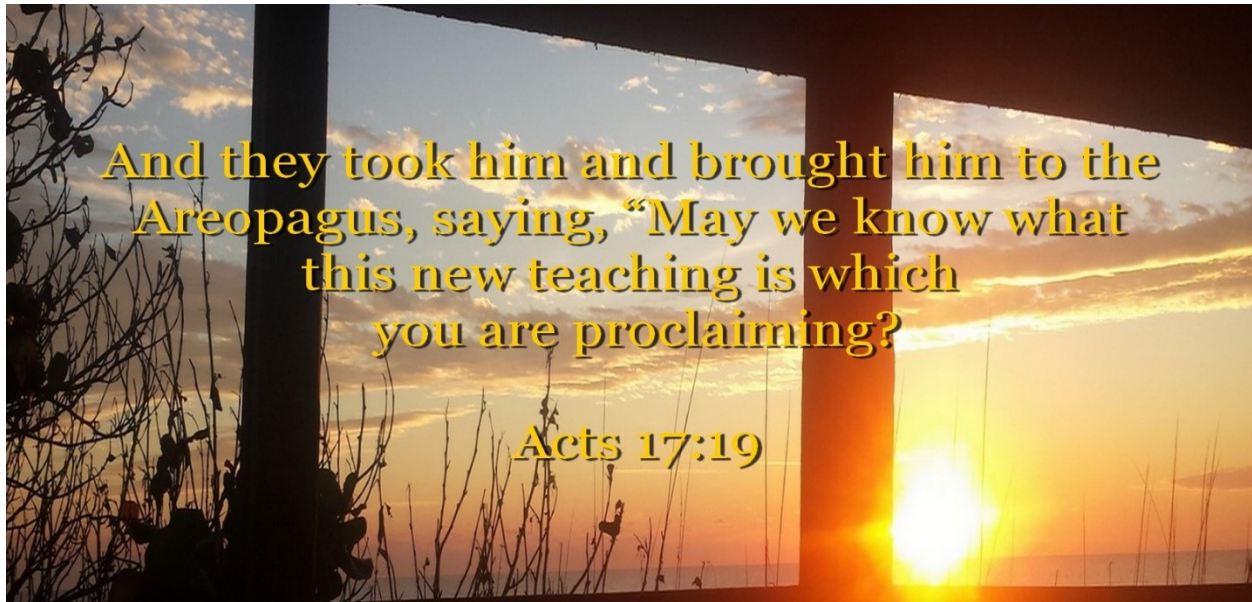
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul in the marketplace at Athens talking daily about Jesus with everyone there. Will you live holy in the family of God today by looking for places to meet people who worship idols so that you may share with them the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 619

## Areopagus Today



Where did they take Paul? They took Paul to the Areopagus.

The Athenians took Paul to the Areopagus because they wanted to know more about his teaching. The Areopagus was a rock outcropping with temples in the area. Apparently, it was also a gathering place for speakers. In earlier times, the Council heard legal matters there.

Luke's account in the Bible provides a perfect description of the Areopagus. The people took Paul to the Areopagus so they could hear more about the new teaching he was proclaiming. Therefore, the Areopagus served as a place for people to congregate and hear new teaching.

Paul always liked getting a crowd to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He traveled far and wide so that he could meet groups of people and individuals to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul used different sermons in different places. At Athens Paul was surrounded by idolaters with lots of temples and lots of monuments to their idols. Athens was a very religious place, but not a place that knew God. They served false gods and had many conflicting philosophies about life, death and happiness.

Paul knew that God had provided the Lord Jesus for both Jews and Greeks as the only Savior of the world. Paul proclaimed Jesus and His resurrection.

## *Teaching*

1. **They**. Where was Paul taken? They took Paul to the Areopagus.
2. **Took**. They took Paul because they had an interest in hearing more from him as he spoke about his God.
3. **Areopagus**. The Areopagus provided a meeting place where people could hear new ideas.
4. **Saying**. The people taking Paul to the Areopagus were saying they wanted to hear more from Paul.
5. **Know**. When people asked Paul to know more about his God, Paul used those opportunities to proclaim Jesus as Savior.
6. **Teaching**. Living holy in the family of God means that when people ask us about our teaching, we may remember Paul at the Areopagus.
7. **Proclaiming**. We rejoice today because people had an interest in hearing what Paul was proclaiming about the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul at Athens speaking at the Areopagus about Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that there is no counsel and no wisdom against God and His ways.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the power and wisdom of the cross of Jesus Christ.**

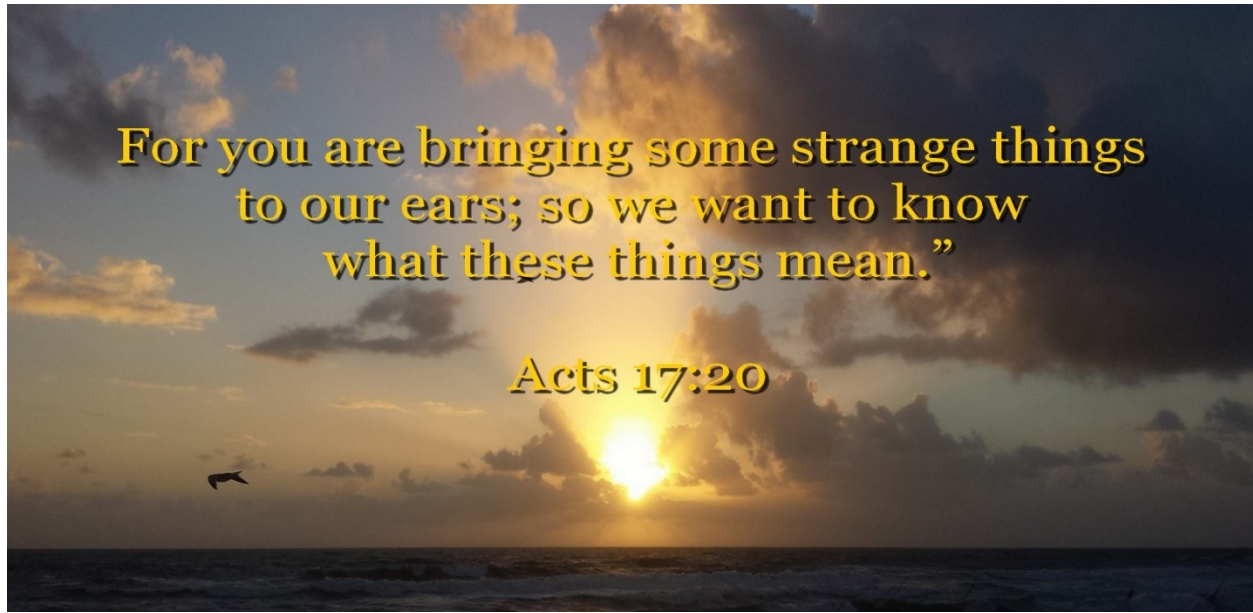
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming Jesus to people who want to know more about him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by answering the questions of people who want to hear more about Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 620

## Know Today



What did the Athenians want Paul to talk about? The Athenians wanted Paul to talk more about the strange things he was saying and what they meant.

The Athenians had a strong spiritual curiosity. In a city filled with idols, temples, and legends about their gods, Paul proclaiming one God and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ caught the attention of people.

Paul understood he was not speaking to the Jews, but rather to a multitude of idolaters who had very different religious backgrounds. Athens was not a monolithic group of idol worshipers. They worshiped many different kinds of idols and many different gods.

Paul knew how to grasp the spiritual attention of curious people. Paul had traveled to Athens ready to engage both philosophers and regular people lacking education. Peter and John were recognized by the religious Council in Jerusalem as being untrained and uneducated men, but they finally realized that those men had been with Jesus. The power of the Holy Spirit working in Paul, Peter and John overpowered all philosophy, all of Judaism,

and all man-made religion. Paul was prepared to speak the words of the Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## *Mean*

1. **Bringing**. Why did people want to hear Paul? People thought his teaching was strange and new.

2. **Strange**. Paul proclaimed Jesus as the resurrected Savior and the Athenians thought that was strange.

3. **Things**. The strange things Paul proclaimed to the Athenians they had never heard before.

4. **Ears**. When the strange things came to their ears, the spiritual interest of the Athenians had been kindled.

5. **Know**. They wanted to know more about Jesus.

6. **What**. Living holy in the family of God means that that when people ask us what we are talking about, then we know we have an opportunity to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ to them.

7. **Means**. We rejoice today because Jesus opens doors for us when people ask us what it means that Jesus died and rose again as Savior.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by recognizing that many people think the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is a very strange thing.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ to people who want to hear more.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that people will think the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is a very strange thing to their ears.**

## **Application for Today**

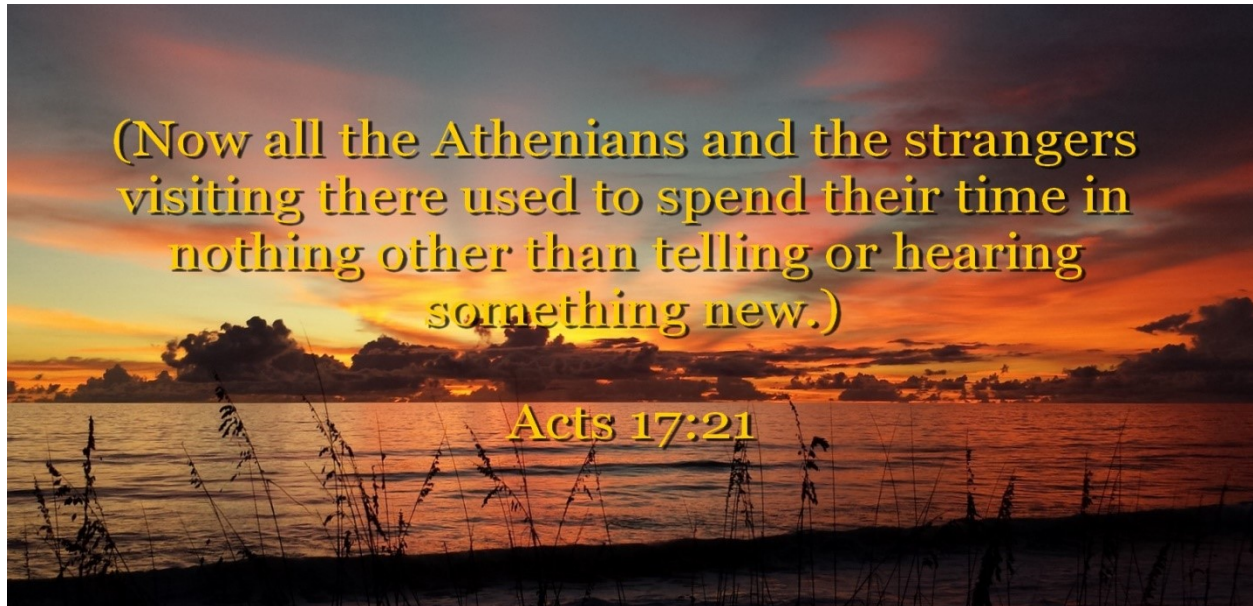
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the plans of God to arouse the interest of unbelievers so that they want to hear more about the strange sounding things we proclaim about Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with people who tell you that you're proclaiming strange things to them?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 621

## Athenians Today



How did the Athenians spend their time? They liked to spend time telling or hearing something new.

Paul came to Athens and looked around the city and spent time in the marketplace every day. Paul liked talking to the Jews and the Greeks and made time daily to speak to people about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul spent time telling people about the Lord Jesus Christ. That turned out to be a good fit for many Athenians because they liked hearing about new things. Some Athenians brought Paul to the Areopagus, a place to exchange views. Paul had some dealings with both Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. They came from opposing worldviews, but Paul said the Greeks generally seek for wisdom.

Athens was also a hub of commerce and culture. Strangers came to Athens to visit regularly. Athens had a long history of power and idolatry. Paul came to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to both Jews and Gentiles, Greeks and barbarians, male and female, and old and young.

## *New*

1. **All**. What did Luke tell us about the Athenians? They liked nothing better than hearing or telling something new.
2. **Athenians**. The Athenians were inquisitive people, not necessarily satisfied with the old.
3. **Strangers**. Strangers visiting Athens knew that they too would be exposed to new things.
4. **Time**. The Athenians spent their time getting together with other people to hear or tell something new.
5. **Telling**. In the telling of something new, Paul saw an immediate opening to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ as the eternal God unknown to them and therefore, something new.
6. **Hearing**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul used the Athenians' desire to hear new things by proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ to them.
7. **New**. We rejoice today because Paul proclaimed the eternal love and power of Jesus Christ to the Athenians, inviting them to worship the true and living God.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by learning the customs of people so that we may share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them more effectively.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering how Paul approached the Athenians with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by presenting the truth of God to inquisitive people who like hearing or telling something new.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by presenting the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior to people who like hearing or telling something new. Will you live holy in the family of God today by talking with people about Jesus who like to hear or tell something new?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# 7

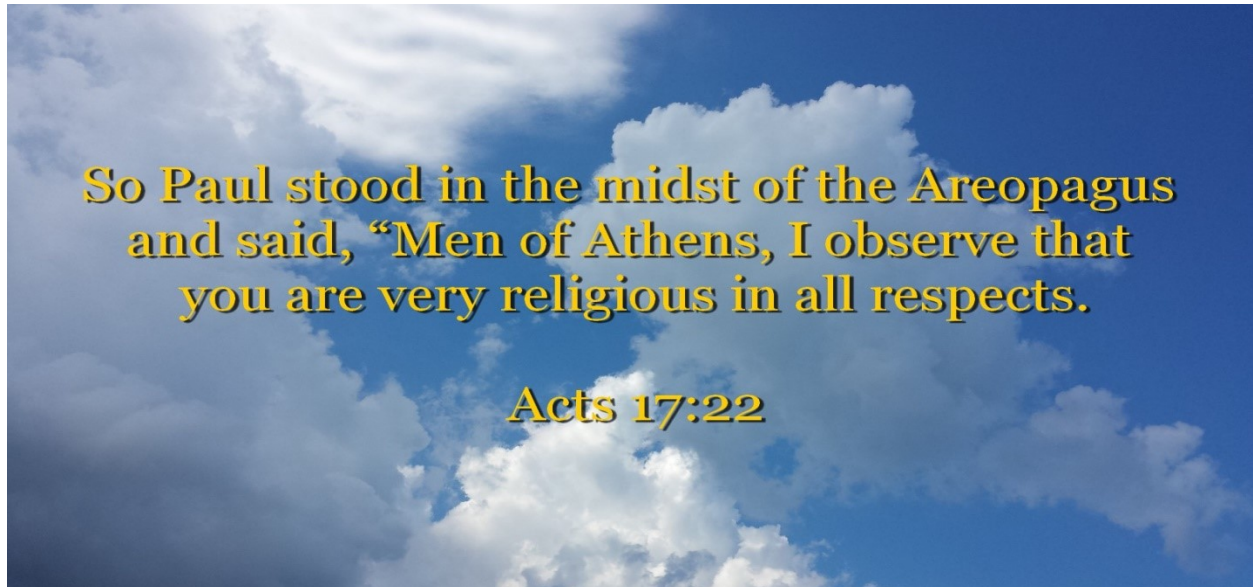
## **Areopagus Today**

Some philosophers took Paul to the Areopagus, because he was proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ and they wanted to hear more. Standing in the midst of the Areopagus, Paul delivered a sermon about the God who made everything, but the Athenians called Him the unknown God and built an altar to Him. When Paul spoke about the resurrection of the dead and invited the people to repent and turn to God, some people began to sneer, but others wanted to hear more. Dionysus the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris believed at Athens

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 622

## Observe Today



How did Paul start his sermon at the Areopagus? Paul addressed the men of Athens.

Paul made his appeal to the broad group of people in Athens. He understood that strangers would be there, and Jews and Gentiles. Paul came to Athens to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to them.

Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus. Temples and altars and places of worship populated that area. So, Paul stood in the midst of idols and people worshiping idols. They loved to hear new things and to tell new things.

Like Jesus before him, Paul related his message to what he observed. Paul tied the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the religious interests of the Athenians. Paul stated at the outset of his message what he had observed about the Athenians. He stated in his sermon that they were very religious in all respects.

The Athenians were spiritually minded people. They understood that life was more than food and water. They understood that a man had spiritual parts and he lived in a spiritual world.

## *Religious*

1. **Paul**. Where did Paul stand? Paul stood in the very midst of the Areopagus and started preaching Jesus.
2. **Stood**. As Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus, temples and altars surrounded the rock outcropping.
3. **Midst**. By standing in the midst of the Areopagus, he was free to address crowds in every direction.
4. **Areopagus**. The Areopagus was a place where people from Athens and strangers could share new ideas.
5. **Observe**. Paul started by observing that the Athenians were very religious.
6. **Religious**. Living holy in the family of God means that very religious people may not know God at all.
7. **All**. We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus Christ sent Paul to the Areopagus to proclaim the Gospel to people who loved to hear and tell new things.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by observing the kind of people before us who need to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by starting with points of interest gleaned from observing the religious objects of worship among the people in the audience.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by finding a point of contact with the audience as we proclaim Jesus to people.**

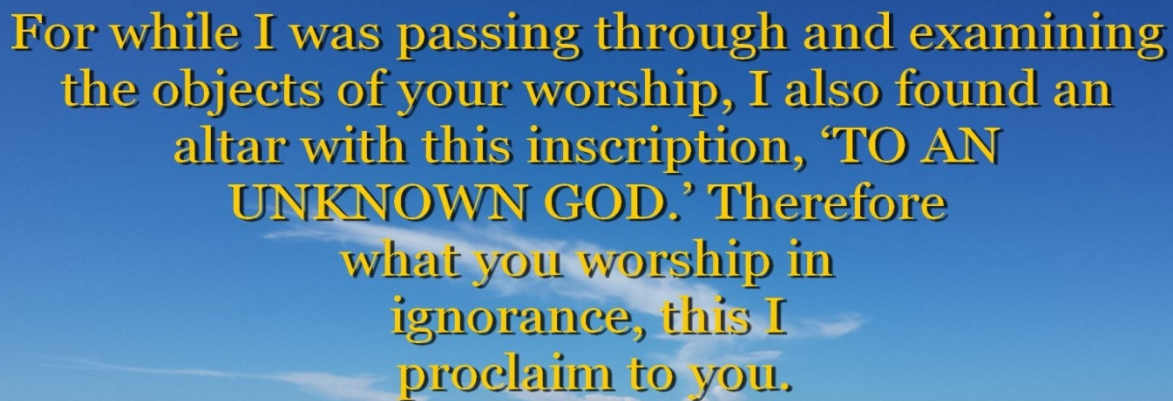
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by letting people know that we understand how religious they are. Will you live holy in the family of God today by letting very religious people know that they will not see the kingdom of God unless they are born again through Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 623

## Worship Today



For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

Acts 17:23

How did Paul connect to their own religious practices? Paul connected by talking about the altar with an inscription to an unknown God.

The Holy Spirit moved Paul to speak for God. Paul saw the altar to an unknown God and immediately connected the Lord Jesus Christ to the Athenians' desire to worship even an unknown God.

Paul started where the Athenians were. He noticed a point of contact with their own altar to an unknown God. Paul knew that the Athenians worshiped in ignorance, but that ignorance was self-proclaimed. They knew the God behind that altar was unknown to them.

In the wisdom of God, Paul connected the Lord Jesus Christ to the unknown God before them. Jesus was the unknown God of the unknown altar. Paul came to reveal that God, the Lord Jesus Christ, to them. Paul stated that they worshiped that unknown God in ignorance. In fact, the Lord Jesus Christ was the creator of all things, including all people. Paul had found a beautiful way of introducing the Lord Jesus Christ to the Athenians by means of their own altar to the unknown God. Therefore, by passing through



and noticing their objects of worship, Paul found the perfect starting point to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Athenians.

## ***Ignorance***

1. **I.** How did Paul form a point of contact with the Athenians? Paul provided a point of contact by speaking in the first person about what he had seen in Athens.

2. **Passing.** Paul passed through many parts of Athens, including the marketplaces.

3. **Examining.** As Paul passed through, he was examining their religious practices, including their altars and temples.

4. **Objects.** Paul described things as objects of worship, of which the Athenians had many, to different gods.

5. **Found.** Paul found an altar to the unknown God and used that altar as a point of spiritual contact with the Athenians.

6. **Altar.** Living holy in the family of God means that we remember and learn from Paul how he built his sermon to the Athenians using their own altar to the unknown God.

7. **Unknown.** We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus Christ has made Himself known through the creation and by His personal appearance, so that the Athenians' own altar to the unknown God formed the perfect starting point for Paul to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them. What they worshiped in ignorance, Paul proclaimed to them.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ to the people who worship an unknown God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by finding points of contact with the audience so that we may proclaim Jesus to them using one of their own objects of worship.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by relying upon God to open the eyes and hearts of people using their own objects of worship to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ to them.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by explaining to people that the God they worship in ignorance is actually the Lord Jesus Christ, the creator of all men and all things in heaven and earth. Will you live holy in the family of God today by delighting in Jesus and His ways of revealing Himself to people who worship in ignorance?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 624

## World Today



What did Paul say about temples? Paul said that God does not dwell in temples made with hands.

Paul explained that the God who made the world and all things in it obviously does not need a temple made with human hands. Anyone big enough, wise enough, and strong enough to make the entire world could not be contained in a temple constructed by human hands. As a matter of fact, the entire world could not contain the God who made heaven and earth.

Paul started his sermon with deep theology. He explained that all the idols and all the temples surrounding the Areopagus and filling up Athens obviously did not serve the true God. Therefore, Paul adroitly showed that God does not dwell in temples made with human hands. Paul created both the human hands and the heavens and the earth. Every temple on earth and every human on earth had been created by God in the sense that they all depended upon things God had created first. The temples were not made out of nothing, but they were made out of something provided by God. Likewise, men were not created out of nothing, but came from God. Therefore, because God made the world and all things in it, including the temples and altars and

everything else made with human hands, God does not dwell in temples made with human hands.

## *Temples*

1. **God.** What did Paul explain about God? God made the world and so He does not dwell in temples made with human hands.

2. **Made.** As Creator of heaven and earth, God made all things, including the world.

3. **World.** Because God made the world, all things in the world were created by God.

4. **Lord.** As Lord of heaven and earth, God does not need human temples for a home.

5. **Heaven.** Because God made both heaven and earth, and He is Lord of heaven and earth, God does not dwell in temples made with human hands.

6. **Temples.** Living holy in the family of God means that Paul explained why the Athenians made temples with their human hands for their gods to dwell in, showing they were not God at all.

7. **Hands.** We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus Christ never needed human hands to create a dwelling place for Him, because He is the God Who created all things and remains the Lord of heaven and earth.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Him as Lord of heaven and earth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by explaining to people that gods who dwell in temples made with human hands are no gods at all.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising Jesus as the creator of heaven and earth and Lord of heaven and earth.**

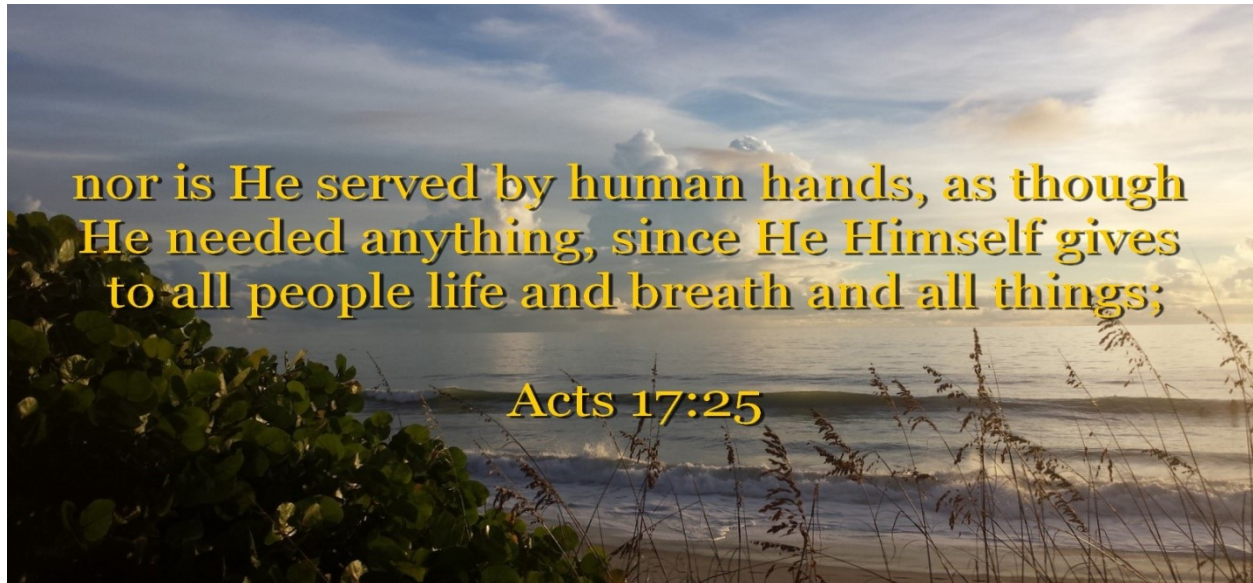
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Lord Jesus Christ does not dwell in temples made by human hands. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping Jesus as both the creator of the world and the Lord of heaven and earth?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 625

## Gives Today



Who gives all people life and breath and all things? The God who made the heavens and the earth is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything.

Paul developed his message further and said all the temples and idols and altars were completely unrelated to the God who made all things. Having proved that God does not dwell in temples made with human hands, Paul then showed that God does not need anything from humans.

In contrast to so much Greek theology, the living God does not depend upon humans to serve Him, as if He needed something. God gives life and breath to all people and all things. Therefore, He does not depend upon people for His existence. God supplies needed things for people, but God needs nothing from humans.

Paul emphasized that God was the creator of all things. The Greek religions provided many different explanations for the creation of the world. Depending upon what god you served, you may have had very different ideas from your neighbor about how the world was created and who created it. Paul

showed that God gives life to all people and all things, and Paul came to present the Lord Jesus Christ as the God who created all things and gives life to all people and all things.

## *All Things*

1. **Served.** Is the true God served with human hands? Paul showed that the true God is not served with human hands.
2. **Hands.** The true God does not need humans to do anything for Him.
3. **Needed.** God has never needed anything from humans.
4. **Anything.** Humans need everything to survive, but God does not need anything to survive.
5. **Gives.** God gives life and breath to all things.
6. **Life.** Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that God gave life to all of us and all things alive on earth.
7. **Breath.** We rejoice today because God put the breath of life into Adam and he became a living soul.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God Himself gives life and breath to all things on earth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God because He needs nothing from us, but He provides life and breath for us and all living things.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God is not served by human hands, as if He needed something from us.**

## **Application for Today**

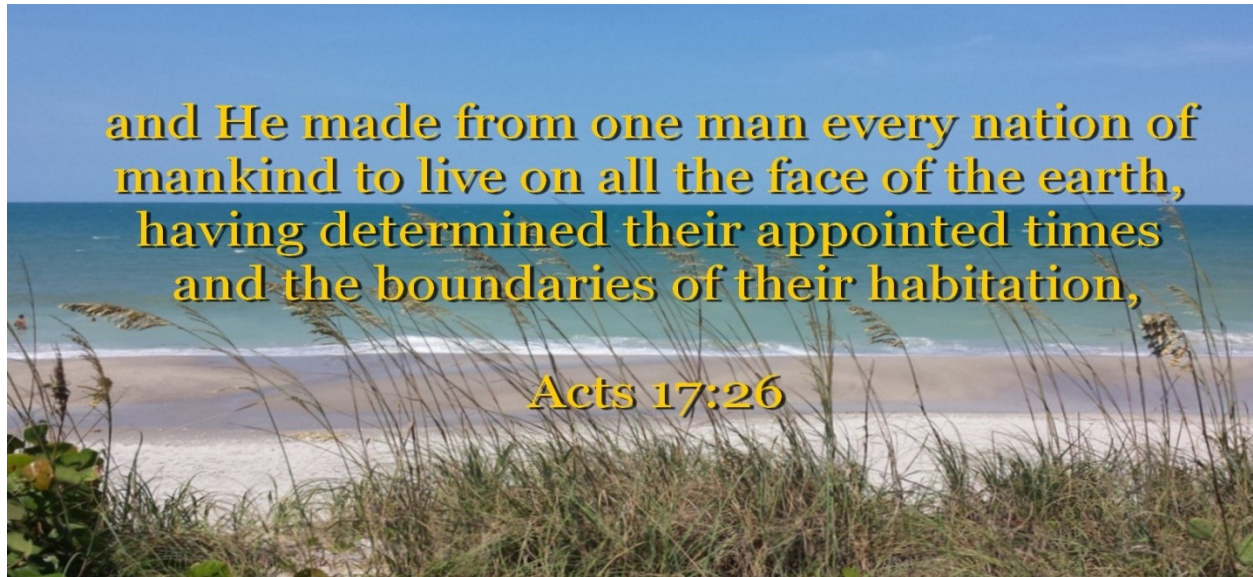
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God today for His self-existence and self-sufficiency. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God gives you life and breath and all things?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 626

## One Man Today



Where did the nations come from? God made the nations from one man.

Paul told the Athenians that God made all the nations from one man, Adam. Paul meant that every nation on the face of the earth came from one man named Adam, created by God in the beginning.

God also appointed their appointed times and boundaries of their habitation. In other words, Paul emphasized that the one living God controlled all things, including the duration of nations and the boundaries of their habitation.

Paul was preaching to the Athenians from the midst of the Areopagus. He started by letting the Athenians know that they had an altar to the unknown God, and Paul had come to tell them about the God they did not know, but worshiped in ignorance.

Paul explained that the Lord Jesus Christ was the unknown God. Through Jesus the heavens and earth were created. Then God created a man named Adam. Through Adam all the nations of the earth came into existence.

## *Mankind*

1. **He**. How did Paul weave creation into his sermon? Paul talked about how God made one man in the beginning.

2. **Made**. God made Adam, the first man.

3. **One**. Adam was the one man God made, and all men can trace their roots back to Adam.

4. **Every**. Every nation on earth can trace back their ancestry to Adam, the man God created.

5. **Appointed**. Regarding the nations, God appointed the nations according to His plans.

6. **Times**. Living holy in the family of God means that God appointed the times for all nations, including their birth and death.

7. **Boundaries**. We rejoice today because God also appointed the boundaries for each nation as to their habitation.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God created one man.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding how Paul used one man to show how God appointed the nations as to their times and boundaries for habitation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the way Paul brought the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Athenians.**

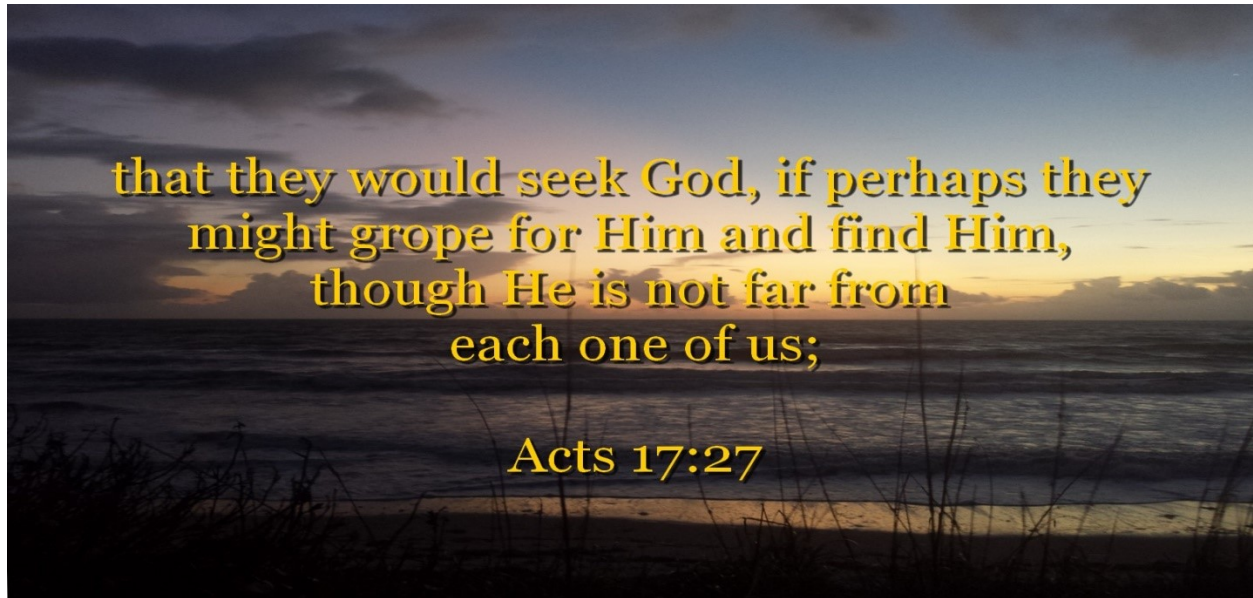
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by presenting the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to different audiences in different ways, while always presenting the essential truths of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Paul shared the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ while standing on the Areopagus and showing God is the creator of all men and nations?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 627

## Seek Today



Why did God create the nations? God created the nations and appointed their times and fixed their habitations so that they would seek God.

God created the nations so that they would seek God. God intended for the people of all nations to grope for Him and find Him. God never intended for man to be separated from Him. God created man to be in fellowship with Him.

Paul also explained that God is not far from each one of us. Greek mythology described many gods living together, but separated from mankind. In contrast, the Lord Jesus Christ not only created heaven and earth and mankind, but He also remained not far from us.

Paul made absolute and sweeping claims based upon the Bible. He relied upon the Old Testament Scriptures and direct revelation from God. Paul spoke in demonstration of the wisdom and power of God. Jesus was the creator of all things and He loves His creation. Jesus took flesh and dwelt among men so that He could give His life on a cross to save men from their

sins. Having accomplished salvation through His death, Jesus rose from the dead as the living Savior of all men. Only by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus can salvation be received one person at a time.

## *Find*

1. **Seek**. Why did God make man to live on the face of the earth? God made man so that men would seek God.
2. **God**. God had a beautiful plan of creation for both man and the nations.
3. **Grope**. God intended for man to grope for God.
4. **Find**. God intended for man to find God.
5. **Not**. God is not far from any man in any nation.
6. **Far**. Living holy in the family of God means that God is not far from all men and all nations.
7. **Each**. We rejoice today because God is not far from each one of us.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that God intended for us to find Him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God is not far from all men and all nations.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He found us and that we found Him.**

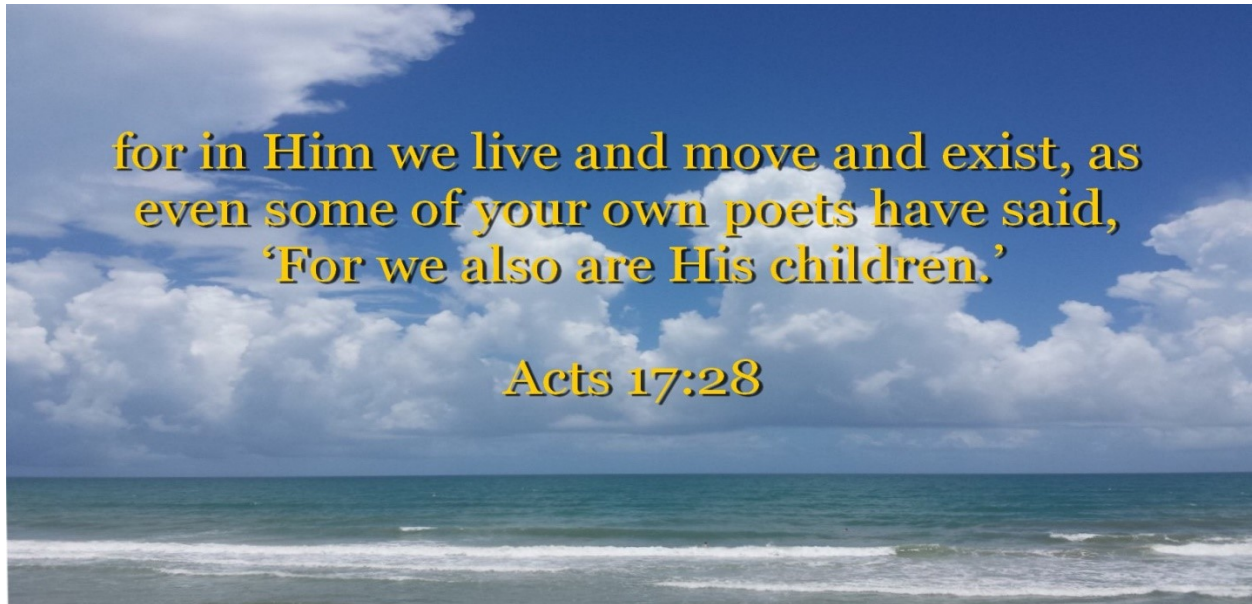
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His presence everywhere so that no one is far from Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that He drew you to Himself?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 628

## Exist Today



Where is God? Paul indicated that we live and move and exist in God.

As Paul explained the unknown God to the Athenians, Paul laid out basic theology from the Scriptures. Paul knew about Genesis and the creation of Adam. Paul also knew that God had created the nations from one man and set their habitations.

Paul made it plain that he was not proclaiming the God of Israel, but rather the God of Israel was the God of the whole world. Paul described God as the Creator of heaven and earth. As Creator of heaven and earth, God desired that man would seek Him and find Him.

Paul even quoted one of the Greek poets in saying that we are all the children of God. Paul meant that God as Creator had created man and therefore, by descent from Adam, we are all the children of God. Paul picked another point of reference familiar to his audience by quoting a Greek poet.

Paul proclaimed a God that was very strange and unknown to the Athenians. Paul proclaimed Jesus as the God who is all around them and they lived in Him, whether they knew it or not.

## *His Children*

1. **For.** How did Paul connect God's presence to the Athenians? Paul declared that God made all men and all men live and move and exist in Him.
2. **Him.** Paul told the Athenians that they live in Him, referring to God.
3. **Live.** In fact, Paul told the Athenians that not only did they live in God, but they also move and exist in God.
4. **Poets.** To prove this point further, Paul quoted one of their own poets.
5. **We.** The poet declared: "For we are all His children."
6. **His.** Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit led Paul to show that the Athenians were children of God, but ignorant of God.
7. **Children.** We rejoice today because in Adam all people are the children of God and live and move and exist in Him.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by following God's lead to share the gospel in culturally relevant ways, while maintaining the basic truths of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that we are all the children of God, because we all descended from Adam, and God formed Adam from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nose the breath of life.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that evangelism often starts with a point of commonality.**

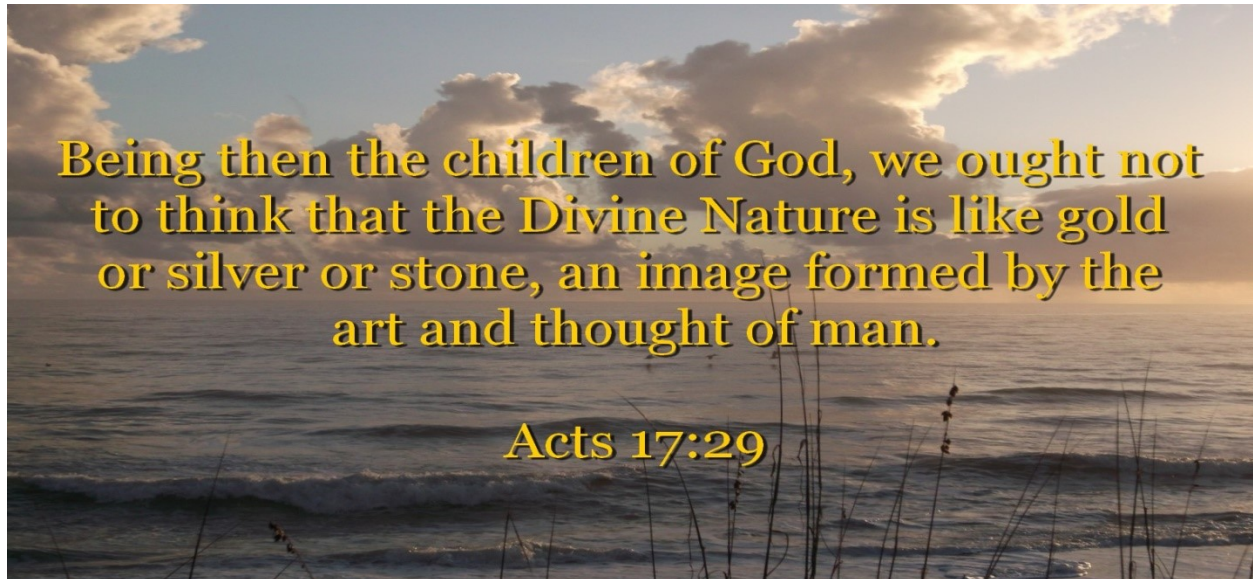
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by reminding people that we were all children of God because of Adam. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God because we all live and move and exist in Him?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 629

## Image Today



How did Paul prove that idols are nothing? Paul first proved that all people are the children of God by virtue of their descent from Adam, the first man.

God created Adam and fixed the boundaries of the nations and their habitations. He created man that man would search for Him and find Him. God intended to have a relationship with man from the beginning.

Paul also quoted one of the Greek poets to show that all men are the children of God, because they descended from Adam, the first man. God created Adam, so in that sense, God created all men.

Having shown that all men are the children of God, men should not think that the divine nature is like gold or silver or stone. Men made idols of gold, silver and stone, but those idols were nothing like the real God. Those idols were formed by the art and thought of man. Paul had already shown that gods do not dwell in things made with human hands. God has no need of anything provided by human hands. Therefore, Paul had shown that the gods of the Greeks were really no gods at all, but imposters. Paul

demonstrated that the unknown God was Jesus who created the entire universe.

## *Man*

1. **Being**. Being children of God, how should we think about God? We should not think that God is like idols.

2. **Children**. Because we are children of God, we can know things about the Divine Nature.

3. **God**. God wants us to understand His Divine Nature.

4. **Not**. His Divine Nature is not like precious metals on earth.

5. **Gold**. His Divine Nature is not like gold or silver or stone.

6. **Formed**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Divine Nature of God is not like something man formed.

7. **Man**. We rejoice today because the Divine Nature is not an image formed by the art and thought of man.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Divine Nature cannot be expressed by the art and thought of man.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God is a spirit and must be worshiped in spirit and truth because His Divine Nature is not like gold or silver or stone.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by helping people understand the Divine Nature of God.**

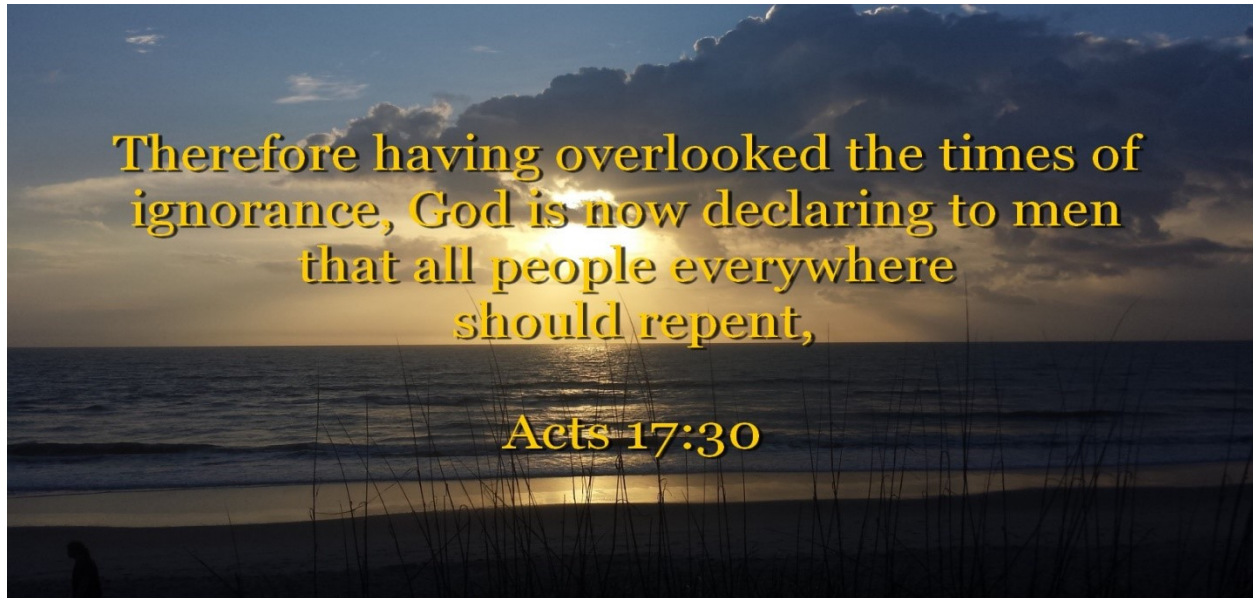
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by explaining that the Divine Nature of God is not like the art and thought of man. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that you have become a partaker of the Divine Nature of God by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 630

## Overlooked Today



Why should people repent? Because God has overlooked the times of ignorance and now declares that all people everywhere should repent.

Paul did not describe creation theology so that the Athenians would have something new to chat about in the marketplace at the Areopagus. God sent Paul to Athens to save souls so that they would not spend eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Paul spoke about repentance before God. As the one and only true God, the Lord Jesus Christ calls men to repentance. He calls as the Creator of all men from all nations. He calls as the Father of all men.

God overlooked the times of ignorance. The Athenians worshiped the unknown God by providing an altar for Him. Paul used that altar to describe the true God that the Athenians did not know. Paul sounded the alarm of urgency by showing that God had overlooked their ignorance, but now times were changing.

God sent Paul to Athens to proclaim repentance. Paul meant that repentance would mean a turning away from idols to the true God for salvation. Only in Jesus could the Athenians find peace with God and forgiveness of sins.

## ***Ignorance***

1. **Therefore**. What conclusions did Paul draw about God's patience and kindness? Paul said that God overlooked the times of man's ignorance.

2. **Overlooked**. Just because God overlooked the times of ignorance does not mean that God will not hold man responsible for his behavior.

3. **Ignorance**. Paul started a sermon by talking about the altar to the unknown God which the Athenians worshiped in ignorance.

4. **God**. God now speaks to all men, including the Athenians

5. **Declaring**. God is declaring that all men should repent.

6. **All**. Living holy in the family of God means that we love God for overlooking the times of ignorance in commanding that all men repent immediately of their sinful behavior.

7. **Repent**. We rejoice today because God commands repentance, and Godly sorrow leads to salvation.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by enjoying the kindness of God in overlooking times of ignorance.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by reminding people that God is declaring that all men should repent.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by proclaiming repentance in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ which leads to salvation.**

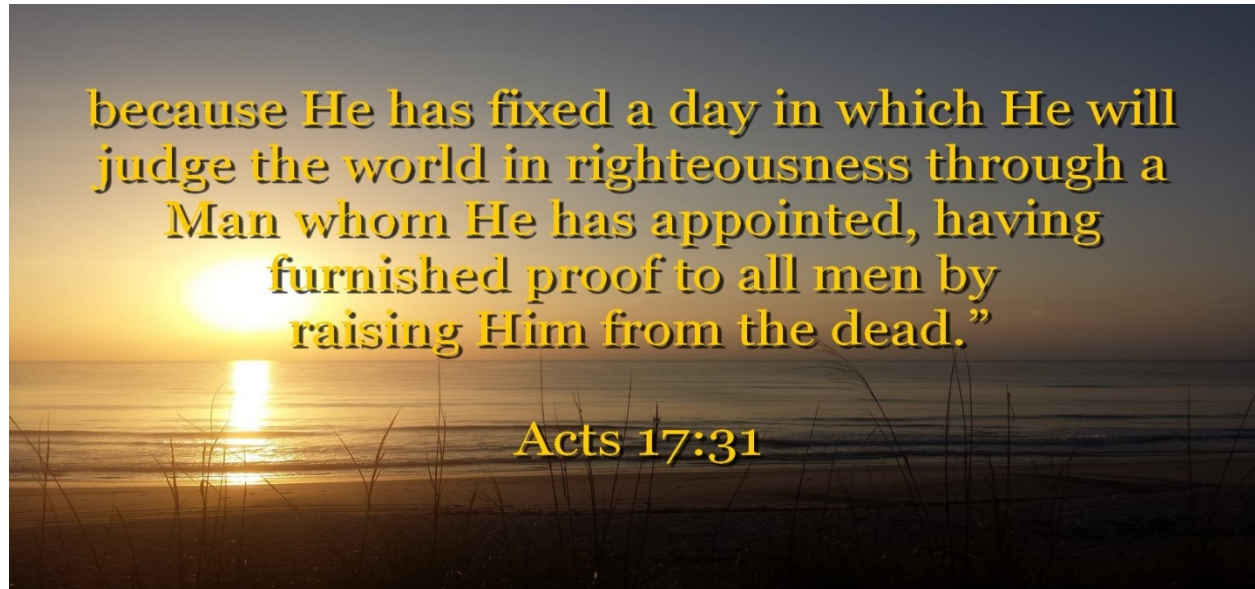
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by declaring to men that they should repent because God commands it. Will you live holy in the family of God today by reminding people that God overlooks ignorance, but still declares that all men should repent?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 631

## Judge Today



What is Judgment Day about? God has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness.

As Paul addressed the Athenians of the Areopagus, Paul described God as being present everywhere. He also said that all people are the children of God through Adam.

God had overlooked the times of ignorance, but now he called upon men to repent. Paul emphasized the unknown God wanted people to find Him, but they must repent of their sins and look to Jesus Christ for salvation. Paul then turned to the subject of judgment.

Paul explained that God had fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness. God will judge the world through a Man whom He has appointed. That Man is the Lord Jesus Christ. God has furnished absolute proof of His intention to bring judgment upon all men by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

As the risen Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ will judge all men who fail to repent during their lifetimes on earth. He will judge them in righteousness.



No one will be found righteous unless they have turned to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation while they were alive on earth.

## ***Righteousness***

1. **Because**. Why should men repent? Men should repent because God will bring judgment upon the world.

2. **Fixed**. God has already fixed the time of that judgment.

3. **Day**. Paul explained that Judgment Day is coming up on everyone in the world.

4. **Judge**. God will judge the world in righteous judgment.

5. **World**. The entire world will be subject to God and His judgment.

6. **Man**. Living holy in the family of God means that God has selected a Man to act as judge of the entire world.

7. **Proof**. We rejoice today because God has furnished proof to all men by raising the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that men should repent because God has fixed a day of judgment.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming that the world will be judged through Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by warning people that Judgment Day is coming and the whole world will be judged by Jesus Christ.**

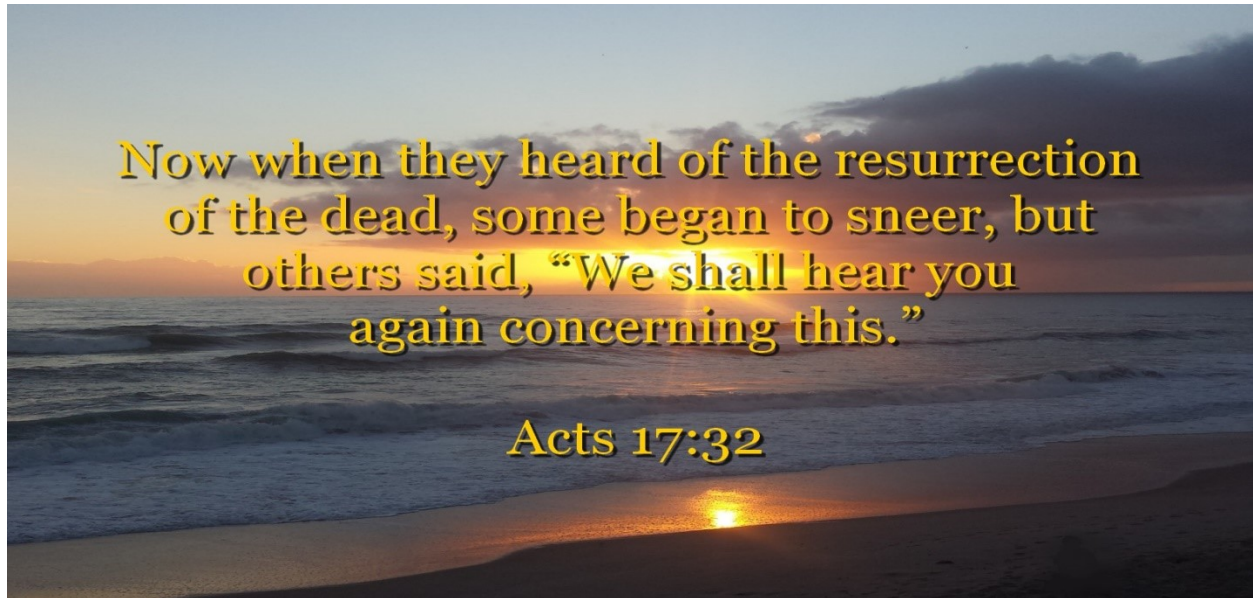
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God has furnished proof to all men that Judgment Day is coming by raising Jesus Christ from the dead. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the Lord Jesus Christ will judge the world?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 632

## Resurrection Today



How did the Athenians react to the resurrection of the dead? Some began to sneer but others said they will hear you again concerning this matter.

Paul repeatedly emphasized throughout his writings that salvation was nothing without the resurrection of Christ. If Christ was not raised, then everyone who trusted in Him for salvation remains in their sins and completely lost.

At the Areopagus in Athens, Paul proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. His proclamation of the Gospel always included the resurrection of Jesus, according to the Scriptures. Paul always proclaimed a risen Savior.

The Athenians listening to Paul had varied reactions to the claim of resurrection. Some scoffed and sneered at the mere mention of resurrection. Others wanted to hear more about this claim of resurrection. When people put off receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, they risk eternity in the Lake of Fire because they do not know if they will live another day. The Scriptures

repeatedly affirmed that today is the day of salvation in no one should delay in receiving Jesus Christ as Savior.

## *Hear*

1. **When**. How did the Avid Athenians respond when they heard about the resurrection of the dead? Some Avid Athenians sneered, while others wanted to hear more at a later date.

2. **Heard**. The Avid Athenians heard Paul talking about resurrection from the dead and judgment to follow.

3. **Resurrection**. Many of the Avid Athenians did not believe in the resurrection.

4. **Dead**. Many of the Avid Athenians denied any life after death for anyone.

5. **Sneered**. Some of the Avid Athenians sneered when Paul spoke about the resurrection of the dead and the Judgment Day to follow.

6. **Hear**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand that when some people hear about the resurrection and Judgment Day, they will sneer in disbelief.

7. **Again**. We rejoice today because some people want to hear more about resurrection and Judgment Day, but Paul moved on to the Corinth.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that some people will sneer in disbelief when we speak about the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that resurrection always plays a central role in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ, even when people sneer at the thought.**

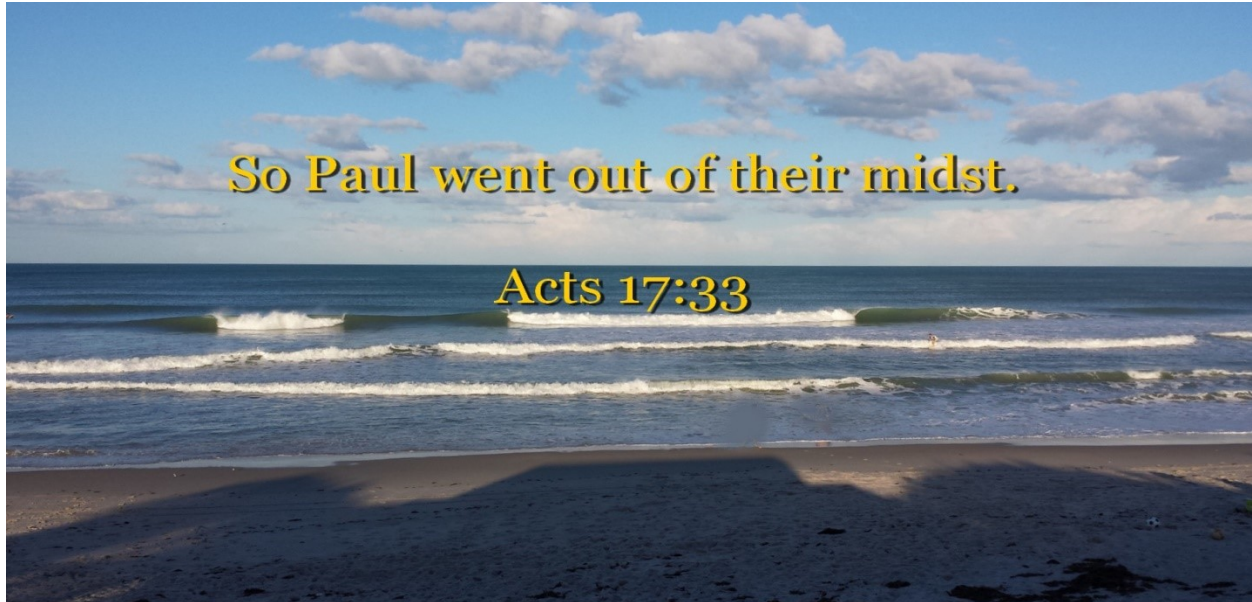
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by glorifying God for the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ which furnishes proof to all men that Judgment Day is coming. Will you live holy in the family of God today by urging people to examine the evidence that God has furnished to all men that Judgment Day is coming and the dead will be raised to face that judgment?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 633

## Paul Today



What did Paul do after he delivered his message? Paul went out of their midst.

Paul spent Sabbaths in the synagogue proclaiming Christ. He also spent time in the marketplace proclaiming Christ. He talked to whoever was present and whoever would listen to him. Paul traveled from Asia to Europe for the purpose of delivering the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul had been chased out of Berea by the Jealous Jews of Thessalonica. The Avid Athenians worshiped an unknown God and loved to learn and talk about new things. Yet, when presented with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, they were not avid to learn more.

When Paul talked about the resurrection, some of the Avid Athenians sneered, while others remained uncertain and wanted to hear more. When people lacked interest in the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ, Paul often moved on to new lands.

In this case, we have no letter written by Paul to Athens. Paul wrote to many cities he visited, but Athens was not on that list.

## *Went Out*

1. **So**. What did Paul do after delivering his sermon on the Areopagus? He left the people with some sneering and some wanting to hear more later.

2. **Paul**. Paul followed the leading of the Holy Spirit and knew the time had come to leave.

3. **Went**. Paul went out of the Areopagus, leaving behind a mixed multitude of Avid Athenians.

4. **Out**. When Paul went out, the Judgment Day had drawn closer during the time he was speaking and every day thereafter.

5. **Of**. Paul went out of the midst of the people gathered at the Areopagus with no record that many of them responded by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

6. **Their**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul proclaimed a wonderful message to the Avid Athenians, but he left their midst with that message falling upon many hard hearts.

7. **Midst**. We rejoice today because Paul faithfully proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Avid Athenians who worshiped the unknown God, but not many of them desired to learn about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and Judgment Day to follow.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the Lord Jesus Christ and His resurrection.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that each believer passed out of judgment and into life at the moment of salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that every person will be resurrected, some to eternal life and others to judgment.**

## **Application for Today**

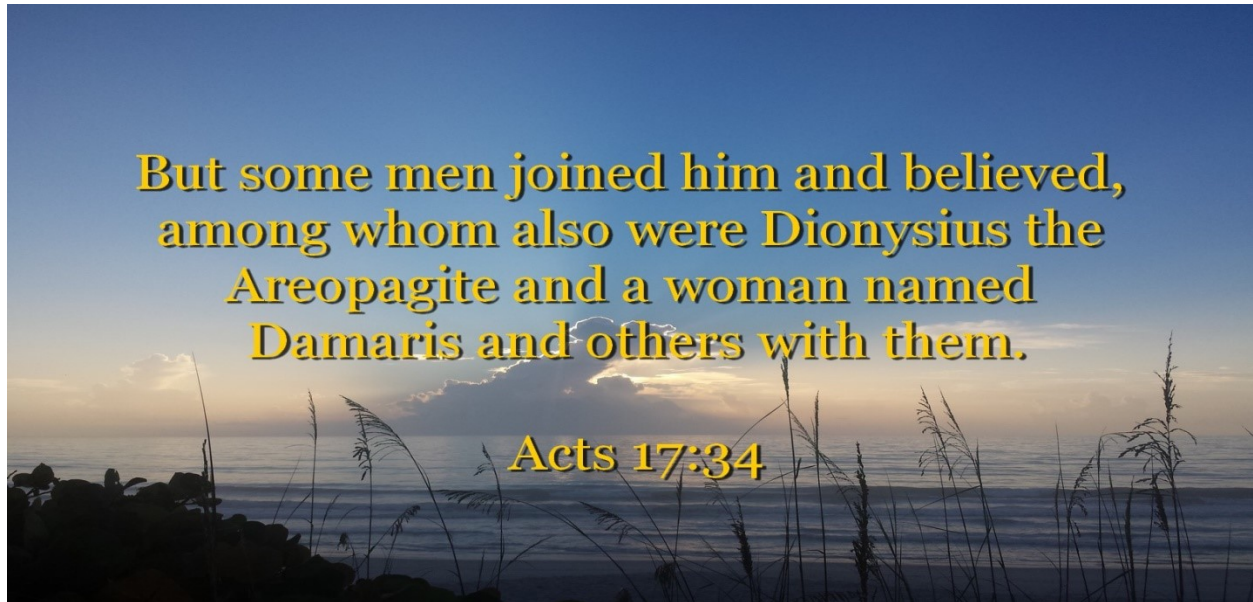
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that Paul went to Athens and faithfully proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, emphasizing repentance, resurrection, judgment and the grace of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by warning people about the Judgment Day before you leave their midst?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 634

## Some Today



Who joined Paul at Athens? Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them believed.

Paul did not name any Jews who believed at Athens. Some people with Greek names did believe and joined Paul. Dionysus the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris joined Paul after believing. Others also joined after believing.

Although many Athenians did not believe, Paul proclaimed Jesus in the synagogue and in the marketplace and at the Areopagus. Paul took many opportunities to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ to a city full of people steeped in philosophy and idolatry.

Paul had his spirit provoked by all the idolatry he saw in Athens. The Avid Athenians loved to talk about new things and to hear new things. They invited Paul to come to the Areopagus so that he could tell them about Jesus. Paul accommodated them and went to the Areopagus and proclaimed Christ and His resurrection. Some people in the audience sneered and others

wanted to hear more later. Paul, however, left them. Paul was preparing to leave Athens.

## ***Believed***

1. **But**. Who believed among the Avid Athenians? Dionysus the Areopagite and Damaris believed, along with some other people.

2. **Some**. Although many Avid Athenians rejected faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, some people believed.

3. **Joined**. The people who believed joined with Paul.

4. **Dionysus**. Dionysus the Areopagite apparently was well known for his time and speaking at the Areopagus and he believed and joined Paul.

5. **Damaris**. Likewise, a woman named Damaris also believed and joined Paul.

6. **Others**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul had others join him as well, as a result of his proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Them**. We rejoice today because as Paul left Athens, some people believed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and joined Paul.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Dionysus the Areopagite and the woman Damaris joined Paul in Athens.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God because He calls people to Himself, even in Athens.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that some of the wise and intelligent of this world living in Athens when Paul visited there never came to know the Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that His word never returns void to Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to people, no matter where they live or what they think?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# 8

## Corinth

### Today

Paul left Athens and headed to Corinth. There he met a Jew named Aquila and his wife Priscilla, because Emperor Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath in trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

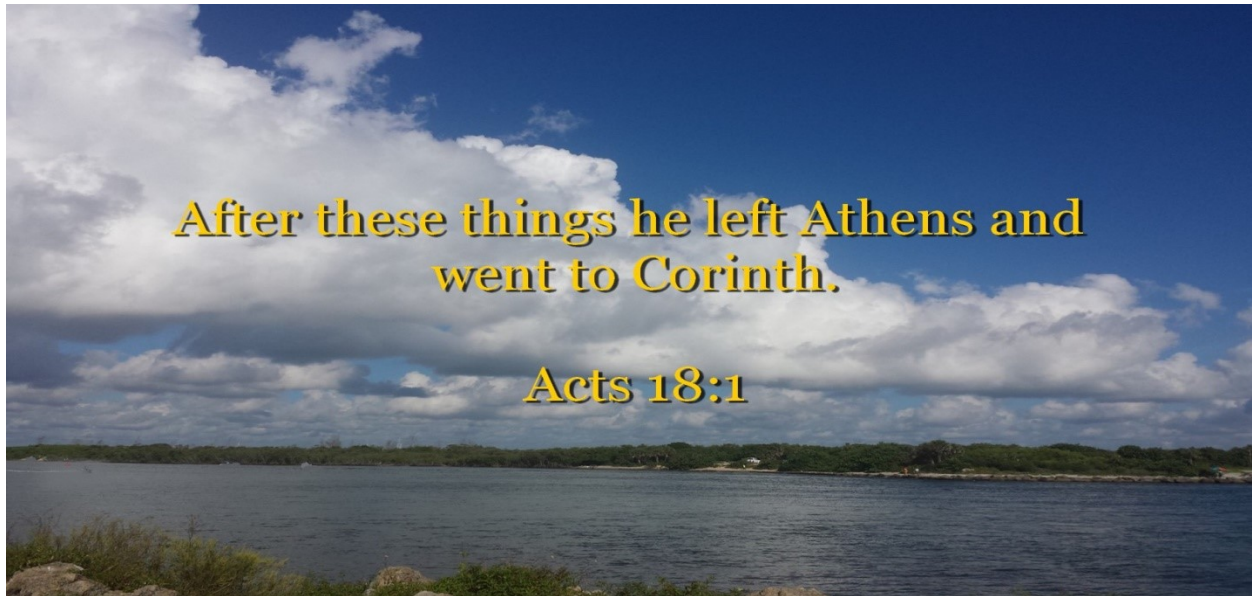
Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, so that Paul could completely devote himself to testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. When they blasphemed, Paul told them he was turning to the Gentiles. Crispus, the leader the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household and many of the Corinthians were also saved and baptized. The Lord Jesus appeared to Paul in a night vision and told him not to be afraid any longer, promising that no man would attack him there. Paul then settled there for a year and a half, teaching the word of God among them.

The Jews at Corinth once again tried to use the government to persecute Paul and brought charges against him. Gallio the proconsul of Achaia heard the charges and then drove them away from the judgment seat. Paul stayed many days longer but left eventually, heading to Syria, taking Priscilla and Aquila. Paul then journeyed on to Ephesus, reasoning in the synagogue there, but left shortly afterward, heading back to Antioch. Priscilla and Aquila stayed behind at Ephesus.

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 635

## Left Athens Today



Where did Paul go after Athens? Paul went to Corinth, Greece, about 44 miles away.

Paul had traveled to Athens after he left Berea. The Jealous Jews of Thessalonica had chased him out of Berea. He left Silas and Timothy behind in Berea, but sent word to them to come to Athens as soon as possible. As Paul waited in Athens, his spirit was provoked by all the idolatry. He spent time in the synagogues and in the marketplace sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Some people invited him to the Areopagus and he went there and proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Avid Athenians loved to hear new things. They were not so moved by Paul and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. After speaking at the Areopagus, Paul went on to Corinth in lower Greece. Corinth was a bustling metropolis and trade center. Two of Paul's letters to the church at Corinth may be found in the New Testament. Based upon the content of those letters, Corinth had many spiritual problems and a wealth of spiritual vitality. They used their spiritual gifts, but required further instruction in how to use them in the church services. Paul spent about 18 months in Corinth.

## *Corinth*

1. **After**. How did Paul know that it was time to leave Athens? Paul left Athens after his message of the Areopagus, where some of the Avid Athenians sneered at the message of resurrection and judgment.

2. **These**. After Paul arrived in Athens, these things happened concerning Paul's proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the synagogues and marketplace, as well as at the Areopagus.

3. **Things**. Paul proclaimed the things pertaining to eternal life and the proof that God furnished to all men concerning the Day of Judgment by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

4. **Left**. As Paul left Athens, the Avid Athenians continued in their idolatry, except for a relative few who received the word of God and turned away from idols to life in Jesus Christ.

5. **Athens**. All the earthly wisdom and knowledge of Athens never led the Avid Athenians to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, except for a few who heard from Paul and joined him in salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Went**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul left Athens and moved on after planting the seeds of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in many places in Athens, but the spiritual soil there was rocky and hard.

7. **Corinth**. We rejoice today because Paul moved on to Corinth, a city very different from Athens in culture and practice.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that after all did Paul did at Athens, only a few people there believed.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that Paul never gave up, but went on to Corinth after leaving Athens.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by moving on when people sneer at the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and reject Him as Savior.**

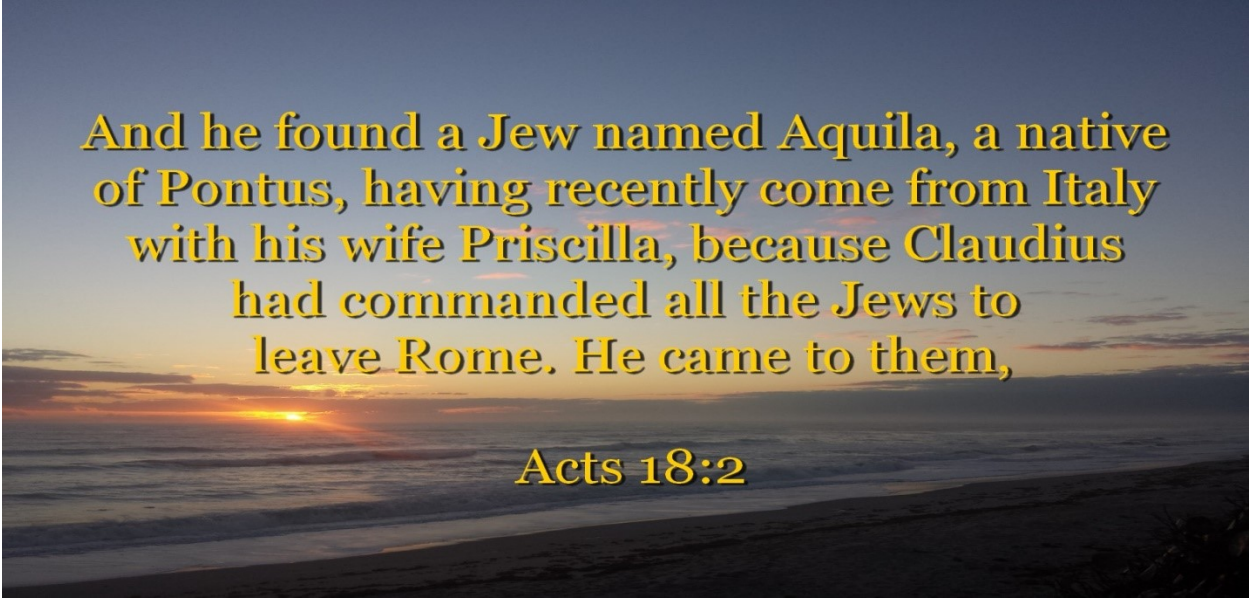
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping the Lord Jesus Christ for His patience with people, but spreading His warning of Judgment Day coming. Will you live holy in the family of God today by begging people to be reconciled to God because Judgment Day is coming, as Paul proclaimed in Athens before he left for Corinth?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 636

## Aquila Today



And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them,

Acts 18:2

Who did Paul meet in Corinth? Paul met Aquila and Priscilla.

Aquila, a native of Pontus, had recently come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla. Claudius, the Roman Emperor, had decreed all the Jews to leave Rome. Historians date the edict of Claudius expelling the Jews from Rome to be somewhere between 41 A.D. to 49 A.D. Therefore, we have some timeline to understand Paul's travels.

Aquila and Priscilla would later help Apollos understand the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They took him aside quietly and explained to him more fully the way of Christ, because he was only acquainted with the baptism of John when they met him. Apollos proclaimed Christ with great power.

Paul had left Athens after spending time there proclaiming Christ as Savior. The Avid Athenians with all their learning and interest in new things largely repudiated Christ and sneered at the resurrection. Paul made a few disciples in Athens.



In contrast, Corinth would see many conversions to the Lord Jesus Christ. Like Athens, Corinth was immersed in idolatry. Paul would spend time in Corinth helping the church grow up in Christ.

## ***Priscilla***

1. **He**. Who were Aquila and Priscilla? They were Jews Paul met in Corinth.
2. **Found**. Paul found Aquila, a native of Pontus, and a Jew.
3. **Jew**. Paul and Silas were Jews and so shared that in common with Aquila.
4. **Aquila**. Aquila and Paul became friends in Corinth.
5. **Pontus**. Pontus was a region in Asia Minor on the southern coast of the Black Sea.
6. **Priscilla**. Living holy in the family of God means that both Aquila and his wife Priscilla became friends with Paul because they were slaves of Jesus Christ.
7. **Claudius**. We rejoice today because Paul met Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth after the Roman Emperor Claudius commanded that all the Jews leave Rome.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul met Aquila and Priscilla at Corinth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the Emperor Claudius commanded the Jews to leave Rome, setting up the meeting in Corinth.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God draws people together from distant reaches of empires.**

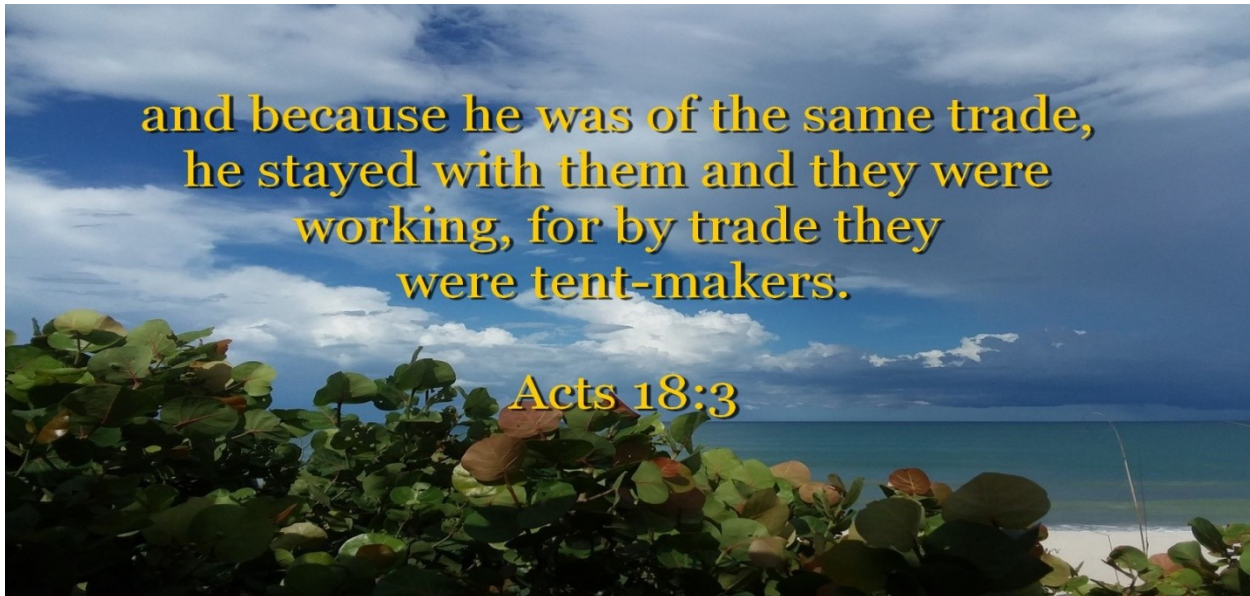
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He moves people through different nations so that they can join ministry teams together. Will you live holy in the family of God today by welcoming people from distant lands as friends and fellow slaves of God?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 637

## Trade Today



What did Paul have in common with Aquila and Priscilla? They both loved Jesus Christ and made tents for a living.

Paul made tents to support his missionary work. Aquila and Priscilla were also tentmakers. Paul mentioned to the Thessalonians that he labored night and day not to be a burden to the people at Thessalonica. Paul not only worked hard at proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but he also worked hard making tents so that he would not be a burden to people.

Paul stayed with Aquila and Priscilla. They also made tents together. Being Jews, Paul and Aquila and Priscilla were familiar with the synagogue. At Corinth Paul made tents with them, until the rest of the ministry team arrived.

At Corinth people sacrificed meat to idols. That meat was later sold in the markets by the temples that received them. Food offered to idols posed a stumbling block to some believers, while others ate that meat without a second thought. Paul spent time in his epistles describing idolatry and

Christian freedom. Paul always had a concern that the freedom we have in Christ not becoming a stumbling block to weaker Christians.

## ***Tent-Makers***

1. **Trade**. Why did Paul come to Priscilla and Aquila? He came to them because they shared the same trade.

2. **Stayed**. Paul stayed with them.

3. **Them**. Priscilla and Aquila opened their home to Paul.

4. **Working**. Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila were working together at Corinth.

5. **By**. They were by trade all tentmakers.

6. **Trade**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul made tents to support himself and others on the ministry team.

7. **Tent-Makers**. We rejoice today because Paul joined other tentmakers at Corinth and was producing tents that sold for enough money to support Paul and other workers.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by making tents as the need arises for support.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God allows us to work and make money in order to support the ministry team.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Aquila and Priscilla making tents with Paul and sharing their home with him.**

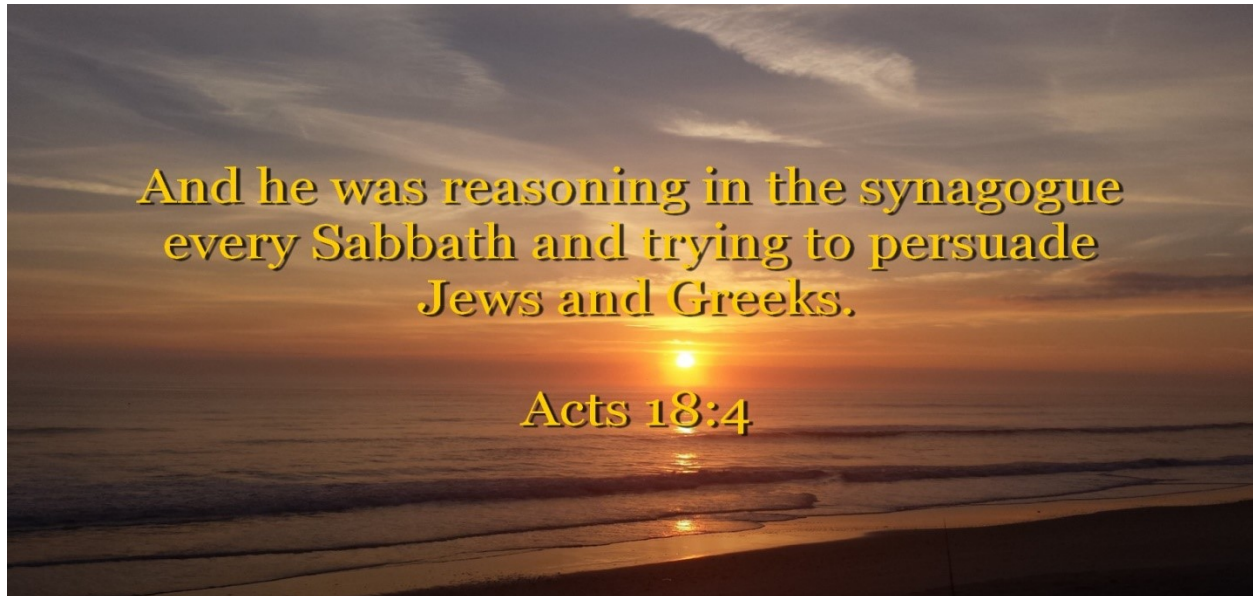
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by working with our hands to earn a living while still ministering in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by working to earn money to support the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 638

## Reasoning Today



What was Paul doing every Sabbath in Corinth? Paul was doing the things he always did on the Sabbath, reasoning with the Jews in the synagogue.

Paul was trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks to come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. In the synagogues God-fearing Greeks and Jews met together. When Paul reasoned in the synagogues, he sought to persuade both Jews and Greeks to receive Jesus Christ as Savior. In many other places the Jews organized opposition and persecution against Paul for saying such things in the synagogue. In addition, Paul also affected commerce in some cities by proclaiming Christ and casting out demons.

Paul also wrote that he was with the Corinthians in much fear and trembling. Paul proclaimed Christ and knew nothing among the Corinthians except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Paul overcame his fears and boldly proclaimed Christ.

The strength of faith in Paul lifted him above his fears and the opposition. Paul reasoned with the Jews and Greeks in the synagogues. Paul

tried to persuade them using reasoning from the Scriptures. Paul knew the Scriptures well and so could use the Scriptures to prove Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ of God.

## ***Persuade***

1. **He**. What was Paul doing in the synagogues? Paul was reasoning in the synagogues from the Scriptures to prove that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ.

2. **Reasoning**. Paul was reasoning from the Scriptures in the synagogues as was his custom on Sabbath days.

3. **Synagogue**. Paul went to the synagogue first when he reached the city.

4. **Trying**. In the synagogue Paul was reasoning from the Scriptures to persuade people to have faith in Jesus as the Christ.

5. **Persuade**. Paul aimed to persuade both Jews and Greeks that Jesus was the Christ.

6. **Jews**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul worked with Priscilla and Aquila and tried to persuade the Jews in the synagogue to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Greeks**. We rejoice today because Paul worked making tents and also went to the synagogue every Sabbath to persuade both Jews and Greeks that Jesus is the Christ of God and Savior of the world.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul made tents during the week and every Sabbath went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Paul reasoned with the Jews from the Scriptures to prove that Jesus was the Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by opening our homes and our lives to missionaries, especially those with whom we work.**

## **Application for Today**

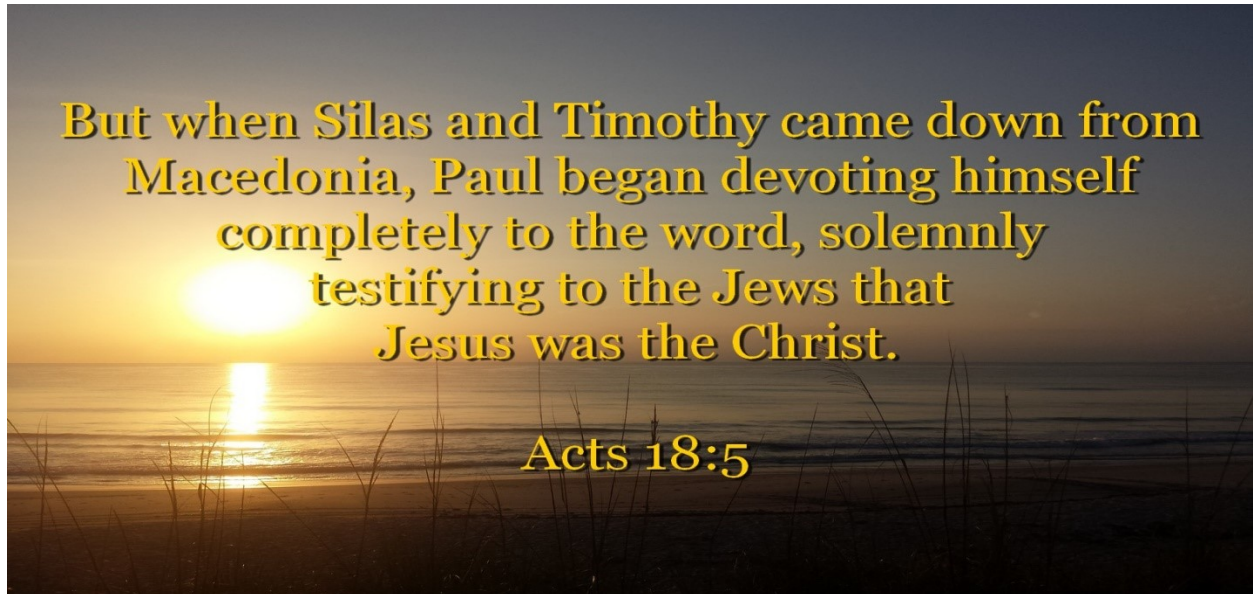
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by spending time, as God provides opportunities, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks that Jesus is the Christ of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trying to persuade people that Jesus is the Christ of God and only Savior?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 639

## Devoting Himself Today



What happened when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia to Corinth? Paul began devoting himself completely to the word.

You may recall that the apostles devoted themselves to the ministry of the word and to prayer in the early church in Jerusalem. Similarly, Paul devoted himself to the ministry of the word. At Athens Paul went to the Areopagus, the synagogue, and the marketplace, proclaiming the word of God.

When Silas and Timothy arrived, Paul was able to devote himself entirely to the word. He testified solemnly to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. Paul bore witness to Jesus, because Jesus met him on the Damascus Road and saved him. Paul did not rely solely upon that meeting on the Damascus Road, but also reasoned with the Jews using the Scriptures. This combination of personal testimony plus reasoning from the Scriptures often provides an excellent way of presenting the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul had suffered much persecution in his travels before reaching Corinth. The reception in Greece was better than the reception in Macedonia

and Asia Minor, in the sense that he was not beaten or stoned and left for dead. Even so, Paul had great fears at Corinth, but persevered.

## *Testifying*

1. **Silas**. What changed when Silas and Timothy arrived in Corinth? Paul stopped making tents.

2. **Macedonia**. Paul had left Silas and Timothy in Berea of Macedonia before he left for Athens and then on to Corinth.

3. **Paul**. After their arrival in Corinth, Paul changed his daily routine.

4. **Devoting**. Paul began devoting himself completely to the ministry of the word.

5. **Word**. Paul was solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

6. **Testifying**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul was testifying that Jesus was the Christ and did so by reasoning with them from the Scriptures.

7. **Jews**. We rejoice today because Paul devoted himself to reaching the Jews first in Corinth.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul devoted himself completely to the word in Corinth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Paul devoted himself to the word for the purpose of solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for sending men like Paul to the Jews so that they would hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

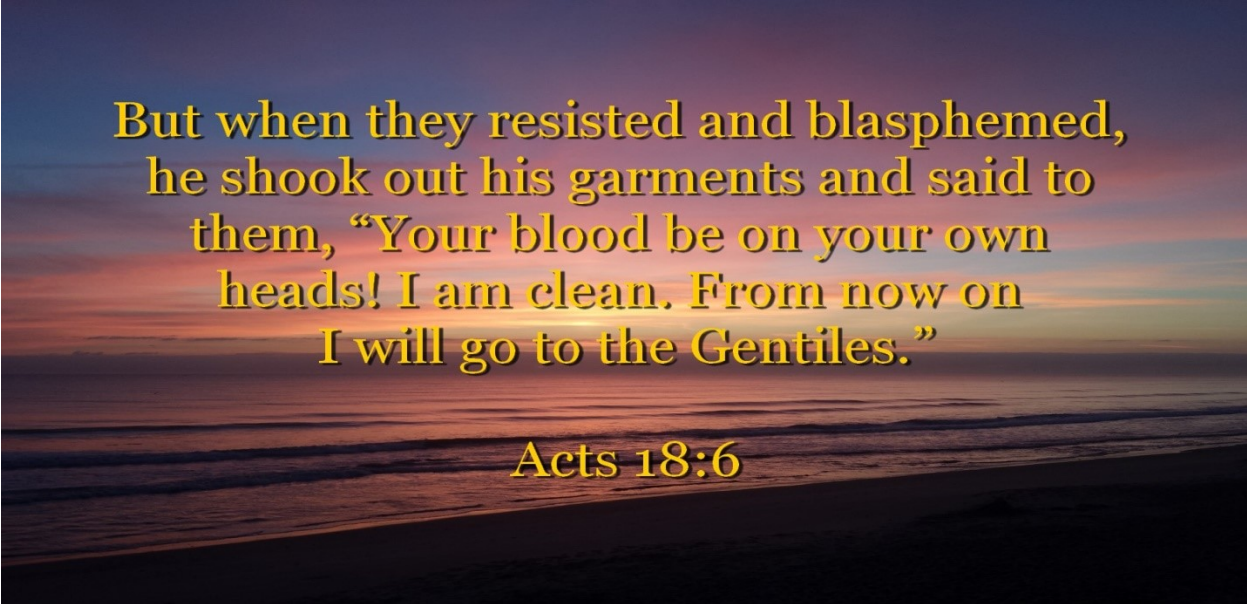
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul devoting himself to the ministry of the word and his solemn testimony to the Jews at Corinth that Jesus really is the Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by devoting yourself to minister as God gives you opportunities?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 640

## Resisted Today



But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

Acts 18:6

Why did Paul leave the Jews and concentrate on the Gentiles? The Jews resisted the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and blasphemed.

When the Jews of Corinth resisted the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and blasphemed the Name of God, Paul changed his focus of attention. Paul shook off his garments in testimony against the Jews of Corinth. He declared that their blood would be on their own heads and that he was clean. Centuries earlier Ezekiel the prophet had declared that if a man does not warn a man from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man will die in his iniquity, but God will require his blood from the man who did not warn the wicked man. Paul was declaring that he had warned the Jews at Corinth, but they rejected that warning and so he was clean from blood guiltiness because he never warned them. When people blaspheme the name of the Lord and reject Him as Savior, like Paul we may shake off our garments and move on.

After leaving the Jews, Paul concentrated on the Gentiles. Corinth was filled with Gentiles and many of them practiced idolatry and immorality. In fact, the Gentiles of Corinth accepted idolatry and immorality as standard

practices. Paul had to admonish the Corinthians to reject idolatry and immorality.

## ***Blasphemed***

1. **When**. Why did Paul stop his ministry to the Jews? Because they blasphemed and resisted the word of God.

2. **Resisted**. Paul devoted himself to the ministry of the word, testified solemnly to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ, but the Jews resisted.

3. **Blasphemed**. The Jews not only resisted, but they also blasphemed.

4. **Garments**. At that point, Paul shook out his garments as a testimony against them.

5. **Blood**. Paul proclaimed to them that their blood would be on their own heads, because he had warned them of judgment coming for ignoring the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Heads**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul turned away from the Jews when they resisted and blasphemed, declaring to them that their blood was on their own heads.

7. **Gentiles**. We rejoice today because having turned away from the Jews because of their resistance and blasphemy, Paul turned to the Gentiles.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by warning people of judgment coming upon all those who reject the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by turning away from people who blaspheme and reject the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by following God's leading on when to turn away from people and turn to other people who want to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

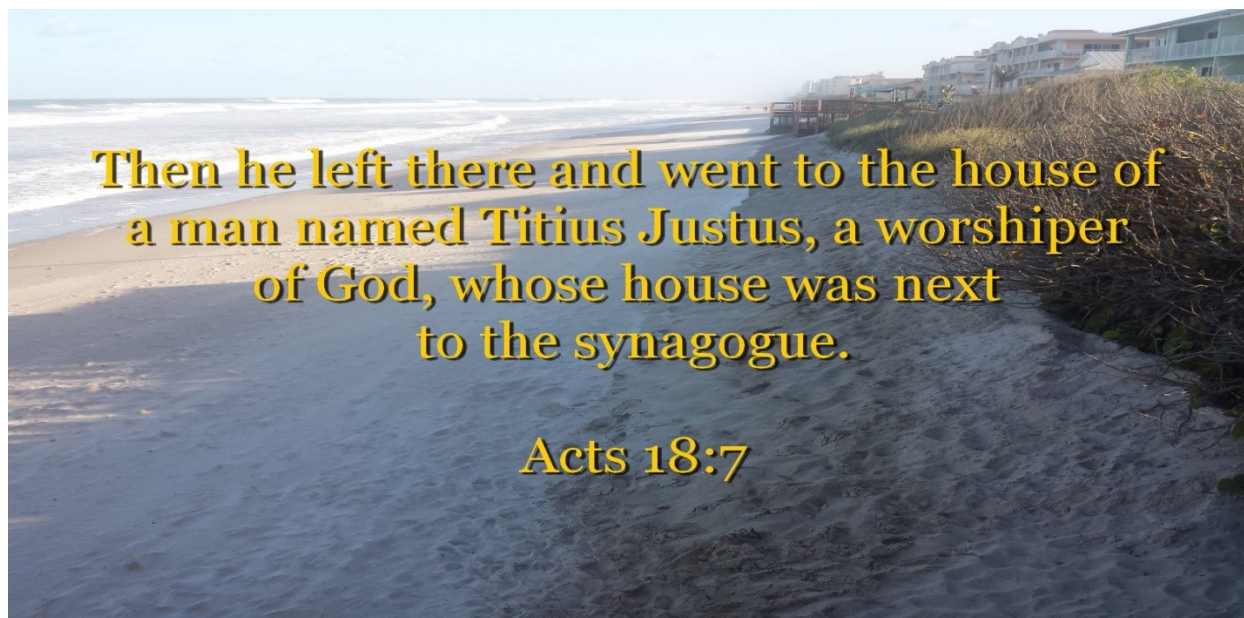
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by turning away from people who resist and blaspheme the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by turning to people who want to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 641

## House Today



Where did Paul go after he left the synagogue? Paul went to the house of Titius Justus.

Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, had a house next to the synagogue. Paul was there when he left the synagogue.

Paul spent time in Corinth reasoning with the Jews in the synagogue every Sabbath. When they blasphemed and resisted the word of the Lord, Paul shook off his garments in testimony against them and left. Paul had fulfilled his duty to warn them about judgment coming upon them for the rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ. He told them that he was not guilty of their blood because of that warning.

Paul also reached out to Gentiles consistently. The history of the expansion of the church in Acts concerns the rise of the Gentiles as the family of God. By faith both Jews and Gentiles join the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. God is no respecter of persons and whomever God has cleansed is welcome in the church. Therefore, the Jews and Gentiles join the same church and worship shoulder to shoulder there.

## ***Worshiper***

1. **Then**. What happened when Paul left the Jews? Paul went to the house of Titius Justus.
2. **He**. The house of Titius Justus was next to the synagogue.
3. **Left**. Paul left the synagogue because the Jews there blasphemed and resisted the word of the Lord.
4. **House**. Paul spent time at the home of Titius Justus because they had something in common.
5. **Worshiper**. Titius Justus was a worshiper of God.
6. **Next**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul left the synagogue because of their resistance and blasphemy, but only went next door to the house of Titius Justus.
7. **Synagogue**. We rejoice today because Paul proclaimed Christ in the synagogue, but having warned them about judgment coming and the grace of God in Jesus Christ, Paul left, shaking the dust off his garment.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul left the synagogue.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Paul left the synagogue and then spent time at the house of Titius Justus, who lived next to the synagogue.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for men like Titius Justus who worshiped God and provided for Paul.**

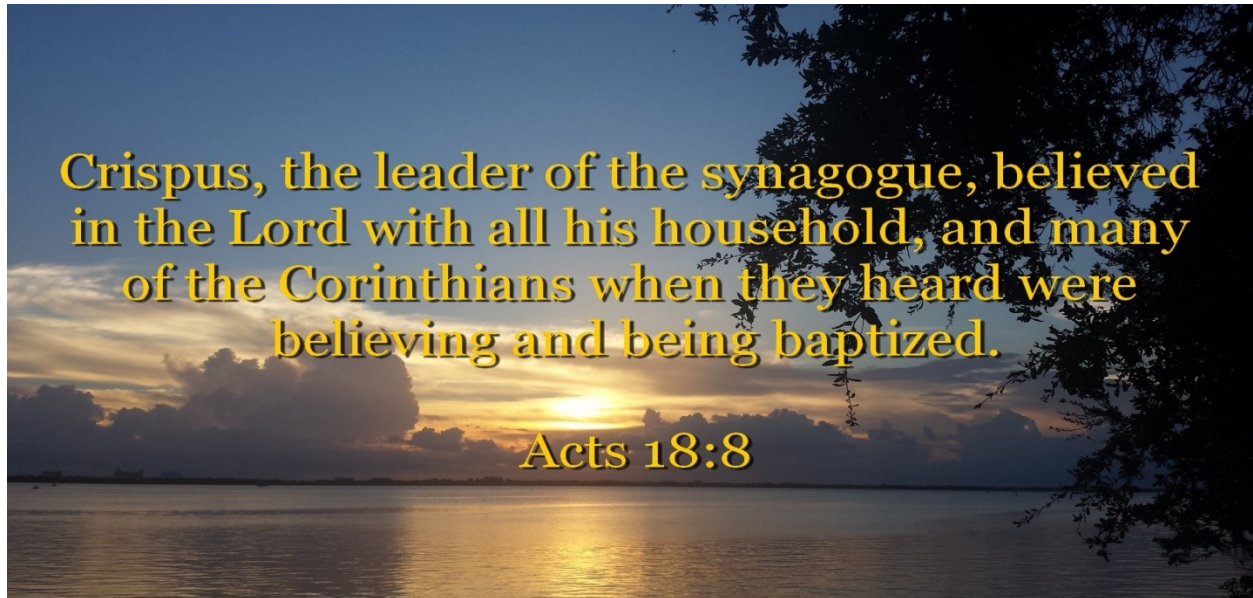
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God because He finds people to help us in our times of need. Will you live holy in the family of God today by extending help to some person in need today?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 642

## Crispus Today



Who was the leader of the synagogue at Corinth? Crispus was the leader of the synagogue at Corinth.

Crispus believed in the Lord Jesus Christ with all his household. Because God is no respecter of persons, Heaven rejoices over the salvation of each individual soul. When Crispus believed, people in that synagogue were bound to take notice.

The New Testament church practiced baptism immediately after salvation, but not before salvation. Therefore, because salvation rests upon faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and baptism occurs only after saving faith, we know that the members of each household who were baptized had saving faith before baptism. Crispus and his entire household were baptized, just like Lydia and her household at Philippi, and the Philippian jailer and his household. Household conversions were not unknown in the New Testament.

Paul, Silas, and Timothy, along with Aquila and Priscilla were all active in the church at Corinth. Likewise, Crispus and his household also joined the church at Corinth by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

## ***Baptized***

1. **Crispus**. What changed with the leader of the synagogue? He received the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.
2. **Leader**. Crispus was the leader of the synagogue at Corinth.
3. **Believed**. Through the ministry of Paul and Silas and Timothy, Crispus and many other people in Corinth believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.
4. **Household**. In fact, the entire household of Crispus believed.
5. **Many**. Many people in Corinth came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, confirming the Lord Jesus Christ extended His love to Greece.
6. **Heard**. Living holy in the family of God means that God blessed many Corinthians when they heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed by Paul so that they turned to the Lord Jesus for salvation.
7. **Baptized**. We rejoice today because many Corinthians not only believed, but also were baptized because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that many people in Corinth came to Christ as Savior.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for men like Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, coming to faith in the Lord Jesus as Savior, along with his whole household.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by welcoming new saints and their believing households and to fellowship with the church.**

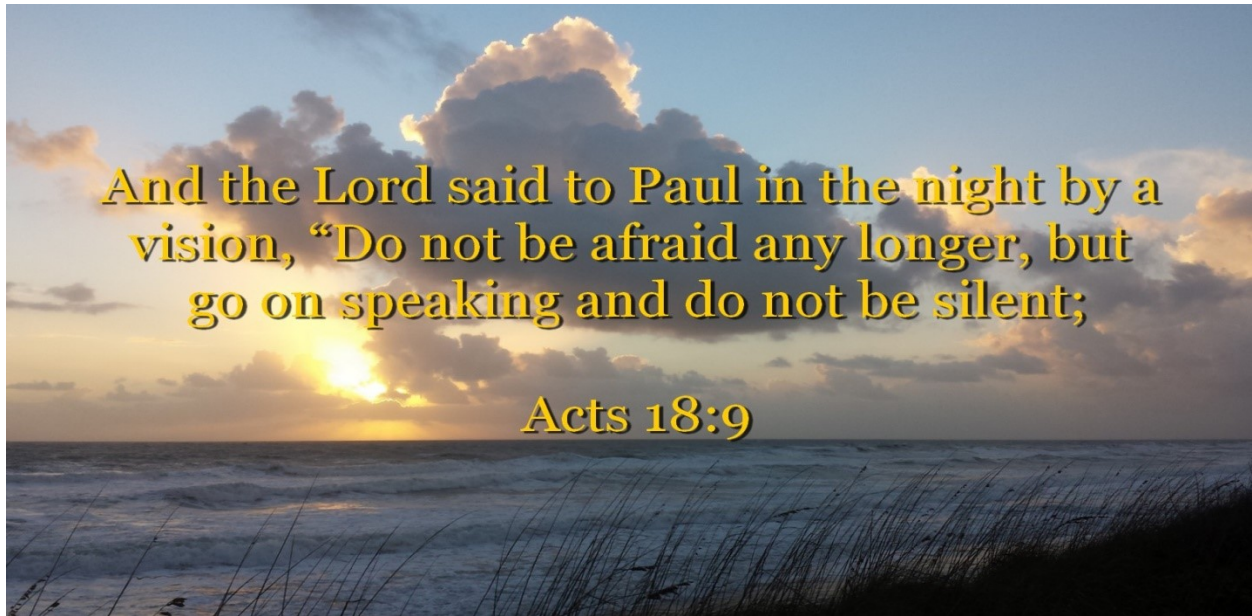
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His mercies to leaders and slaves alike. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to both leaders and slaves?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 643

## Lord Today



Why did the Lord appear to Paul at Corinth? The Lord wanted Paul not to be afraid any longer.

Paul dedicated his life to faithful service to Christ. He risked his neck on numerous occasions and suffered physical injuries many times. He was stoned and left for dead. In many respects, Paul was a hero of the faith. Even so, Paul had his fears. Paul wrote that at Corinth he was there in much fear and trembling.

Paul overcame his fears by the power of the Holy Spirit and the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul was not immune to fear, but by faith triumphed over it. Paul demonstrated a consistent walk with Christ that did not yield to fear. Paul never gave up and he never quit.

At Corinth the Lord Jesus appeared to him in a night vision. Knowing Paul perfectly, the Lord Jesus Christ commanded him not to be fearful any longer. The Lord Jesus further commanded Paul to go on speaking and do not be silent. The tender words of the Lord Jesus Christ to Paul reflect a heart of love for His apostle. Having taken flesh and lived among men, the Lord

Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses and understand our temptations because He was tempted in all ways as we are, yet without sin.

## *Vision*

1. **Lord**. How did the Lord Jesus communicate a message to Paul in Corinth? The Lord Jesus appeared to Paul in a night vision.

2. **Night**. Paul had a vision that night of the Lord Jesus coming and talking to him in Corinth.

3. **Vision**. God spoke to people like Paul and others through visions, just like Paul had seen the Macedonian man calling him to Europe in a vision in Troas.

4. **Afraid**. The Lord Jesus understood the fears of Paul and told him not to be afraid any longer.

5. **Speaking**. The Lord Jesus commanded Paul to keep on speaking and witnessing to many people turning to the Lord Jesus for salvation.

6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that God intends for us to trust Him and overcome our fears, so that we are not silenced by fear or persecution.

7. **Silent**. We rejoice today because Paul did not remain silent, but by the courage and wisdom of God kept right on proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ at Corinth.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus knows exactly how we feel every moment of every day and cares deeply about us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by listening to Jesus telling us not to be afraid, but to keep on speaking and not be silent.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to remember that Jesus does not want us to be silent, but to continue speaking about Him and His great salvation.**

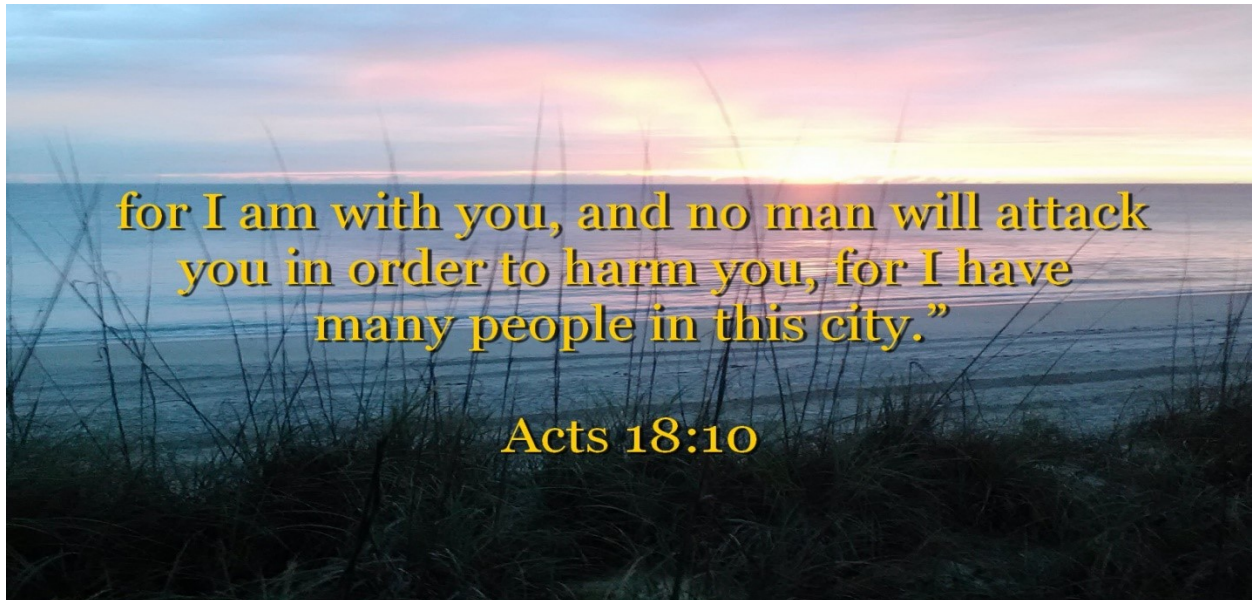
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the words of the Lord Jesus to Paul in the night vision at Corinth about courage overcoming fear so that we continue to speak for the Lord Jesus and not be silent. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking up for Jesus or will you grow silent and live in fear?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 644

## No Man Today



What did the Lord Jesus promise Paul in the night vision at Corinth? The Lord Jesus promised Paul that He would be with him and that no man would attack him in order to harm him.

The Lord Jesus knows how to deliver personal comfort and encouragement. He also understands our needs and meets them perfectly. The love of Jesus Christ is unlike anything else in the universe, except the love of His Father and the Holy Spirit which they all share together.

Having comforted Paul with a promise of His presence, the Lord Jesus then promised that he would not be harmed physically at Corinth. The Lord and not made such a promise to Paul before. Paul had suffered great physical harm on many occasions as he proclaimed the word in Asia and in Macedonia.

Paul remained a stalwart of the Christian faith. He did not give up and he did not quit, even without the promise of no physical harm from the Lord Jesus. Paul continued his ministry after suffering great physical abuse. Jesus



also told Paul that He had many people in the city of Corinth, and they would aid Paul in securing his physical safety.

## *Harm*

1. **For.** What did Jesus promise Paul? Jesus promised Paul that Jesus would be with him.

2. **I.** Jesus spoke in the first person to Paul with the words “I am.” Jesus emphasizes His continuous presence with Paul.

3. **Man.** Jesus also promised Paul that no harm would come upon him from any man.

4. **Attack.** Jesus said that He would not allow a man to attack Paul.

5. **Harm.** Paul had already suffered great harm in his ministry for Christ, but Jesus promised no harm would come to him at Corinth.

6. **Many.** Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus promised Paul that He had many people at Corinth living in that city.

7. **City.** We rejoice today because the city of Corinth became a thriving church, although it also had many problems with spiritual growth and development.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the promises that Jesus made to Paul in the night vision at Corinth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting each day upon Jesus to help us endure that day.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus promised eternal security for all of us and that we should fear no man.**

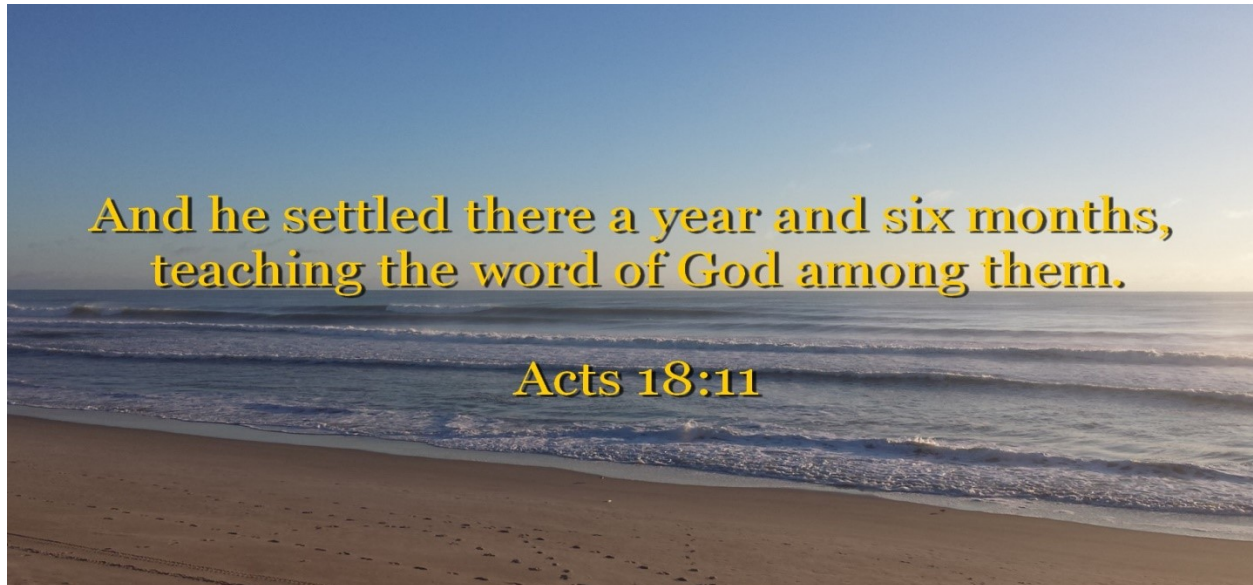
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the promises of Jesus to Paul. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding that Jesus knows our fears and how to strengthen us every day?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 645

## Settled Today



How long did Paul settle in Corinth? Paul settled in Corinth for one year and six months.

Jesus appeared to Paul at Corinth in a night vision. Jesus commanded Paul not to be fearful and to continue speaking and not be silent. Jesus also promised Paul that He would be with him and that no harm would befall him in Corinth, because Jesus had many people in the city. With those wonderful words of encouragement, Paul pressed on and stayed there proclaiming the word of God for 18 months.

Paul was teaching them about the Lord Jesus Christ. Based upon his later letters to the Corinthians, Paul had to teach the Corinthians about morality, idolatry, and in the proper use of spiritual gifts and love in the church. Paul also dealt with giving and the resurrection. Paul had plenty of time at Corinth to make disciples and encourage them to grow up in Christ. Paul fulfilled the command to make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that Christ had commanded.

Paul's service at Corinth included ministry to both Jews and Gentiles. Paul had learned much about proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and making disciples that would grow up in Christ and sustain themselves in Christ.

## *Teaching*

1. **Settled**. What resulted from Paul's night vision? Paul settled in Corinth for 18 months.
2. **Months**. Following the promise of Jesus that he would not be harmed in Corinth by man, Paul settled into a teaching ministry at Corinth.
3. **Teaching**. Paul taught the Corinthians many things based upon the revelations he received directly from God.
4. **Word**. Paul proclaimed the word of God to the Corinthians and later wrote letters to them memorializing those teachings for all of us.
5. **God**. God used Paul mightily at Corinth and kept him safe.
6. **Among**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul lived among the Corinthians as one of their own in Christ.
7. **Them**. We rejoice today because Jesus brought them together, so that Paul lived with the Corinthians as brothers and sisters in Christ.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by counting upon Jesus to help us and protect us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Jesus allows us to be harmed at times for His Name's sake, but He always keeps us eternally secure in Him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus because He takes personal time to encourage each one of us.**

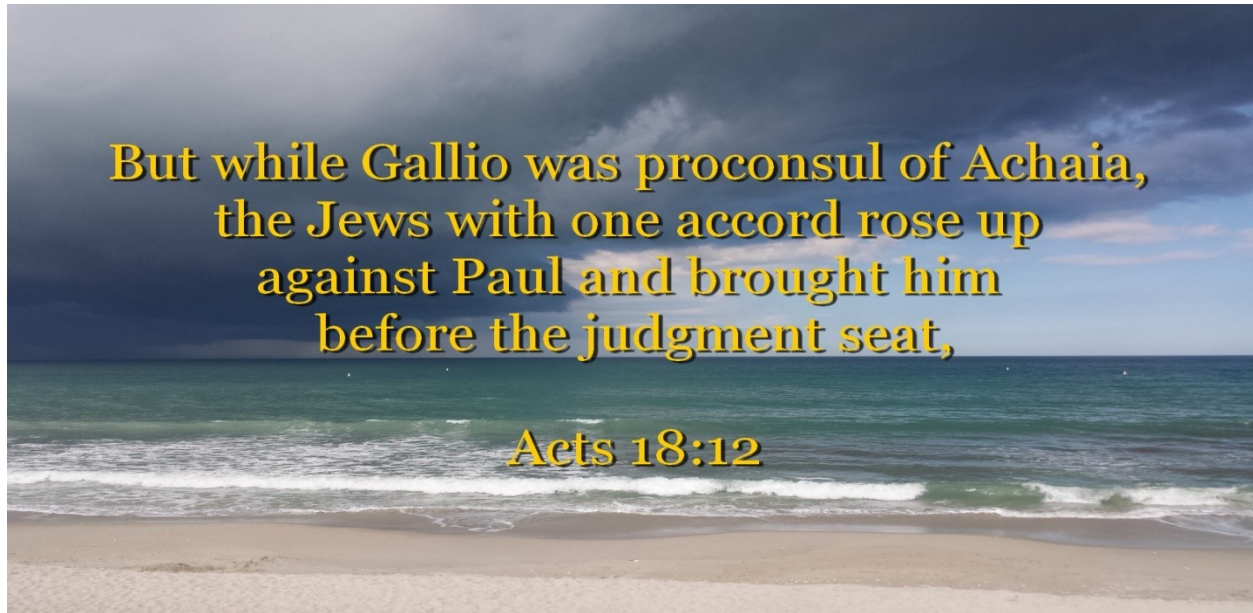
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon Jesus to help us use our spiritual gifts to His glory in the place where He has settled us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding why God has settled you in the place you reside?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 646

## Gallio Today



What happened while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia? The Jews brought Paul before him for judgment.

Jews in other cities had stirred up the people in the government against Paul because he proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. At times, the Jews in other places were successful in obtaining government action against Paul. For example, at Philippi of Macedonia the government authorities there beat Paul with rods and imprisoned him, without knowing that he was a Roman citizen.

The Jews sought all available means to silence Paul. They thoroughly objected to him telling Jews or Gentiles about the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus truly came to His own and His own received Him not. Just as Jesus had prophesied, they hated the disciples of Jesus without cause just as they hated Jesus without cause.

The Lord Jesus had appeared to Paul in a vision and promised him that he would be attacked. The Lord Jesus intended that Paul take comfort and encouragement from that promise, knowing that the Lord Jesus would be

with him. Paul persevered through many different kinds of trials and Luke faithfully recorded many of them.

## ***Judgment***

1. **Gallio**. What did the Jews try to do to Paul? They tried to get Gallio, the proconsul of Asia, to convict Paul of a crime.

2. **Proconsul**. The Jews tried to get the proconsul to convict Paul of treason against the Roman Empire.

3. **Achaia**. Rome had won the battle against Greece in about 146 B.C. and installed their own government in Achaia.

4. **Jews**. The Jews with one accord brought Paul before the proconsul for judgment.

5. **Paul**. Paul had seen the Jews do the same thing before in different places, trying to disturb the government to take action against the missionaries sent by Jesus.

6. **Brought**. Living holy in the family of God means that opponents of the Lord Jesus Christ will try to use the government to stifle Christianity and so brought Paul before the proconsul.

7. **Judgment**. We rejoice today because the Jews brought Paul to the judgment seat, but they were in for a rude awakening from Gallio.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that some opponents of Christ will try to use the courts to stop the spread of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God when courts do the right thing and do not oppose the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing over the power of Jesus Christ to contain governments and preserve the rights of Christians.**

## **Application for Today**

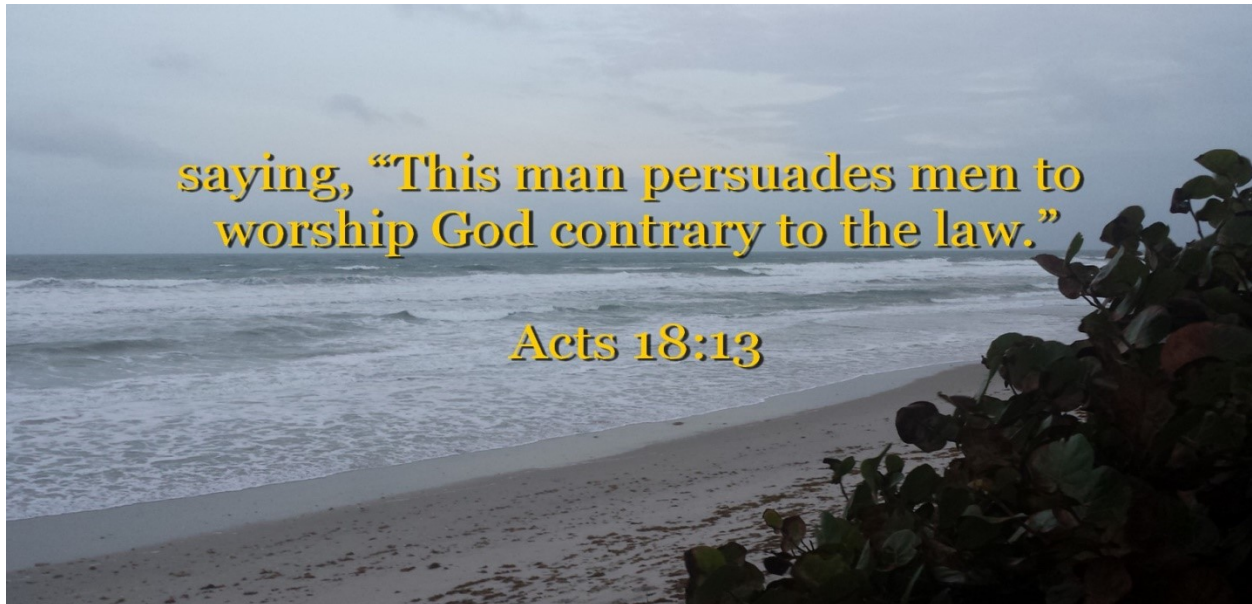
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the Jews rose with one accord to bring Paul before the proconsul for judgment. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for governments that defend the rights of Christians to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 647

## Worship Today



What did the Jews accuse Paul of doing? The Jews accused Paul of persuading men to worship God contrary to the Roman law.

Of course, Paul did no such thing. Paul did not foment rebellion or urge the overthrow of the government in any way. He did proclaim the kingdom of God and looked forward to Christ reigning upon the earth. In the meantime, however, Paul directed people to be in submission to the governments God appointed over them.

The Jews fabricated charges against Paul that were completely baseless. They had no witnesses to prove that Paul ever tried to overthrow the government. Paul always showed himself to be a model citizen regarding submission to proper authority.

The Jews hated the work that Paul did for the Name of Jesus Christ. Paul had persuaded Crispus, the leader of the synagogue at Corinth, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Many other men and women became disciples of Jesus Christ and joined Paul. Many were baptized publicly and word of their conversion to Christ Jesus infuriated the Jews. Therefore, they

plotted against Paul and devised any way to silence him and stop the work he did for Christ Jesus.

## ***Contrary***

1. **Saying**. What was the basis of the Jews charge that Paul was a traitor to Rome? They claimed that Paul supported illegal worship.

2. **Persuades**. The Jews stated that Paul tried to persuade men to worship God contrary to Roman law.

3. **Worship**. Often, Roman Caesars demanded the worship of their subjects.

4. **God**. Often governments confuse their role as ministers of God with being God Who controls the country.

5. **Contrary**. The Jews said Paul was acting contrary to Roman law.

6. **The**. Living holy in the family of God means that we should generally try not to break the civil law imposed by the governments, unless they directly conflict with God's will.

7. **Law**. We rejoice today because God created governments to be His ministers of justice and sometimes they defend the rights of Christians.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the trumped up charges the Jews brought against Paul in Roman courts.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon God to help us in court when we are arrested for following God's will.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by supporting the people of God who are wrongly persecuted by the government.**

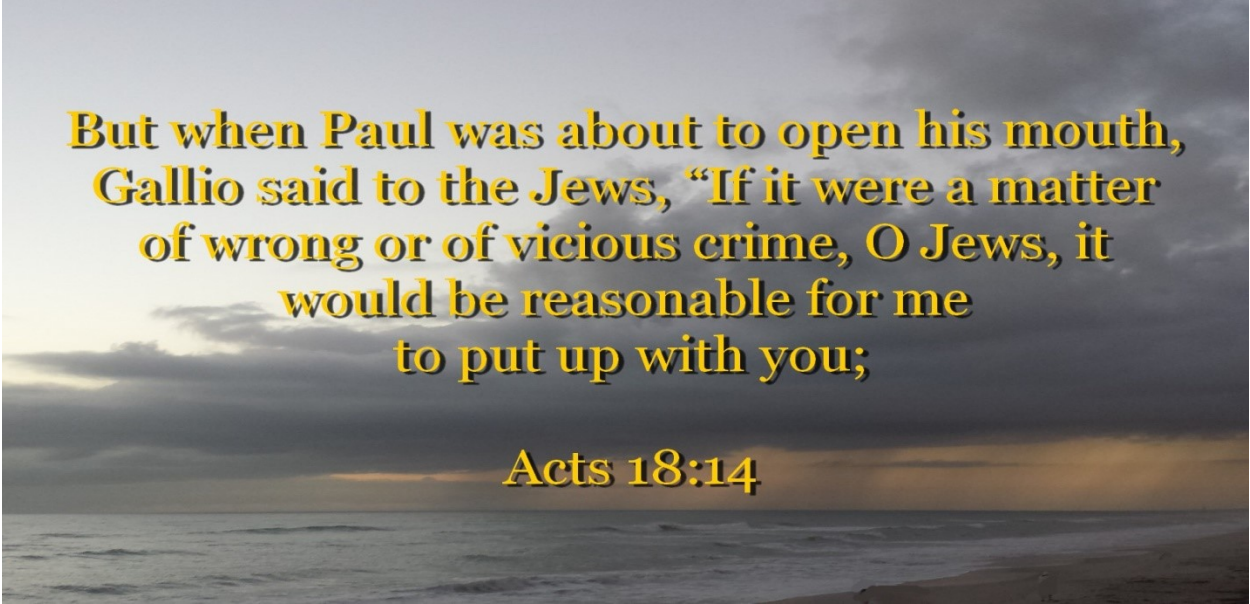
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by supporting people falsely charged with breaking the law because they are doing the will of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for His plans to use civil government to protect the rights of all people?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 648

## Crime Today



**But when Paul was about to open his mouth,  
Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter  
of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it  
would be reasonable for me  
to put up with you;**

**Acts 18:14**

What did Gallio say about the charges against Paul? Gallio declined to hear the matter.

Any time you are in court and the judge does not want to hear from you, generally that means that things are going well for your case. The judge has often made up his mind after reading or hearing about the case that he should not waste his time with that case.

When Paul’s case was called up for hearing before Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia, he spoke before Paul opened his mouth. Gallio told the Jews that they had not brought a vicious crime or some wrong under Roman law. Gallio saw straight through them and understood that the charges against Paul arose from religious animosity.

Gallio told the Jews he would not put up with them bringing charges against Paul based on religious differences. He said it was unreasonable for them to try to bring religious charges in his court. Gallio had little confidence with the Jews in their trumped up charges and less patience to waste his time

hearing them. Paul had a very good day in court without saying one word in his defense.

## ***Reasonable***

1. **Paul**. Why did Gallio intervene on Paul's behalf? Gallio rejected the Jews' charges against Paul as religious only.

2. **Mouth**. Gallio came to Paul's defense before Paul opened his mouth.

3. **Gallio**. Gallio did not want to waste his time hearing a purely religious dispute brought by the Jews.

4. **Wrong**. Gallio explained that if they had a matter of serious wrong, then he would hear the case

5. **Crime**. Gallio had concluded that the Jews were not charging Paul with committed a true crime, but actually a religious infraction against some of their own religious laws.

6. **Reasonable**. Living holy in the family of God means that Gallio said it would be reasonable to hear the charges against Paul if the concern a criminal matter.

7. **You**. We rejoice today because Gallio rightly concluded that the Jews were bringing false charges against Paul and so Gallio told the Jews that he was unwilling "to put up with you."

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Gallio told the Jews he would not put up them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that some judges understand the evil motives of people persecuting the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Paul being acquitted of all charges by Gallio who recognized the religious motives of the Jews.**

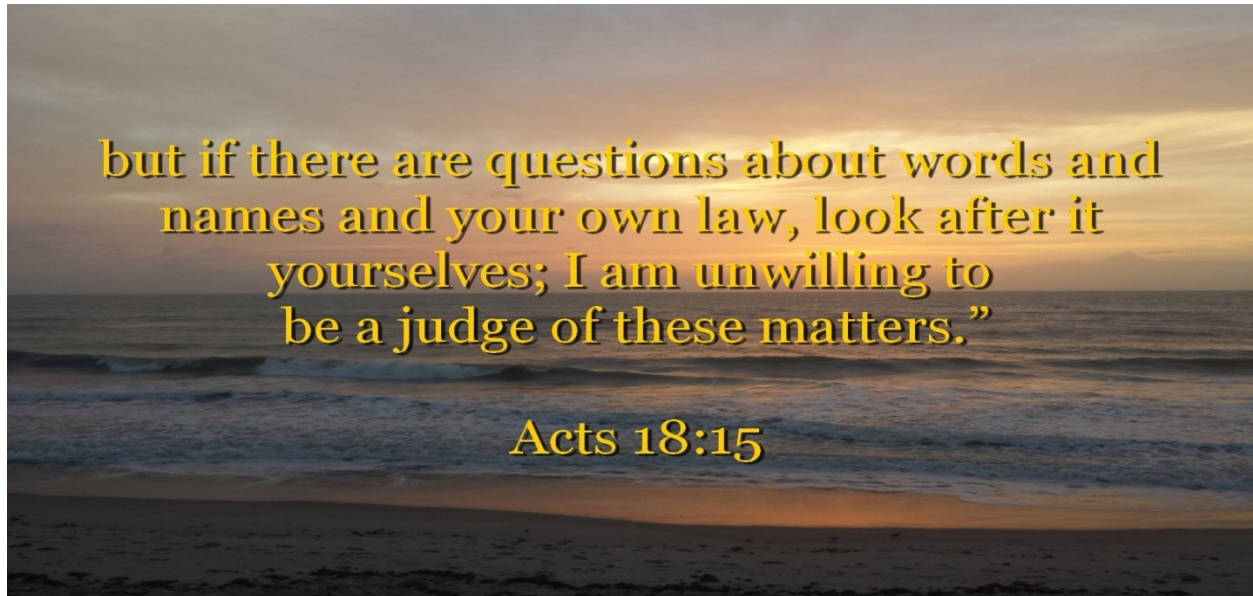
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God that Jesus Christ always makes perfect judgments. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for men like Gallio who remain faithful to the law and do not suppress the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 649

## Unwilling Today



Why did Gallio tell the Jews to look after the matter themselves? Gallio refused to hear the case because they had words and questions about their own law.

Gallio was a very savvy judge. He knew the Jews brought political charges based upon alleged treason by Paul because they disliked Paul on religious grounds. Gallio may have heard about the work of Paul and the many people coming to Christ in Corinth.

While the Jews tried to argue their claims amounted to treason or conspiracy against the Roman Emperor, Gallio did not buy their claims for a moment. Gallio said he was unwilling to be a judge of religious matters concerning the law of the Jews and their religious teachings. Gallio certainly did not want to help the Jews by trying a man under religious law.

Paul had met previous government officials who were completely swayed by crowds or by the business interests of people in the city. Some had acted very precipitously in imposing punishment even before trial. Gallio stood apart from those other corrupt government officials and followed

Roman law carefully. He declined to exercise subject matter jurisdiction over their controversy.

## *Judge*

1. **If.** Why did Gallio refused to hear the case against Paul? Gallio concluded it was a question about words and names in the law the Jews.

2. **Questions.** Gallio understood the questions raised by the Jews concerned their law, and not the law of Rome.

3. **Words.** Gallio question the words the Jews used to charge Paul, thinking they were words about religion.

4. **Names.** Paul also was proclaiming the name of Jesus, which Gallio interpreted as another religious issue.

5. **Law.** Gallio directed the Jews to use their own law in their own courts to determine religious matters concerning Paul.

6. **Look.** Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Gallio telling the Jews to look after their own laws in their own courts.

7. **Unwilling.** We rejoice today because Gallio was unwilling to use his time and efforts to resolve religious disputes among the Jews.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God that some judges understand the difference between criminal matters and religious questions.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that sometimes judges decline jurisdiction of religious issues.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking to God to resolve all disputes one day by His divine power.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for some judges who refuse to hear controversies designed to silence Christians. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Gallio silenced the Jews in his court when they tried to silence the Gospel in Corinth?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 650

## Away Today



After declining the case, what did Gallio do? Gallio drove the Jews away from the judgment seat.

Paul had won his case without opening his mouth. The Lord Jesus Christ had obviously intervened to move Gallio to dismiss all charges against Paul. Gallio understood it was a religious controversy not involving Roman law. Gallio did not seize an opportunity to curry political favor with the Jews, but stood fast upon the law and drove the Jews away.

Paul had faced many different types of persecution. At times, being a Roman citizen helped Paul as he struggled against government authorities. At other times the government authorities imposed their own will upon Paul without regard for the law.

God establishes governments to be His ministers of justice. Generally speaking, imposing punishment upon others for crimes they have committed lies solely within the province of the government and not individuals seeking vengeance. Jesus, however, suffered at the hands of the Roman government and Pontius Pilate put Him to death after declaring that he found no guilt in

Him. Pontius Pilate felt political pressure from the Jews and caved in to their demands.

## *Seat*

1. **He**. Why did Gallio drive away the Jews? He determined they had a controversy about religious matters, not Roman law.

2. **Drove**. Gallio drove the Jews away from him.

3. **Them**. Gallio drove them out because they brought false claims against Paul.

4. **Away**. As Gallio drove them away, the Jews understood that they could not persecute Paul in Gallio's court.

5. **From**. Gallio drove them away from the judgment seat where he sat.

6. **Judgment**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Romans had a judgment seat where the Roman official sat and passed judgment upon the people brought before him.

7. **Seat**. We rejoice today because Paul was acquitted at the judgment seat of Gallio without uttering a word in his defense.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God that Gallio drove the Jews away.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the Jews held a tremendous grudge against Paul for proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Corinth.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that some of the most bitter enemies of Paul were Jews, the people that God called to Himself.**

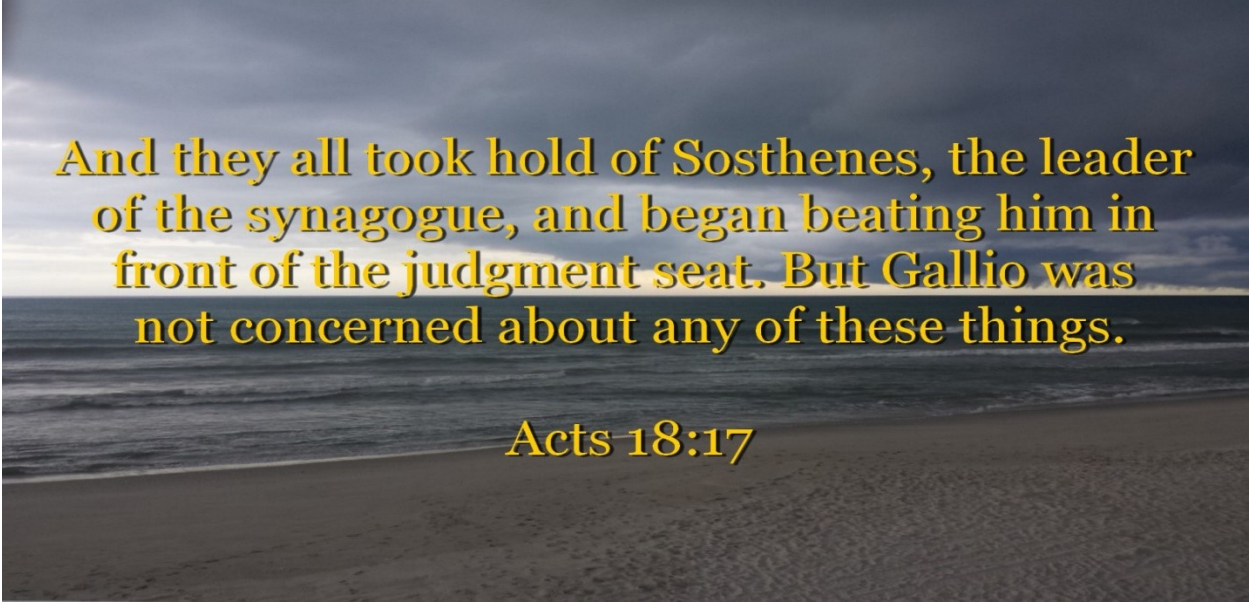
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God can work His will in a courtroom. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Jesus will sit on the judgment seat one day?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 651

## Sosthenes Today



And they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and began beating him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio was not concerned about any of these things.

Acts 18:17

Who was Sosthenes? Sosthenes the Jew was the leader of the synagogue.

The Jews of Corinth tried to have Paul convicted of a crime before the proconsul Gallio. Having heard the charges against Paul, Gallio declined to hear the case and drove the Jews away from the judgment seat.

Then full of anger, the Jews attacked Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue. Gallio watched them beat Sosthenes in front of the judgment seat, but was unconcerned about that attack. Gallio helped Paul, but had no concern for Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue. Apparently, Gallio did not care about Jews fighting with Jews.

The Jews unleashed their anger and frustration upon Sosthenes. The Jews must have had some notion that Gallio would not stop them from attacking another Jew, and so went after Sosthenes in the presence of Gallio. Gallio did not want to hear any case about Jew against Jew and the crowd took advantage of that decision.

## *Gallio*

1. **They**. When they could not prosecute Paul before Gallio, what did the Jews do? They took hold of Sosthenes.

2. **Took**. Having been driven away from the judgment seat by Gallio, the Jews sought someone else.

3. **Sosthenes**. They took hold of Sosthenes.

4. **Leader**. Sosthenes was the leader of the synagogue.

5. **Beating**. The Jews began beating Sosthenes before the judgment seat while Gallio was still present.

6. **Gallio**. Living holy in the family of God means that God delivered Paul from criminal prosecution, but the Jews then grabbed Sosthenes as a new target for all their anger and began beating him before Gallio.

7. **Unconcerned**. We rejoice today because Paul escaped prosecution, but the Jews began beating Sosthenes, and Gallio remained unconcerned.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for delivering Paul from criminal prosecution for spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Gallio released Paul, but the Jews then beat Sosthenes instead.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God may secure the release of a saint, but the fury of the mob may descend upon another person.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God spared some people from judgment while others received vicious persecution. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for the deliverance He provides to many saints?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# 9

## Return to Antioch Today

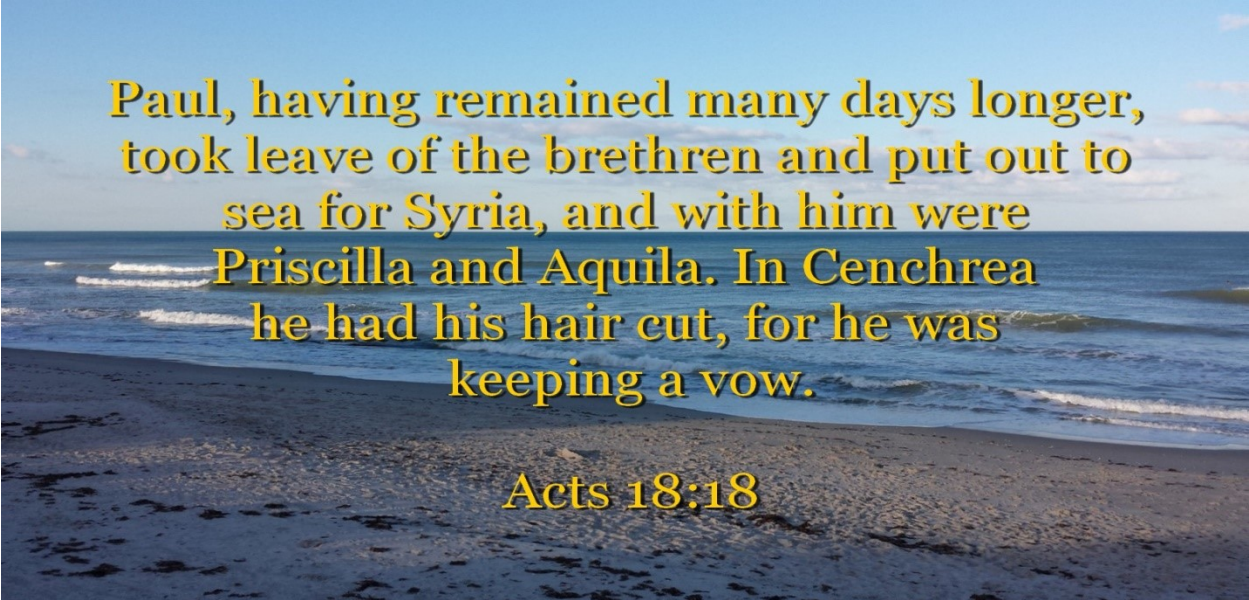
Paul spent some time in Antioch, but soon left to return to the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. Paul loved to visit the churches he planted, notwithstanding the personal risk to his life.

**HALLELUJAH!**



## Day 652

### Syria Today



Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow.

Acts 18:18

After he left Corinth, where did Paul go? Paul sailed for Syria.

Paul had been at least a year and a half in Corinth making disciples and encouraging the church. The Lord Jesus had appeared to Paul there and encouraged him with His presence and promise of safety. Paul had experienced numerous attacks in other places, and nearly suffered more in Corinth. The Lord Jesus, however, always keeps His promises and Paul remained safe at Corinth.

Based upon the letters Paul wrote to Corinth later, the Corinthians were divided among themselves and had bitter disputes, dividing into factions. They split into groups connected to Peter, Apollos, and Paul. Paul called them immature and fleshly for doing so. Paul also wrote about the many spiritual gifts at work in Corinth. They had regular prophecies and speaking in tongues was popular. Paul showed them how to set the order of the services and also reminded them of how to break bread with one another in peace and harmony. The Corinthians also had problems with morality and the congregation initially tolerated immorality. Paul confronted them about their acceptance of immorality and they took action.

Having taken leave of the brethren, Paul sailed away, but Priscilla and Aquila joined him. In Cenchrea Paul had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow.

## *Cenchrea*

1. **Paul**. Where was Paul heading when he left Corinth? Paul was sailing to Syria.
2. **Remained**. Paul had remained in Corinth for about a year and a half.
3. **Syria**. Syria was a Roman area bordering Israel on the north.
4. **Priscilla**. Paul had met Priscilla and Aquila in Corinth where they shared the same trade of making tents.
5. **Cenchrea**. In Cenchrea Paul took time for a haircut.
6. **Hair**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul still kept vows, although he did not feel compelled to keep the Law of Moses.
7. **Vow**. We rejoice today because Paul cut his hair because he was keeping a vow and so fulfilled his promise to God.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that sometimes friends get to travel together as they serve God together.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for sending missionaries to work together in many different places.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by keeping the vows we make to God.**

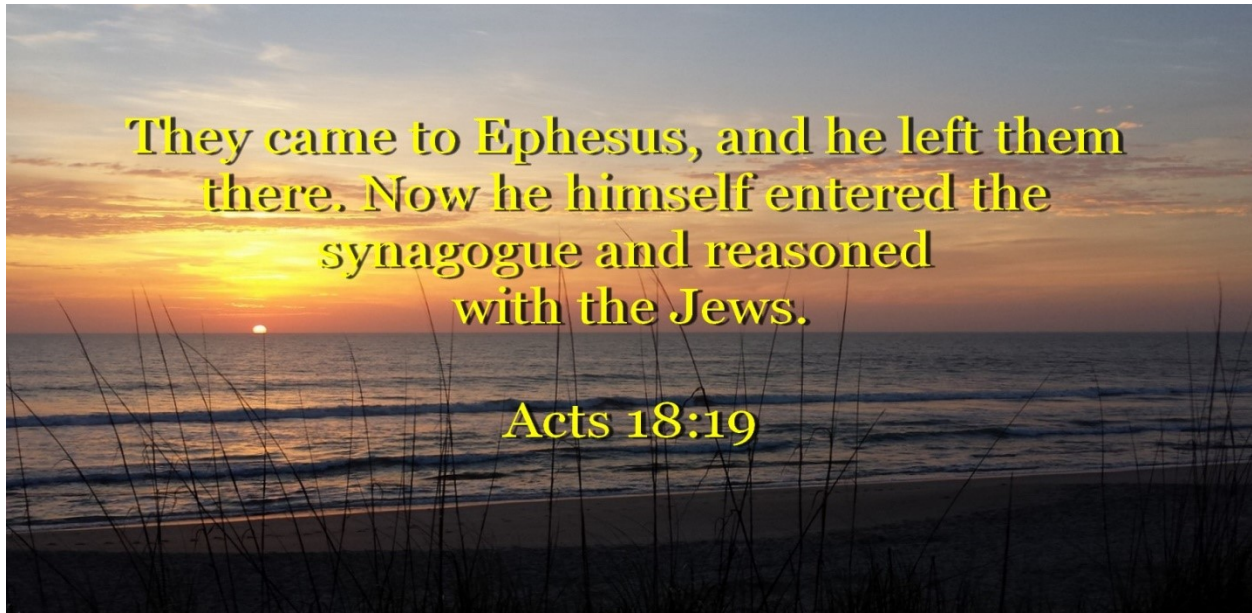
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul traveling with Priscilla and Aquila and thanking God for fellow missionaries we can travel with and work with. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for fellow workers and fellow travelers in Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 653

## Ephesus Today



What happened when Paul, Priscilla and Aquila came to Ephesus? Paul left Priscilla and Aquila and entered the synagogue.

Paul had a custom of going to the synagogue first when he visited a new place. Paul continued that custom at Ephesus. Paul always had great courage and overcame his fears. Based upon all of his prior experience, Paul must have known that the Jews of the synagogue of Ephesus would likely oppose him. The degree of opposition may have varied some from place to place, but Paul knew that the Jews would probably make trouble for him.

Paul went into the synagogue at Ephesus and began to reason with the Jews. Paul reasoned with the Jews from the Scriptures, proving that Jesus fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies about Messiah coming as the suffering servant. Paul also showed that Jesus was the Savior of the Jews, but they rejected Him. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, Paul made beautiful presentations of the Gospel and of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul had started doing that work at Damascus upon his conversion and continued to do so throughout his ministry. Paul loved the

Jews and knew that God had chosen the Jews as His own people, although the Jews had rejected God.

## *Synagogue*

1. **They**. Where did Paul separate from Priscilla and Aquila? They separated at Ephesus.

2. **Ephesus**. Paul wrote a letter to the Ephesian church later in his ministry because many people turned to the Lord Jesus Christ at Ephesus.

3. **Left**. At Ephesus Paul left Priscilla and Aquila.

4. **Entered**. Paul himself followed his usual pattern of going to a synagogue on the Sabbath day.

5. **Synagogue**. In Ephesus Paul entered the synagogue of the Jews.

6. **Reasoned**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul reasoned with the Jews in the synagogue at Ephesus.

7. **Jews**. We rejoice today because God sent Paul to reason with the Jews of Ephesus and proclaim to them the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God can lead different ministers in different directions.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul went to the synagogue of the Jews on the Sabbath.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for the faithfulness of Paul in going to the synagogues and reasoning with them about the Lord Jesus Christ.**

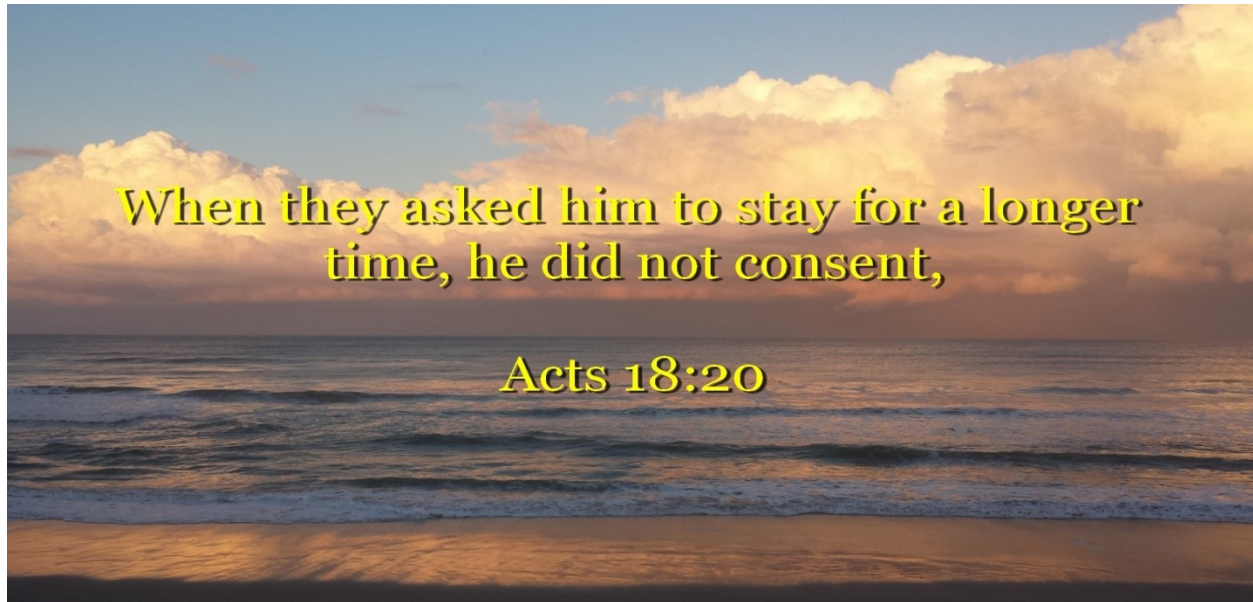
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for people like Paul who do not give up in the face of opposition and persecution. Will you live holy in the family of God today by continuing to proclaim Jesus in new places, even after severe persecution?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 654

## Stay Today



How did Paul respond to the request to stay longer in Ephesus? Paul declined.

Some people asked Paul to stay longer in Ephesus. Priscilla and Aquila could have asked Paul to stay longer in Ephesus. Likewise, the Jews from the synagogue may have asked Paul to stay longer in Ephesus. Perhaps both groups wanted Paul to stay longer in Ephesus.

Paul had been to other synagogues where they wanted to hear more from him. Over time, opposition built to Paul because he proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The more Paul proclaimed Jesus as the only Savior and Risen Lord, the more the opposition grew and the nastier it became. Frequently the Jews organized opposition. In some cases they even chased Paul from city to city. At times they even tried to get the government to take action against Paul. At Philippi, for example, the Jewish opposition persuaded the city officials to beat Paul and Silas with rods before trial.

Paul had other plans in mind when he declined the invitation to stay longer in Ephesus. The Lord Jesus Christ would use Ephesus later as a hub

of Christianity to reach out to all the surrounding regions. The Ephesian Pentecost signaled only the third time in the Book of Acts that anyone spoke in tongues. Each time people spoke in tongues in the Book of Acts God was showing others that salvation had come to this group.

## ***Did Not Consent***

1. **When**. What happened at Ephesus when Paul tried to leave? The Jews asked Paul to remain on for a while longer.

2. **They**. ‘They’ apparently referred to the Jews in the synagogue listening to Paul proclaim Christ to them.

3. **Asked**. As Paul began to leave, they asked Paul to stay a while longer.

4. **Him**. They asked him to stay because what he said intrigued them.

5. **Stay**. They wanted Paul to stay so that they could hear more about all the things he was proclaiming about the Lord Jesus Christ

6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that God moves us to new places, even when people ask us to stay put.

7. **Consent**. We rejoice today because Paul knew when to consent to stay a while longer and when to leave even when people wanted him to stay.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that God can move people along, even when we want them to stay.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding when people cannot consent to staying with us longer because God has directed them to move on.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for moving one along and bringing another one.**

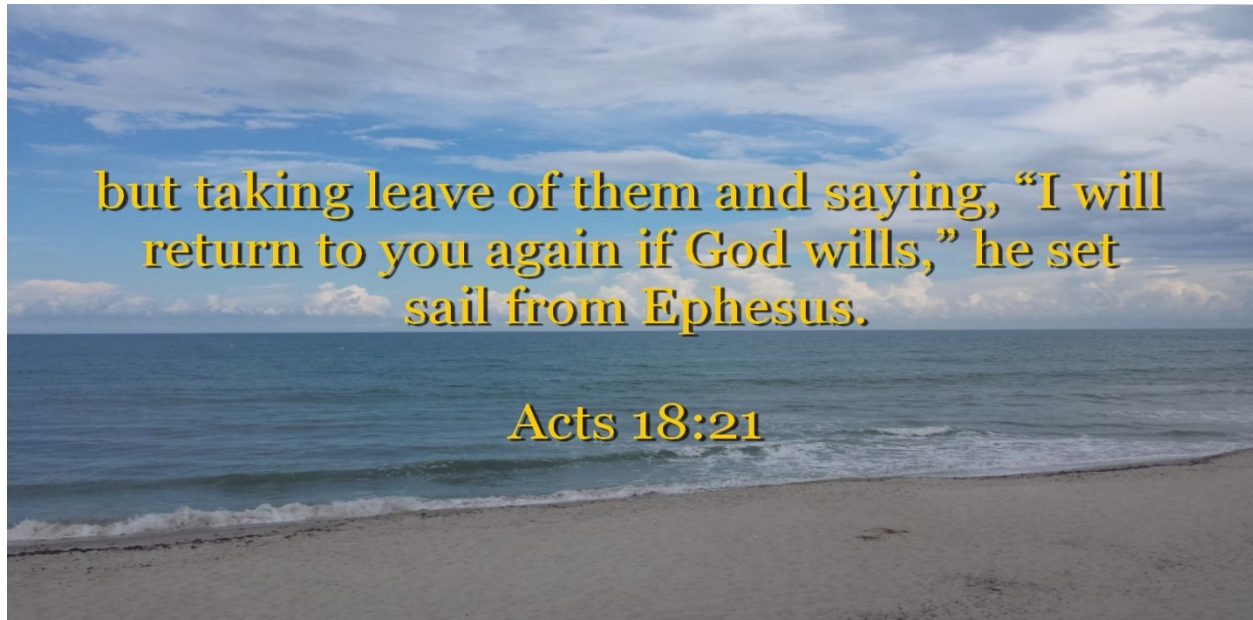
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon God to move us forward at just the right time. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding when people need to move on, even though we really want them to stay with us?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 655

## Leave Today



What did Paul say as he left Ephesus? Paul said that if God willed, he would return.

Paul traveled from place to place in Asia and Europe, following the will of God. At times the Holy Spirit prevented him from going into places. At other times Paul traveled because people requested his help from afar. For example, Paul left Asia and went to Europe because he had the Macedonian vision in which a man asked for help.

Although Paul made many enemies, Paul also made many friends in Christ in many places. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, Paul proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in many different cities. People heard Paul and many hearts turned to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Paul had gone from the chief persecutor of the church to one of the chief missionaries of the church. On the way, he had become the apostle and teacher of the Gentiles.

Paul faithfully first went to the synagogues in the cities, but also proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. Frequently,

the Gentiles responded to the Gospel in great numbers, but the Jews rejected Christ as Savior once again.

## *Return*

1. **Taking**. What did Paul say when he left Ephesus? Paul was saying that he would return, if God wills.

2. **Leave**. Paul was ready to leave Ephesus, knowing that he was leaving saints behind who wanted him to stay there.

3. **Saying**. Paul was saying to them that he was following the will of God by leaving.

4. **I**. Paul also said, “I will return.”

5. **Will**. Paul looked to the future with an expectation that he would return to Ephesus one day.

6. **God**. Living holy in the family of God means that we must always trust God and His will for our lives as we plan for the future.

7. **Sail**. We rejoice today because Paul sailed from Ephesus, knowing that God had not finished with him yet and he had more fruitful ministry in front of him.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by committing all of our plans to the will of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by realizing God's plans need to be our plans and not the other way around.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by enjoying every day we have to spend with people we love, knowing that tomorrow we may have to move on as God leads us.**

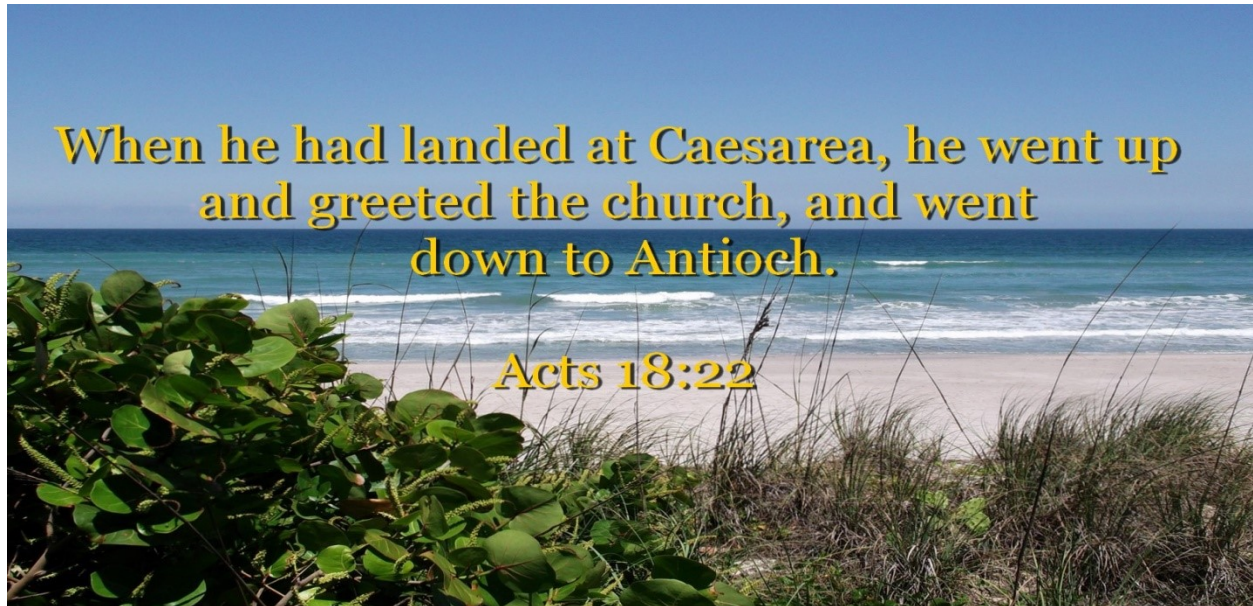
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by letting people know that we are following God's will as we move on. Will you live holy in the family of God today by letting people know that you want to see them again, as God wills?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 656

## Caesarea Today



After landing at Caesarea, where did Paul go? Paul went up to the church and then down to Antioch.

Antioch became home base for Paul and Silas. Paul was brought there by Barnabas and they labored together there for more than a year, watching the church grow with an influx of many Gentiles. At Antioch the Holy Spirit told the saints to set Paul and Barnabas apart for the ministry that He called them to do. Paul and Barnabas left and went through the area spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ on their first missionary journey. They returned to Antioch and reported their travels and the great wonders of Jesus Christ.

Many Gentiles had come to Christ and a controversy erupted about keeping the Law. The church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem for consultation with the elders and apostles there. They brought back a letter from the apostles and elders and congregation providing guidance on keeping the Law.

Paul wanted to go on another missionary journey, revisiting the churches they had started on the first journey. Barnabas insisted on taking John Mark with them, but Paul objected because John Mark had deserted them on the first missionary journey. So, they split into two groups and began new journeys. Paul was now returning to Antioch from the second missionary journey.

## *Antioch*

1. **When**. What did Paul do when he landed at Caesarea? He went up to see the church.
2. **Landed**. Paul had landed at Caesarea after leaving Ephesus.
3. **Caesarea**. The seaport at Caesarea functioned as a main hub for Israel.
4. **Greeted**. Paul maintained very good relationships with many churches and greeted them when he was in the area.
5. **Church**. Paul did not designate the church he went up to see, perhaps Jerusalem, but maybe Caesarea because of its proximity.
6. **Down**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul made time to go and visit his friends and spiritual family at Antioch, the home base for his missions in many ways.
7. **Antioch**. We rejoice today because Antioch served as a hub of missionary activity branching out into Asia and extending over to Europe.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for men like Paul who traveled to Ephesus and Caesarea and Antioch, not to mention lots of other churches that God used him to plant in Asia and Europe.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for the missionaries who risk their lives to bring the Gospel to the world.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by enjoying the presence of God wherever we go on whatever mission He sends us.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the way He brings missionaries home to tell the stories of what happened abroad. Will you live holy in the family of God today by welcoming missionaries when they come to see you?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# 10

## Third Missionary Journey Today

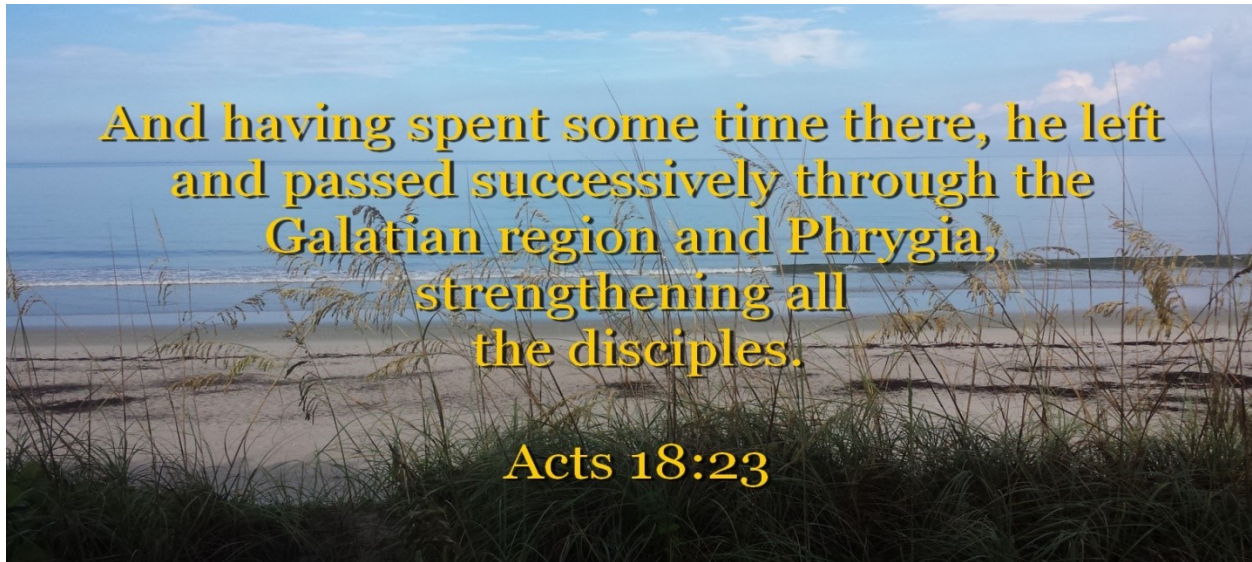
After spending some time in Antioch, Paul wanted to go back and visit churches in Asia Minor. Paul then passed through the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening the disciples. Paul passed through the upper country and eventually came to Ephesus where he found some disciples and spent time working with disciples there.

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 657

## Time Today



Where did Paul go after spending some time in Antioch? Paul went back to the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening the disciples and visiting the churches he planted on the first missionary journey with Barnabas.

During the first missionary journey Paul and Barnabas went into the Galatian region and shared the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They also spent some time in the Phrygian region. Paul longed to see the believers in the new churches. He remained concerned about them, even in his absence.

Paul understood that Satan would do all that he could to damage the churches and destroy the faith. Satan acted like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Satan loved to supplant the gospel of Jesus Christ with the gospel all about works, which was no Gospel at all. Paul remained concerned about the Galatians in particular, that they would be led astray.

Paul loved to share the Gospel and then follow up the disciples. Paul enjoyed going back to see the people because they were his beloved friends. Paul's life was in danger whenever he traveled and many of the Jews had

become his fierce enemies because they hated the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## ***Strengthening***

1. **Time**. Did Paul stay in Antioch? Paul stayed in Antioch for a time, but then he moved on.

2. **Left**. Paul left to go back and visit other churches he had planted.

3. **Passed**. Paul passed through several regions where he had planted churches in previous missionary journeys.

4. **Galatian**. Paul visited the Galatian region where he had planted some churches with Barnabas.

5. **Phrygia**. Paul also passed through the Phrygian region and had met some stiff opposition there.

6. **Strengthening**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul visited the churches and strengthened them by his presence and preaching.

7. **Disciples**. We rejoice today because visiting preachers often bring strength and encouragement to the congregations they founded.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the people we led to Jesus Christ as Savior.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by strengthening our children in Christ so that they walk in the faith.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by visiting churches and friends in Christ to strengthen them.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by visiting people with the purpose of strengthening their faith in Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by strengthening the saints with your presence?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# 11

# Apollos

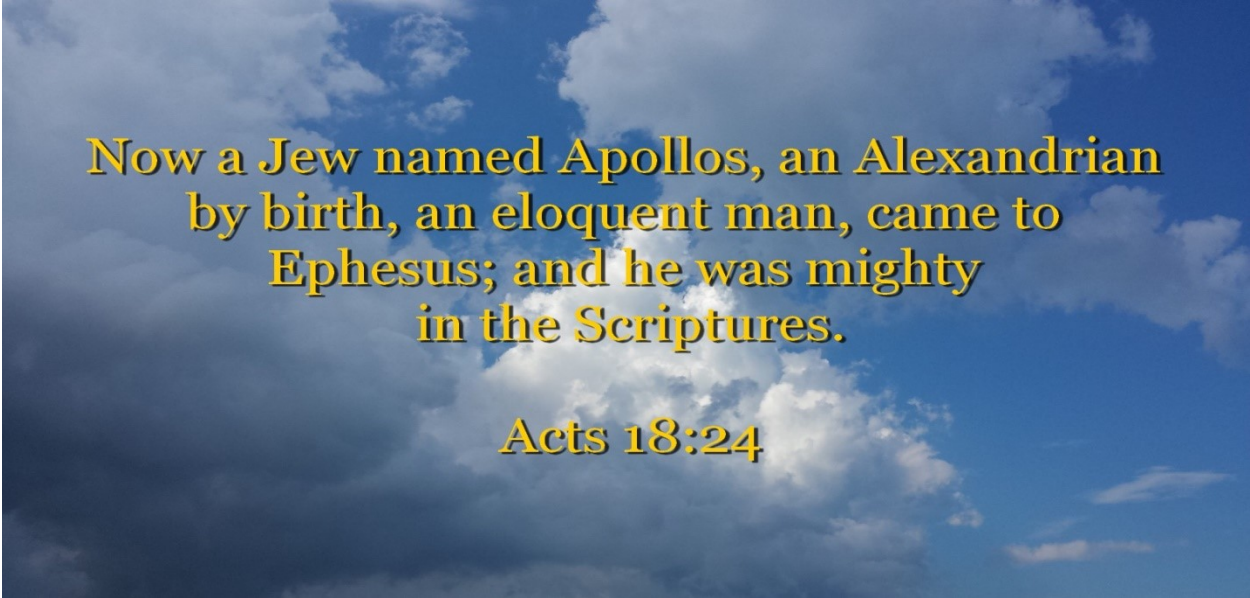
# Today

After Paul left Ephesus, an eloquent man, mighty in the Scriptures, named Apollos came to Ephesus. Fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, but he was only acquainted with the baptism of John. Priscilla and Aquila took him aside privately and instructed him in the way of God more accurately. The brethren encouraged him and his desire to return to Achaia and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. In Achaia he greatly helped those who had believed, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating from the Scriptures that Jesus really was the Christ.

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 658

## Apollos Today



Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures.

Acts 18:24

Who was Apollos? Apollos was an Alexandrian by birth and a strong preacher.

Apollos came to Ephesus. As an Alexandrian, he traveled far away from home in Egypt. He was mighty in the Scriptures. He spoke with great eloquence.

Paul described himself as someone who was not skilled in speech. Paul preached by the power of the Holy Spirit working within him, and not in sophisticated words of wisdom, so that the faith of the believers would not rest upon the skill and oratory of men, but on the power of God.

Some believers at Corinth held Paul's lack of oratorical skills against him. Men like Apollos came to town and spoke very eloquently. The Gospel never depends upon the voice of the speaker but on the Holy Spirit moving hearts to receive Jesus as Savior. Unless God the Father reveals God the Son to people, they will not come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Once they believe in Jesus, He reveals the Father to them.

## *Eloquent*

1. **Jew**. Who was the Jew who came to Ephesus that was eloquent and mighty in the Scriptures? Apollos came to Ephesus.

2. **Apollos**. He was well acquainted with the Scriptures and a very able speaker.

3. **Alexandrian**. Apollos was an Alexandrian by birth.

4. **Eloquent**. He was eloquent and people appreciated his sermons.

5. **Ephesus**. He came to Ephesus proclaiming the word of God.

6. **Mighty**. Living holy in the family of God means that we thank God for the eloquent speakers among us who are mighty in the Scriptures.

7. **Scriptures**. We rejoice today because he was not only eloquent as a speaker, but he was mighty in his use of the Scriptures while he spoke.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for eloquent speakers in the church.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by being mighty in the Scriptures.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by listening to eloquent men who are mighty in the Scriptures.**

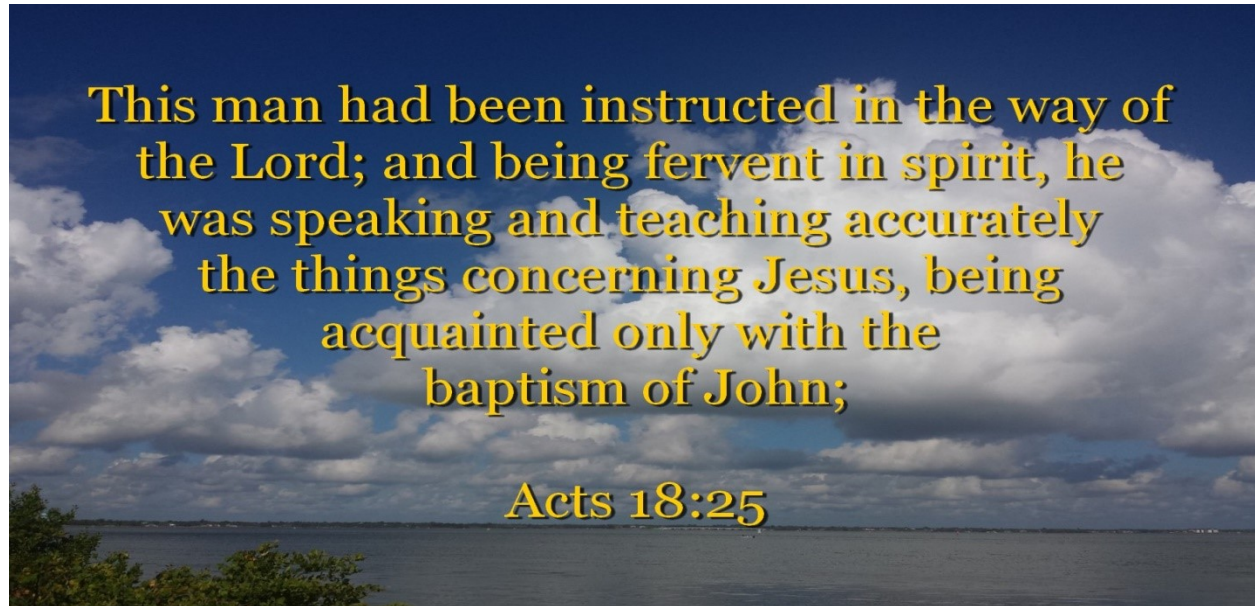
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for gifting some men to be eloquent speakers and mighty in the Scriptures. Will you live holy in the family of God today by using your spiritual gifts to benefit the body of Christ even if you are not an eloquent speaker or mighty in the Scriptures?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 659

## Teaching Today



What was the problem with Apollos? Apollos was only acquainted with the baptism of John.

Apollos came to Ephesus, having been instructed in the way of the Lord. He was fervent in spirit and spoke accurately concerning Jesus. Apollos, however, was only acquainted with the baptism of John. Therefore, Apollos did not know about the death and resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Apollos had a lot to learn about sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Apollos serves as a good example of people who need to hear more about the Lord Jesus Christ. Apollos understood the Scriptures, but had not heard that Jesus had been crucified and resurrected. The Lord Jesus has a way of reaching men like that so that they learn the full truth and proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ correctly.

All the eloquence in the world does not make up for an incorrect or incomplete message. Therefore, Apollos needed to hear more about Jesus and God was about to take care of that deficiency in his life. Apollos would



become a very powerful preacher of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as he traveled through various regions proclaiming Jesus as Savior.

## ***Accurately***

1. **Instructed**. What problem that Apollos have? Apollos did not know the whole story about Jesus.

2. **Way**. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord.

3. **Fervent**. He was fervent in spirit.

4. **Speaking**. He was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus.

5. **Jesus**. Although he knew about Jesus, he did not have the full picture of Jesus.

6. **Acquainted**. Living holy in the family of God means that sometimes people are only acquainted with some of the important details about the life of Jesus.

7. **Baptism**. We rejoice today because Apollos was eloquent and mighty in the Scriptures and fervent in spirit, but he was only acquainted with the baptism of John.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by learning more about Jesus so that we can be fully prepared to speak about Him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by using our knowledge of the Lord Jesus to proclaim His Name to others.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by learning more about Jesus as opportunities arise so that we may use the Scriptures effectively.**

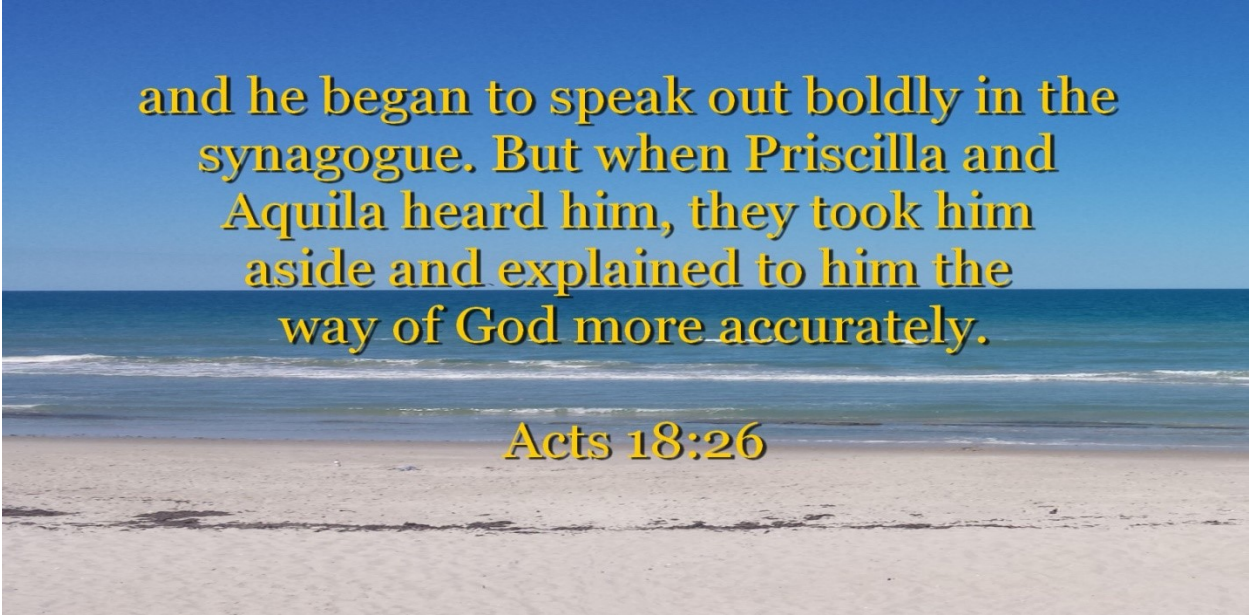
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by speaking about Jesus and being fervent in spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking accurately about the things concerning Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 660

## Aside Today



and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Acts 18:26

What happened as Apollos began to speak out boldly in the synagogue? Priscilla and Aquila heard him and explained the way of God to him more accurately.

Although Apollos spoke about Jesus with great eloquence, the message he proclaimed was not up-to-date. God sent Priscilla and Aquila to help him understand more about Jesus. Notice that they took him aside, instead of embarrassing him publicly.

God has some saints in the church who are excellent communicators. Not only do they know the truth, but they have a wonderful way of communicating the truth to people who need to hear it. Apollos needed to hear the truth about Jesus, but Priscilla and Aquila were careful to do it privately. They did not want to damage his reputation as someone who did not know what he was talking about. What Apollos proclaimed was true, but he did not have the full story about the Lord Jesus.

God used Priscilla and Aquila to bring Apollos up to date. From then on, Apollos would be the eloquent preacher of the Lord Jesus Christ

crucified, risen from the dead, and ascended to heaven, but coming back one day. Priscilla and Aquila played an important role in the development of Apollos, just as Barnabas played that role in the life of Saul of Tarsus who became Paul the apostle to the Gentiles.

## *Explained*

1. **Boldly**. How did Aquila and Priscilla help Apollos? They explained the way of God more accurately to him.

2. **Synagogue**. He was speaking boldly in the synagogue about Jesus from the Scriptures.

3. **Priscilla**. Priscilla and Aquila heard him speaking and knew they had to help him.

4. **Aside**. Priscilla and Aquila took him aside to talk with him about Jesus.

5. **Explained**. Priscilla and Aquila explained to him about the way of God.

6. **Way**. Living holy in the family of God means that we praise God for the people who teach us more about the way of God so that we speak more accurately about Jesus.

7. **Accurately**. We rejoice today because Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos aside and instructed him in the way of God more accurately.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by learning more about Jesus as opportunities arise.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for other brothers and sisters in Christ to help us understand the way of God more accurately.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by educating one another about the way of God so that we may speak more accurately about Jesus.**

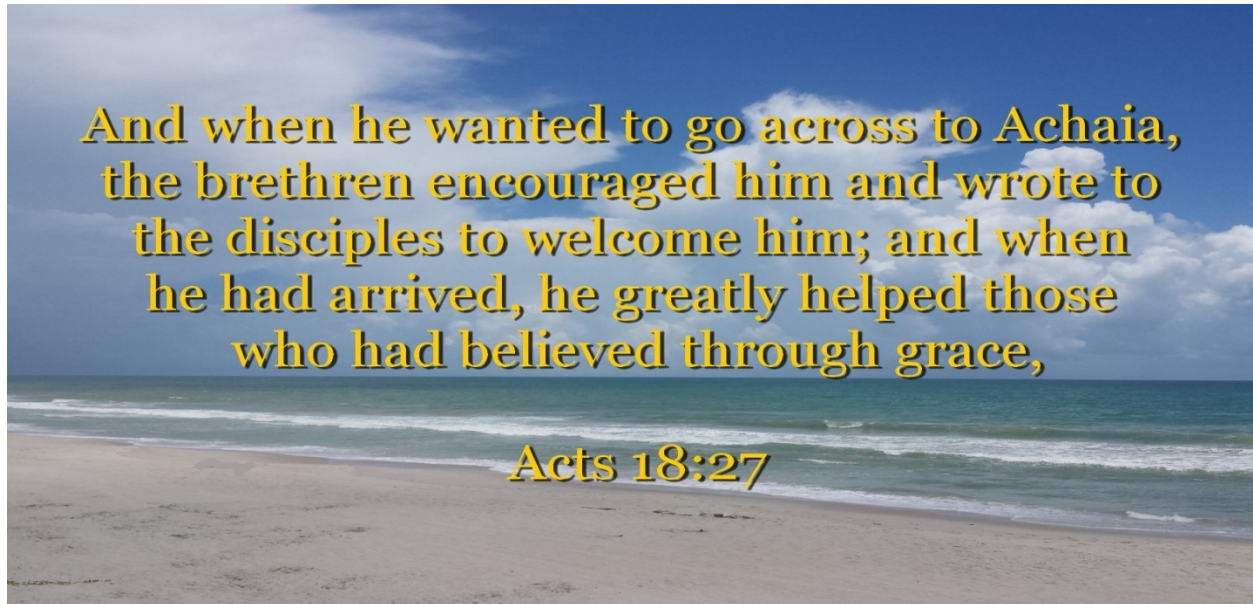
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for people who take us aside and help us understand the way of God more accurately. Will you live holy in the family of God today by helping people around you understand the word of God more accurately when you see they need help?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 661

## Encouraged Today



What did the Ephesian brethren do for Apollos? They encouraged him to go to Achaia.

The brethren in Ephesus were very impressed with the eloquence of Apollos. He was also mighty in the Scriptures. Therefore the Ephesian brethren encouraged him to be a blessing to the people of Acadia as well. They wrote letters of commendation for him, asking the disciples in Achaia to welcome Apollos.

Once Apollos arrived in Achaia, he greatly helped the brethren. The people who would believe by the grace of God enjoyed Apollos. He brought eloquence with him as he proclaimed the Lord Jesus Christ more accurately, thanks to Priscilla and Aquila ministering to him. So often, brethren reach out to other brethren to strengthen their ministries.

Priscilla and Aquila had spent time with Paul in Corinth. They were both tentmakers along with Paul. Before Silas and Timothy arrived at Corinth, Paul made tents with Priscilla and Aquila. Apollos was not a church planter per se, but he did go to the early churches and strengthened them

with his ministry. Being mighty in the Scriptures, he offered guidance to the young believers.

## *Helped*

1. **Wanted**. What did the brethren in Ephesus do to help Apollos? The brethren encouraged him to go across to Achaia.

2. **Achaia**. Paul had been to Corinth in Achaia and now Apollos was going behind him.

3. **Encouraged**. The brethren in Ephesus greatly encouraged Apollos to go to Achaia.

4. **Wrote**. The Ephesian brethren even wrote a letter of commendation for him.

5. **Disciples**. They wrote to the disciples in Achaia to welcome Apollos.

6. **Greatly**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Apollos greatly helped the brethren in Achaia by coming and ministering with them.

7. **Grace**. We rejoice today because the brethren in Corinth had believed through the grace of God and turned to Jesus Christ as Savior and away from dead idols.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by greatly encouraging the saints to visit with saints.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by letting other disciples know to welcome one of their own in Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to use their spiritual gifts to the glory of God, both at home and afar.**

## **Application for Today**

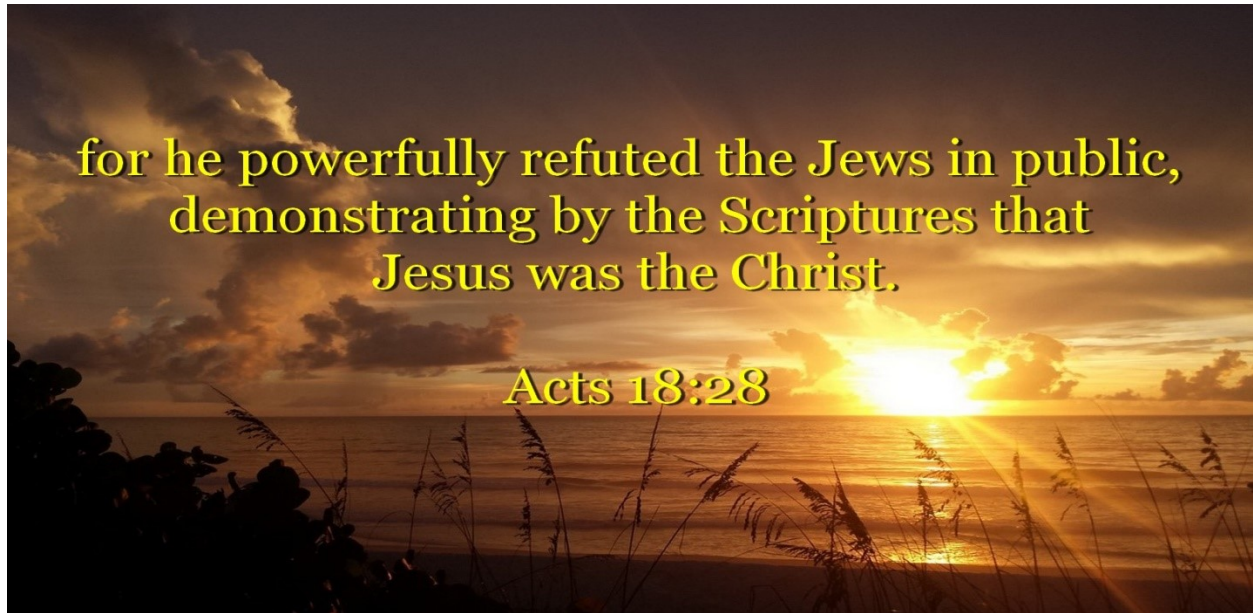
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking time to encourage disciples who have believed through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by spending time with new disciples to encourage them to walk with Jesus?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 662

## Powerfully Today



What did Apollos do to the Jews? Apollos powerfully refuted the Jews in public.

Apollos was mighty in the Scriptures and an eloquent speaker. Apollos engaged the Jews in public. He powerfully refuted the Jews in public by proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ. While Paul might have planted the churches, Apollos watered, and God gave the increase.

Apollos focused his ministry upon speaking and teaching. Part of that ministry included powerfully refuting people among the Jews who rejected Christ as Savior. The people of Achaia were treated to a real blessing by having Apollos speak in public and demonstrate for all to hear the Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Christ of God. Apollos did that proof through the Scriptures, which the Jews were familiar with.

Apollos had a special blessing of God for strengthening people with his messages. He showed categorically that the Jews were wrong to reject Jesus as the Christ. Paul had reasoned with the Jews in the synagogues from the

Scriptures. He showed that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Christ of God and that judgment awaited those who rejected Jesus as Savior.

## ***Demonstrating***

1. **Powerfully**. What did Apollos do in Achaia? Apollos refuted the Jews.

2. **Refuted**. Apollos was mighty in the Scriptures and refuted the Jews in public.

3. **Jews**. The Jews were no match for the eloquent Apollos because he used the Scriptures to prove that Jesus was the Christ.

4. **Public**. Apollos demonstrated publicly that Jesus was the Christ and refuted the Jews so that everyone could see.

5. **Demonstrating**. Apollos refuted the Jews demonstrating from the Scriptures that Jesus really was and is the Christ.

6. **Scriptures**. Living holy in the family of God means that we must rely upon the Scriptures to powerfully refute people who deny Christ.

7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because Apollos watered what Paul had planted in Achaia and God gave the increase.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Apollos refuting the Jews in public.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for empowering men to demonstrate by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging eloquent brothers, mighty in the Scriptures, to take their ministry to new places and encourage people in the Lord.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus who sends missionaries to demonstrate in public that He really is the Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by encouraging the brothers to share their faith and demonstrate that Jesus really is the Christ using the Scriptures?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# 12

# Ephesus

# Today

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul returned to Ephesus. He found 12 disciples there, but they had only heard about the baptism of John the Baptist. Paul explained the way of Jesus more fully to them and they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit came upon them and they began speaking with tongues and prophesied.

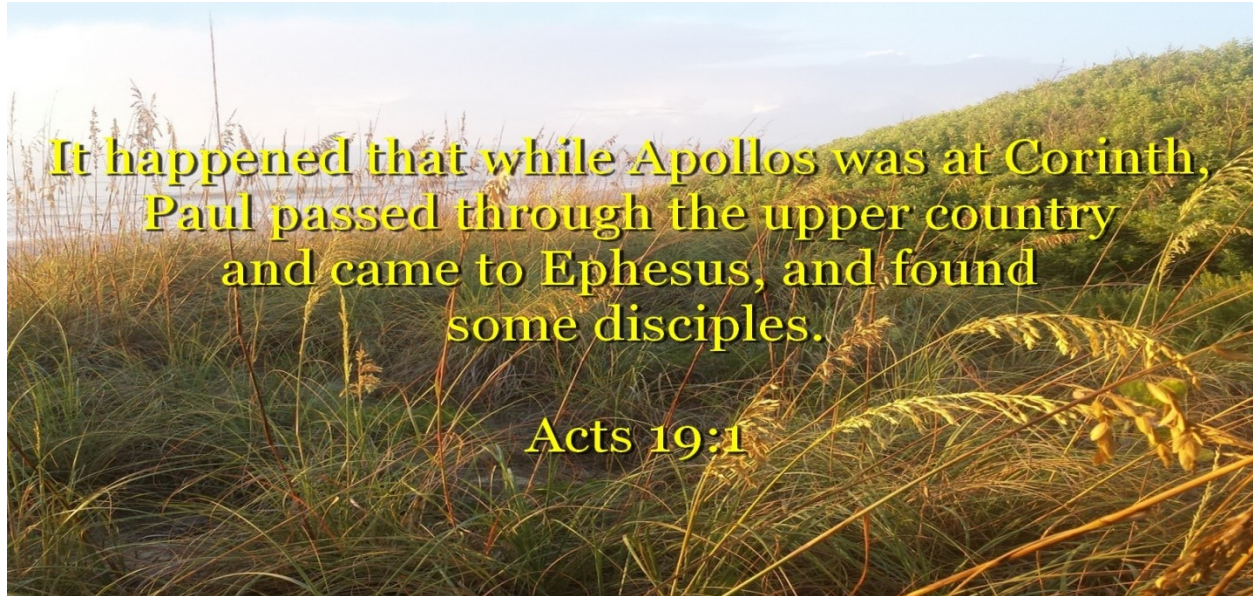
Paul went into the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. Some hardened and disobedient Jews opposed Paul and he took the disciples away to the school of Tyrannus where he remained for two years. All who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

God performed great miracles at Ephesus, so that even a handkerchief or an apron from Paul's body cured the sick. Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, tried to use the name of Paul to cast out demons. The demon attacked those men and they ran away naked and wounded. Fear fell upon those in Ephesus and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. Paul wanted to go to Jerusalem after he passed through Macedonia and Achaia, looking forward also to seeing Rome. Paul sent Timothy and Erastus before him to Macedonia, but he stayed behind in Asia.

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 663

## Paul Today



What happened while Apollos was at Corinth? Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus.

At Caesarea Peter witnessed the Holy Spirit fall upon those hearing his message, particularly the Gentiles. Peter had a few days before received a vision where God showed him that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Therefore, what God has cleansed, no man should call unholy or unclean. God was paving the way for Peter to witness the conversion of Gentiles at Caesarea and then share that with the Jews in Jerusalem and elsewhere.

At Ephesus Paul was going to watch the Holy Spirit do the same thing. As Paul traveled to Ephesus, he found some disciples there. You may recall that Apollos had only been familiar with the baptism of John, but Priscilla and Aquila completed his knowledge about Jesus Christ the risen Savior.

News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ traveled at different speeds through the Roman Empire. Some people only knew about the baptism of John for long periods of time, until someone came along and shared with

them what happened after the baptism of John. They especially needed to hear about the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

## ***Ephesus***

1. **Happened**. What happened while Apollos was in Corinth? Paul found some disciples in Ephesus.

2. **Apollos**. Apollos was ministering publicly and profoundly for Christ in Corinth.

3. **Corinth**. Apollos built upon the foundation that Paul laid in Corinth.

4. **Paul**. Meanwhile, Paul passed through the upper regions of Asia and came to Ephesus.

5. **Ephesus**. Having arrived in Ephesus, Paul found some disciples there.

6. **Found**. Living holy in the family of God means that we praise God Who sent saints to find us and encourage us in the Scriptures and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

7. **Disciples**. We rejoice today because the disciples at Ephesus were blessed by God when Paul showed up and spent some time with them.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by spending time with disciples that we find in different places who need to learn more about the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for the precious gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by walking in the Holy Spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit.**

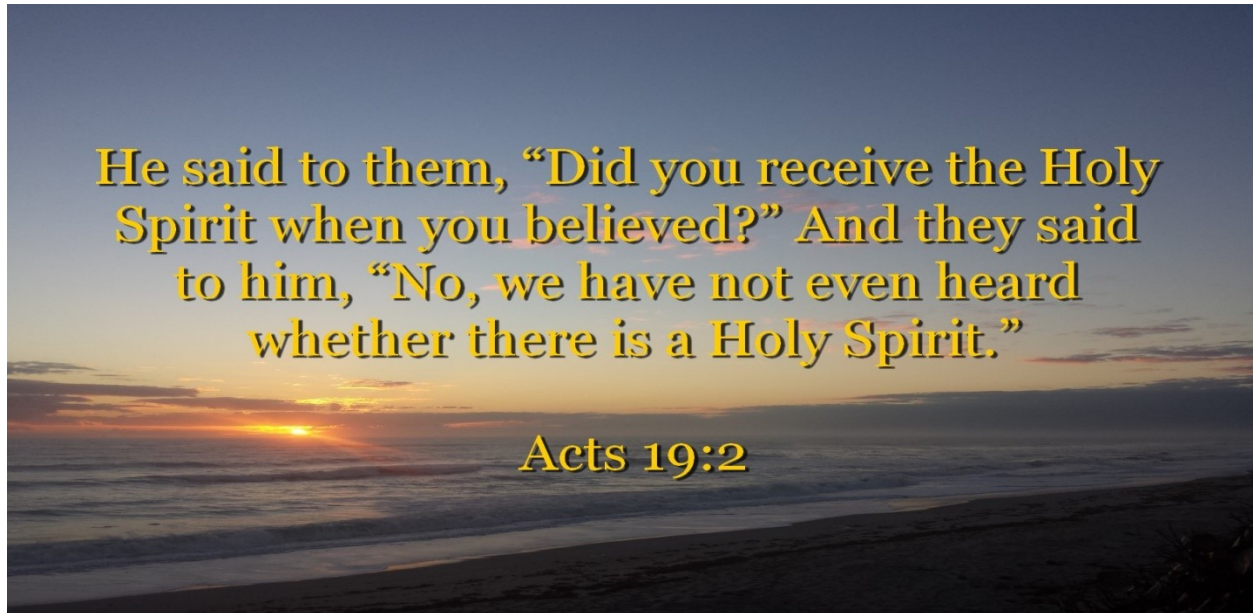
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that Jesus kept His promise and the Father sent the Holy Spirit to us in the Name of Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to share the ministry of the Holy Spirit with young believers?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 664

## Receive Today



What did Paul ask the Ephesian disciples? Paul asked if they received the Holy Spirit when they believed.

The Book of Acts records not only the geographical spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, but also the same spread of the Holy Spirit and His ministry. Just like the ministry of the Holy Spirit started in Jerusalem and then into Judea and into Samaria and then to the end to the remotest parts of the world, so also the Holy Spirit was moving through Asia and into Europe.

At Ephesus we learn that some disciples did not even know about the Holy Spirit. The Ephesian disciples answered Paul that they had not received the Holy Spirit when they believed. In fact, they replied that they do not even know there was a Holy Spirit.

The Lord Jesus strongly emphasized that the Holy Spirit would come upon all believers, because He would baptize them with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. The Book of Acts covers a transition period where the Holy Spirit came upon people by groups. The first group received the Holy



Spirit in Jerusalem and then His ministry spread out from there. Initially, the laying on of hands played a role in receiving the Holy Spirit.

## ***Holy Spirit***

1. **Receive**. What did Paul want to know about the Ephesian disciples? Paul wanted to know if they had received the Holy Spirit.

2. **Holy Spirit**. Paul asked them directly if they received the Holy Spirit when they believed.

3. **No**. They answered no.

4. **Not**. They were unfamiliar with the Holy Spirit.

5. **Heard**. They had not heard about the Holy Spirit.

6. **Whether**. Living holy in the family of God means that when people wonder whether there is a Holy Spirit, we can assure all saints that they received the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

7. **Is**. We rejoice today because Paul came to help the Ephesian believers who wanted to know whether there is a Holy Spirit.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that some people may be very unfamiliar with the ministry of the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that in the Book of Acts that the Holy Spirit made His presence known in many different ways.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**

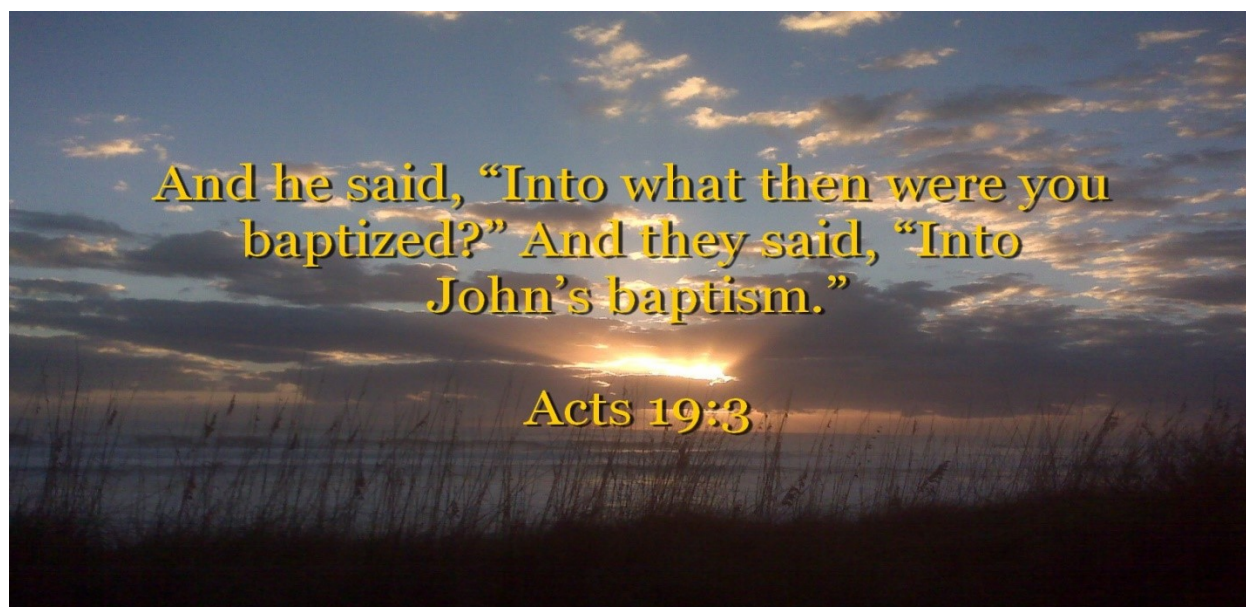
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by walking in the Holy Spirit and praising God for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the Scriptures that teach us about the Holy Spirit and His activity in our lives?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 665

## Baptized Today



What other question did Paul ask the Ephesian disciples? He asked them into what they were baptized.

After Paul heard the Ephesian disciples tell him that they did not even know there was a Holy Spirit, Paul immediately asked them about their baptism. The Ephesian disciples confessed that their baptism was the baptism of John the Baptist.

The baptism of John the Baptist was about repentance pointing the way towards the kingdom of God and the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Ephesian disciples had not heard about Jesus and His life, death, and resurrection. Very significantly the Ephesian disciples had not heard about the Holy Spirit and His ministry.

As Jesus prepared His disciples for His near departure, He promised them that the Holy Spirit would come upon them and they would be His witnesses. The Holy Spirit provided supreme power for the apostles. The apostles used their spiritual gifts to the glory of God and also God performed signs and wonders by their hands.

## *John's Baptism*

1. **He**. How did Paul take the news that they had no knowledge of the Holy Spirit? Paul asked them a question about their baptism.
2. **Said**. Paul questioned them about their baptism.
3. **What**. Paul wanted to know what kind of baptism they had.
4. **Baptized**. Paul knew that virtually all believers in the New Testament were baptized shortly after their conversion to Christ.
5. **They**. In this case, Paul wanted to know what they had been baptized into.
6. **Baptism**. Living holy in the family of God means that asking questions about the Holy Spirit in someone's life may lead to very good results.
7. **John**. We rejoice today because Paul came to introduce the Ephesian disciples who had been baptized into John's baptism to the ministry and power of the Holy Spirit.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that many people may be unfamiliar with the ministry of the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by helping young believers learn about the Holy Spirit and His indwelling presence in every saint's life.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking Jesus for baptizing us with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.**

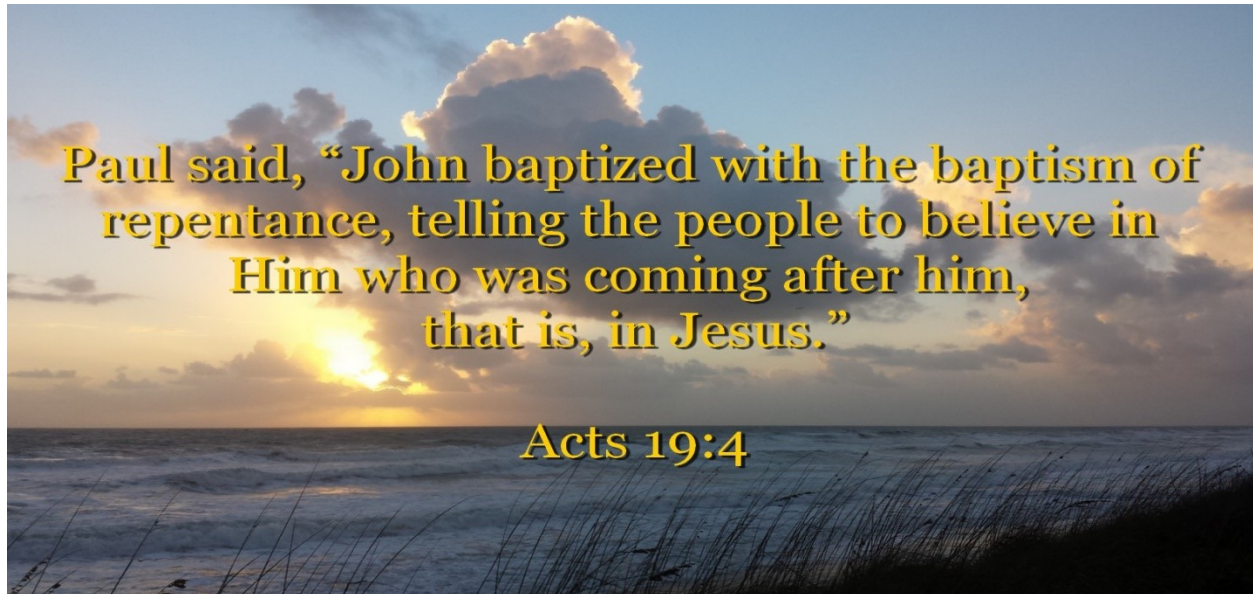
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus baptized each of us with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by noticing the activity of the Holy Spirit in your life today?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 666

## Repentance Today



What was the message of John the Baptist? John proclaimed repentance and baptism, looking forward to Jesus coming after him.

The Ephesian disciples only knew the baptism of John. Paul explained the baptism of John. John baptized people with the baptism of repentance. John knew he was not the Christ, but that the Christ was coming after him. His name was Jesus. Paul clarified that the baptism of John look forward to Jesus, but Jesus had come and given His life on the cross for the salvation of everyone who believes in Him. Jesus was then raised from the grave and ascended to heaven.

Paul proclaimed salvation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ died on the cross for our sins and was raised for our justification. By faith we receive the free gift of salvation from Jesus Christ.

The Ephesian disciples did not know about the Holy Spirit. Salvation by faith in Jesus Christ means that the Holy Spirit will become active in your life. At the moment of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ, He baptizes you into

the body of Christ and the Holy Spirit seals you for the day of redemption. From that day forward the Holy Spirit indwells you and will never leave you.

## ***Believe***

1. **Paul**. What did Paul tell the Ephesian disciples about John the Baptist? Paul told them that John the Baptist looked forward to Jesus.

2. **John**. When Paul met the Ephesian disciples, they had only been baptized into the baptism of John.

3. **Baptized**. Having been baptized into the baptism of John the Baptist, the Ephesian disciples did not understand that the Lord Jesus Christ had come and died and was resurrected.

4. **Baptism**. The baptism of John the Baptist paved the way for Jesus to come, by encouraging the people to repent of their sins and turn to Christ Jesus.

5. **Repentance**. John the Baptist preached repentance.

6. **Believe**. Living holy in the family of God means that as the people heard John the Baptist and repented of their sins, then they would be prepared to receive Jesus by faith when He began His public ministry.

7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because Jesus came and fulfilled all the prophecies of John the Baptist concerning the appearance of Messiah for the redemption of sins.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering John the Baptist and his proclamation of repentance.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus fulfilled every prophecy concerning the appearance of Messiah to take away sins.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with the people who may not have heard the full account.**

## **Application for Today**

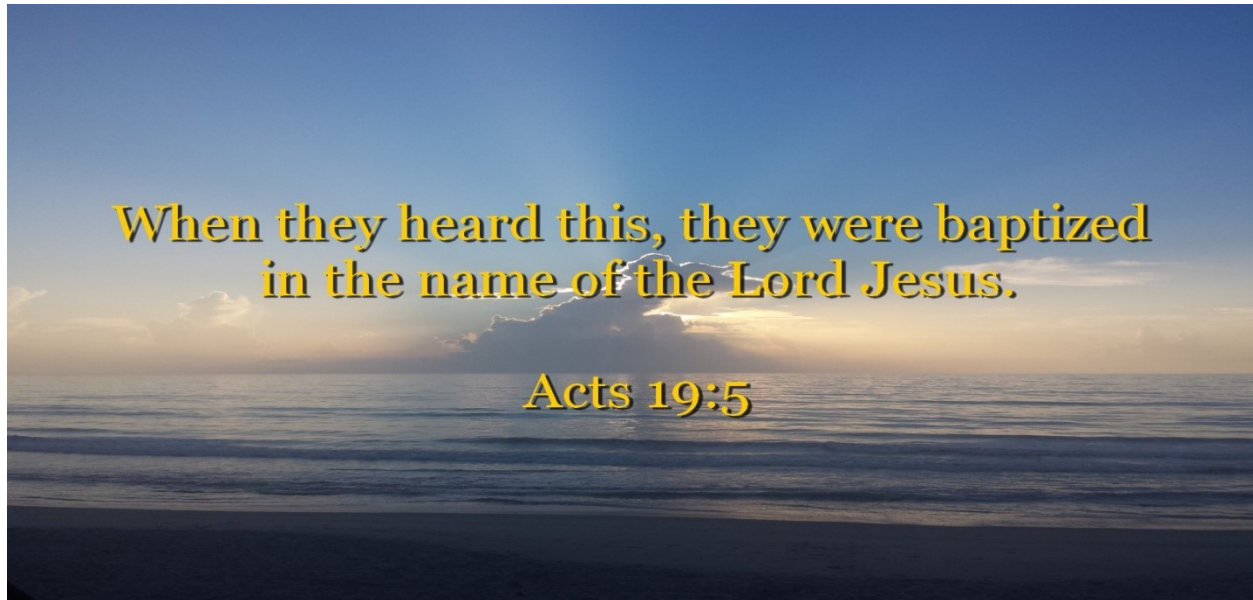
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by sharing Jesus with people who have not heard about His death, burial and resurrection. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the Ephesian disciples meeting Paul?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 667

## Heard Today



How did the Ephesian disciples respond to the news about Jesus? They were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ when they heard this news.

When Paul explained to the Ephesian disciples the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, including His death and resurrection, the Ephesian disciples were baptized immediately. The geographical expansion of the Holy Spirit's activity parallels the reception of people through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In other words, the Book of Acts chronicles the Holy Spirit filling the church of Jesus Christ, one believer at a time, and then uniting them in the body of Christ. At the moment of salvation, Jesus baptizes each new believer in the Holy Spirit and they become members of the body of Christ. They retain their individual identities and receive unique spiritual gifts. Yet, they all share the mind of Christ and the Holy Spirit indwells them permanently.

The Ephesian disciples had now heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and believed in Him for salvation. Jesus was about to baptize them in the Holy Spirit and they were about to join the body of Christ.

## ***Baptized***

1. **When**. What did the Ephesian disciples do when they heard about Jesus? They were baptized in the Name of Jesus.

2. **They**. They had heard about John the Baptist and were baptized into his baptism.

3. **Heard**. When Paul explained to them that John the Baptist looked forward to Jesus, and Jesus had come, they were baptized again.

4. **Baptized**. The Ephesian disciples were baptized the second time into the baptism of the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Name**. Throughout the Bible names mean something, and the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ carried very specific meaning that He was the God of the Old Testament.

6. **Lord**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus is Lord of lords and being baptized into His name amounts to a public declaration of His Lordship in your life.

7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because Jesus fulfilled both the ministry of John the Baptist and all righteousness when John the Baptist baptized Jesus.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the work of John the Baptist in preparing people to meet Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for fulfilling the prophecies of John the Baptist as Messiah of Israel.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the Name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.**

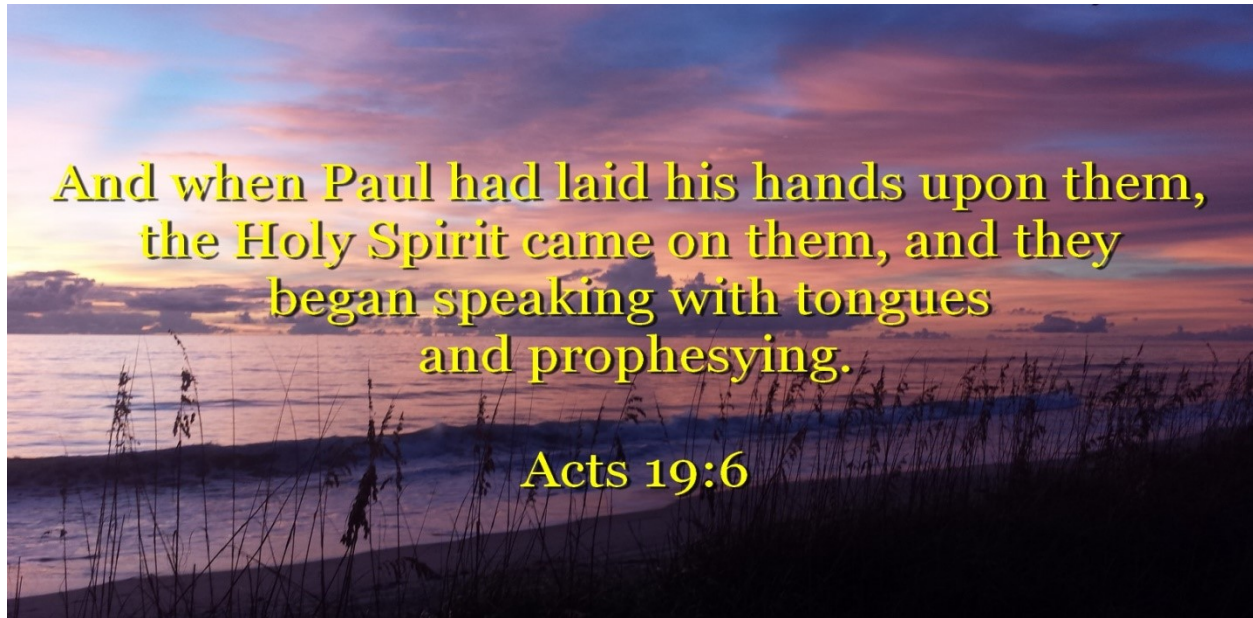
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for Jesus coming in fulfillment of all the prophecies of John the Baptist and dying for our sins and being raised for our justification. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for baptism as a public proclamation of our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 668

## Holy Spirit Today



What happened when Paul laid his hands upon the Ephesian disciples? When Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them.

Just as Jesus promised, He baptized them with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation by faith in Him. In the Book of Acts things are changing rapidly from the Old Testament spiritual economy to the New Testament spiritual economy.

In the New Testament many people were baptized by Jesus with the Holy Spirit and no one laid hands on. At other times, in crucial places with crucial people, the apostles laid hands on people and they received the Holy Spirit. Only three times in the Book of Acts do people speak with tongues. First, at Pentecost in Jerusalem. Second, the Gentiles at Caesarea. Third, the Ephesian disciples. Only in Ephesus was speaking in tongues associated with the laying on of hands. In other cases, people received the Holy Spirit after the laying on of hands. The vast majority of people saved by Jesus Christ never received the laying on of hands, but all of them were baptized by Jesus in the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the laying on of hands was not essential to

receiving the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, speaking in tongues does not dominate the Book of Acts as if it were essential to all believers.

## ***Tongues***

1. **Paul**. Why did Paul lay his hands upon the Ephesian disciples? Paul laid his hands upon them so that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

2. **Hands**. By laying his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit filled them as a result of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Them**. The Holy Spirit filled them and provided evidence of their salvation.

4. **Holy**. The Holy Spirit always filled believers, but on special occasions the laying on of hands signaled His filling.

5. **Speaking**. When the Holy Spirit filled the Ephesian disciples, they began speaking in tongues.

6. **Tongues**. Living holy in the family of God means that on special occasions in the Book of Acts, believers spoke in tongues when they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

7. **Prophecy**. We rejoice today because the Ephesian disciples also prophesied because the Holy Spirit filled them.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Holy Spirit filled the Ephesian disciples so that they spoke in tongues and prophesied.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the laying on of hands in some instances accompanied the filling of the Holy Spirit in believers.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that the Holy Spirit filled the Ephesian disciples.**

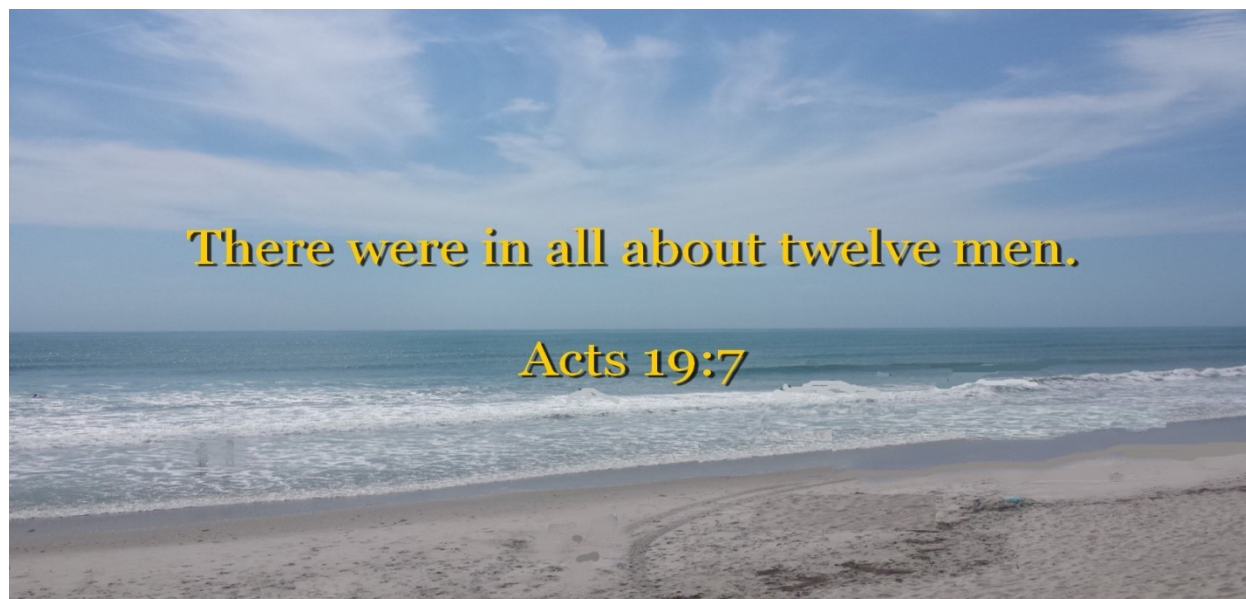
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that on special occasions people spoke in tongues and prophesied when the Holy Spirit filled them for the first time. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the power of the Holy Spirit Who lives inside of you?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 669

## Twelve Today



How many Ephesian disciples were there? There were 12 Ephesian disciples, all men, just like Jesus called to Himself as disciples.

God loves ministry teams. They can be anywhere from two men to an entire congregation or beyond. Like iron sharpens iron, so ministry teams with a variety of spiritual gifts do great things for the Lord Jesus Christ.

God had just formed a ministry team at Ephesus. Paul shared the gospel with them and they believed and were baptized both in water and by Jesus with the Holy Spirit. Great things were about to take place in Ephesus and beyond.

God frequently uses a small group of people to make very big gains for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Book of Acts presents the history of a few men who went into Europe and Asia and elsewhere with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Unbelievers complained that the men were turning the world upside down. Their influence for Christ remains to this day. We praise God for the faithful men that God used to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus

Christ to Gentiles like us. We rejoice in the loving plans of God in the faithful service of men who walked in the works He prepared beforehand for them.

## ***Men***

1. **They**. How many disciples did Paul meet at Ephesus? Paul met 12 men at Ephesus.

2. **Were**. They were believers in the baptism of John before Paul arrived.

3. **In**. They lived in faith, but they had not yet received the Holy Spirit.

4. **All**. All of them heard the message from Paul about the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **About**. All the Ephesian disciples gathered together were about 12 men.

6. **Twelve**. Living holy in the family of God means that God used 12 men to reach out to Asia.

7. **Men**. We rejoice today because those 12 men had a dramatic impact for the Lord Jesus Christ in all of Asia upon both Jews and Greeks.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the 12 Ephesian disciples that Paul met.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that He can reach many people with 12 men full of the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by being filled with the Holy Spirit and ready to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.**

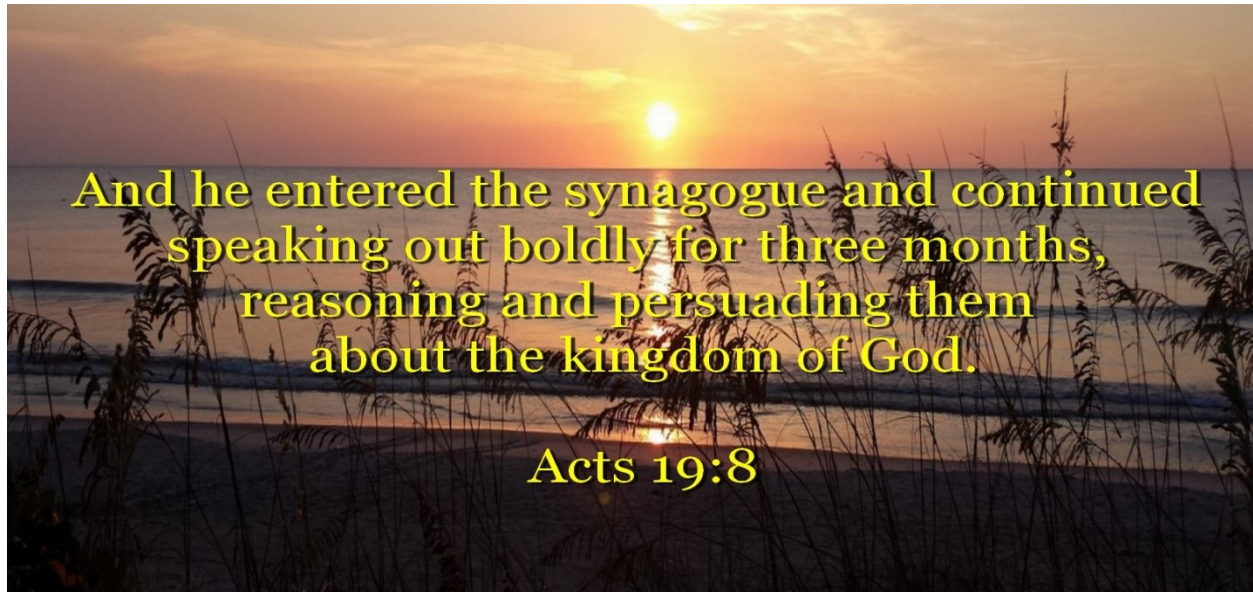
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the Lord Jesus Christ and being filled with the Holy Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 670

## Synagogue Today



After the conversion of the Ephesian disciples, what did Paul do? Paul continued going in to the synagogue and proclaiming the kingdom of God.

Paul saw God do something wonderful with the Ephesian disciples. After hearing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, those disciples were baptized in water and Jesus baptized them with the Holy Spirit. They spoke in tongues.

God had formed a new ministry team at Ephesus. Paul would work closely with that team to encourage them to spread the word of God and to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul, however, did not neglect his usual work of going to the synagogues.

For a period of three months Paul continued going to the synagogue of Ephesus. He proclaimed the kingdom of God to them. He was reasoning with the Jews and God-fearing in the synagogue and persuading some about the kingdom of God. Typically, the Jews of the synagogues in the places where Paul visited often became his most bitter and violent opponents. Even so, God sustained Paul through many perilous visits and journeys in Asia and

Europe. Paul never gave up, but continued his faithful work for the Lord Jesus Christ.

## *Reasoning*

1. **He**. What did Paul do for three months at Ephesus? Paul spent time in the synagogue there.

2. **Entered**. As was his custom on the Sabbath, Paul entered the synagogue at Ephesus.

3. **Synagogue**. Paul went to the synagogues to speak to those people there and present the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. **Continued**. Paul continued his well-established habit at Ephesus.

5. **Boldly**. Paul spoke boldly in the synagogue, reasoning and persuading them.

6. **Months**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul spent time in the synagogue at Ephesus reasoning and persuading them to turn to Jesus Christ for salvation.

7. **Kingdom**. We rejoice today because Paul proclaimed the kingdom of God to the Jews of Ephesus, urging them to turn to Jesus Christ for salvation.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by spending extra time in places that need more help.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by speaking to people boldly and reasoning with them about the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by proclaiming the kingdom of God to unbelievers and warning them about the judgment to come.**

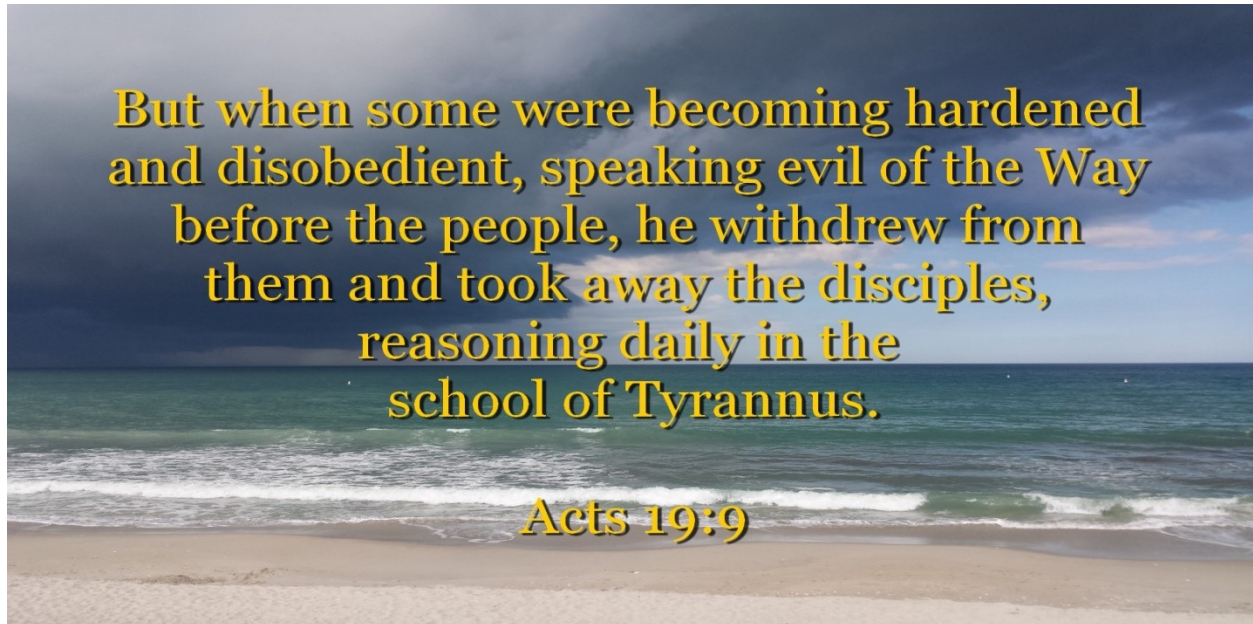
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by speaking boldly for Christ and His great love. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for men like Paul who go and speak boldly about the kingdom of God?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 671

## Hardened Today



Why did Paul leave the synagogue? Paul left the synagogue because they were becoming hardened and disobedient.

Following his usual custom, Paul went into the synagogue at Ephesus and began reasoning with them. When the people in the synagogue became hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, Paul withdrew from the synagogue.

When Paul withdrew from the synagogue, he took away the disciples with him. They went to the school of Tyrannus. Paul reasoned there daily with people about Jesus Christ being the Messiah and Savior of the world.

Paul understood the dangers of leaving the young disciples in the synagogue. Like young babies, new believers need the pure milk of the word. With the blasphemy against the Way in the synagogue, Paul wanted a better atmosphere for the young Ephesian disciples. The school of Tyrannus provided a much better atmosphere for reasoning and teaching the disciples.

## *Withdrew*

1. **Hardened**. How did the Jews in the synagogue react to Paul over time? Their hearts became hardened.

2. **Disobedient**. The Jews in the synagogue also became disobedient.

3. **Speaking**. The hardened and disobedient Jews in the synagogue began speaking evil of the Way.

4. **Evil**. Those Jews spoke evil of the Way before all the people in the synagogue.

5. **Withdrew**. Paul withdrew from them.

6. **Disciples**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul took the disciples out of the synagogue after the Jews there became hardened and disobedient and spoke evil of the Way before everyone in the synagogue.

7. **Tyrannus**. We rejoice today because Paul took those disciples to the school of Tyrannus and was reasoning daily there.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that some people hearing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will become hardened and disobedient.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by knowing when the time has come to leave a group of hardened and disobedient people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that when it is time to leave the group of disobedient and hardened people, we are sure to take the disciples with us and provide instruction regularly to them.**

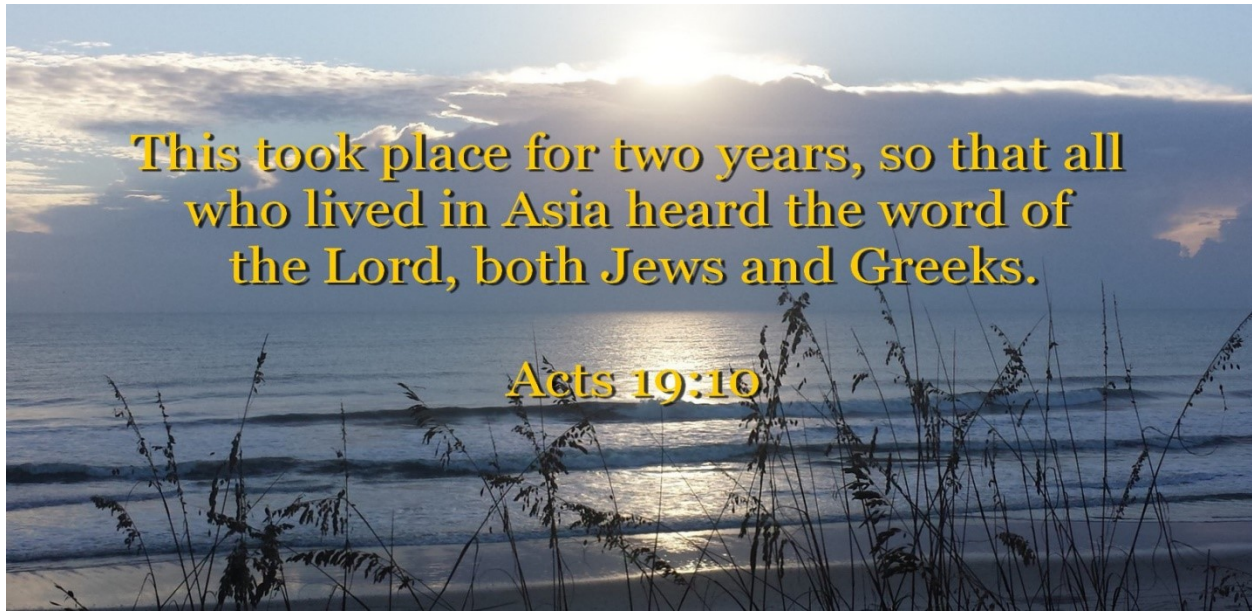
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul left the disobedient and hardened people when they began speaking evil of the Way before everyone present. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking young disciples away from disobedient and hardened people?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 672

## Asia Today



How long did Paul spend in the school of Tyrannus? Paul spent two years reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

Paul's work at Ephesus with the 12 Ephesian disciples bore great fruit. All who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus Christ. Both Jews and Greeks heard the word of God.

The wisdom of Paul's decision to leave the synagogue was confirmed with all of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, hearing the word of God within two years. Paul made Ephesus a base of operations. Paul had planted other churches in Asia previously, but now the work of evangelizing Asia had been completed in two years.

Paul loved to bring the Gospel to new places. He risked his neck to spread the gospel to different places. Paul liked to go where the gospel had not been preached before. He did not want to build upon another's foundation. God's plan often involved a church planter going into a new area and proclaiming the gospel of Christ. Then a church waterer comes behind



and waters the planted church so that it grows up in Christ. Paul planted and Apollos watered and God gave the increase.

## *Heard*

1. **Two**. Paul spent time with the disciples in Ephesus reasoning for two years every day.

2. **All**. During that time, the word of the Lord Jesus Christ spread rapidly, beginning with just 12 disciples from Ephesus.

3. **Lived**. Everyone who lived in Asia heard the Gospel.

4. **Asia**. Paul planted churches in Asia previously, and doubtless they were sharing their faith as well.

5. **Heard**. Everyone in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Word**. Living holy in the family of God means that saints spread the word of the Lord Jesus Christ so that people could hear the word and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

7. **Jews**. We rejoice today because both Jews and Greeks and all Asia heard the word of the Lord.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that during the course of two years, all the people who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God can reach many people with a few committed disciples who will faithfully share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for men like Paul who began to spread of the word of the Lord to all of Asia within about two years of ministry.**

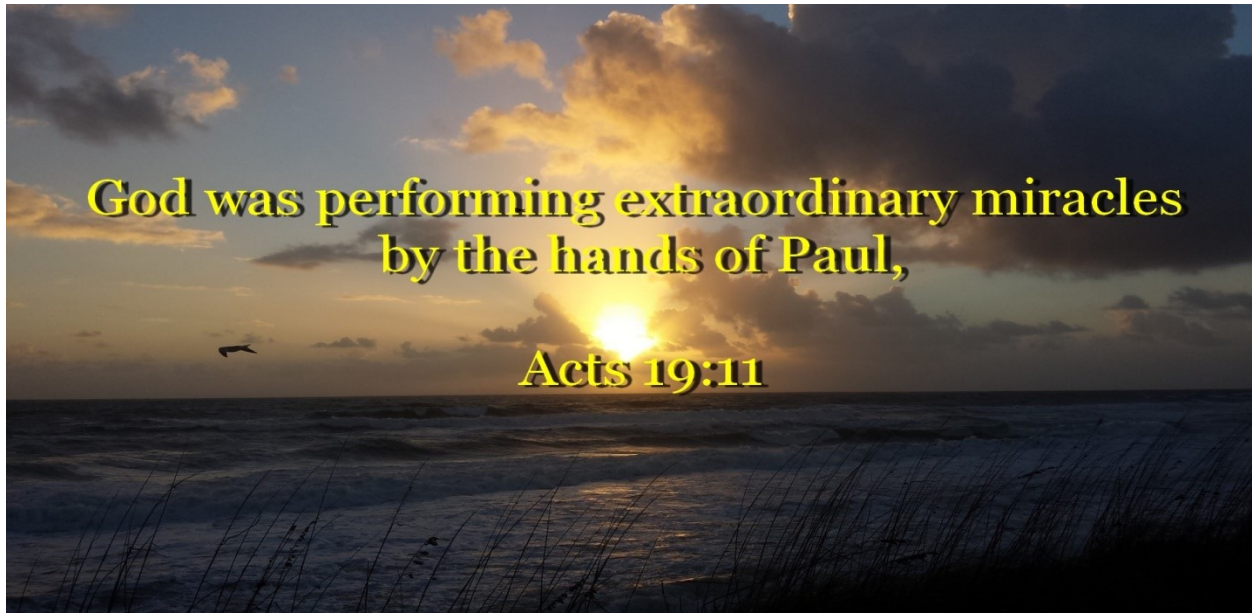
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that all of Asia heard the word of the Lord during a two-year period. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to spread the word of the Lord to many places quickly so that they may trust the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 673

## Extraordinary Today



What about miracles? God was performing extraordinary works of miracles through the hands of Paul.

In the early church, God often confirmed the work of the apostles in Jerusalem and Samaria as they proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter's shadow falling upon people healed them.

Extraordinary miracles in Jerusalem excited the city. The religious leaders, however, boiled with jealousy and hatred against the Way. They imprisoned the apostles and King Herod killed James the apostle and brother of John. God used miracles to bolster the ministry of the apostles and evangelists by confirming that God had sent them.

The Holy Spirit also became active during that time after Pentecost, filling believers and empowering them for service. They actively used their spiritual gifts to the glory of God. The church grew rapidly during those initial stages in Jerusalem, with thousands saved in a single day. With tremendous growth also came tremendous change. The church followed Jesus and the Law was never able to justify anyone.

## *Miracles*

1. **God.** What was God doing with Paul's hands? God was working extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul.
2. **Performing.** God used Paul's hands to perform great works of powers for the people to witness.
3. **Extraordinary.** The things God did through Paul were truly extraordinary.
4. **Miracles.** God did miracles which were outside the realm of normal human experience.
5. **By.** God did those miracles by bringing attention to the hands of Paul.
6. **Hands.** Living holy in the family of God means that God used the hands of Paul to produce extraordinary miracles associated with his proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
7. **Paul.** We rejoice today because God worked miracles through Paul's hands so that people would know that God was with Paul and supported the message of Paul about the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God worked extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the extraordinary times in Ephesus where God deemed it necessary to work miracles through the hands of Paul so that people would hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and pay attention.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His marvelous power to work extraordinary miracles through mere human hands.**

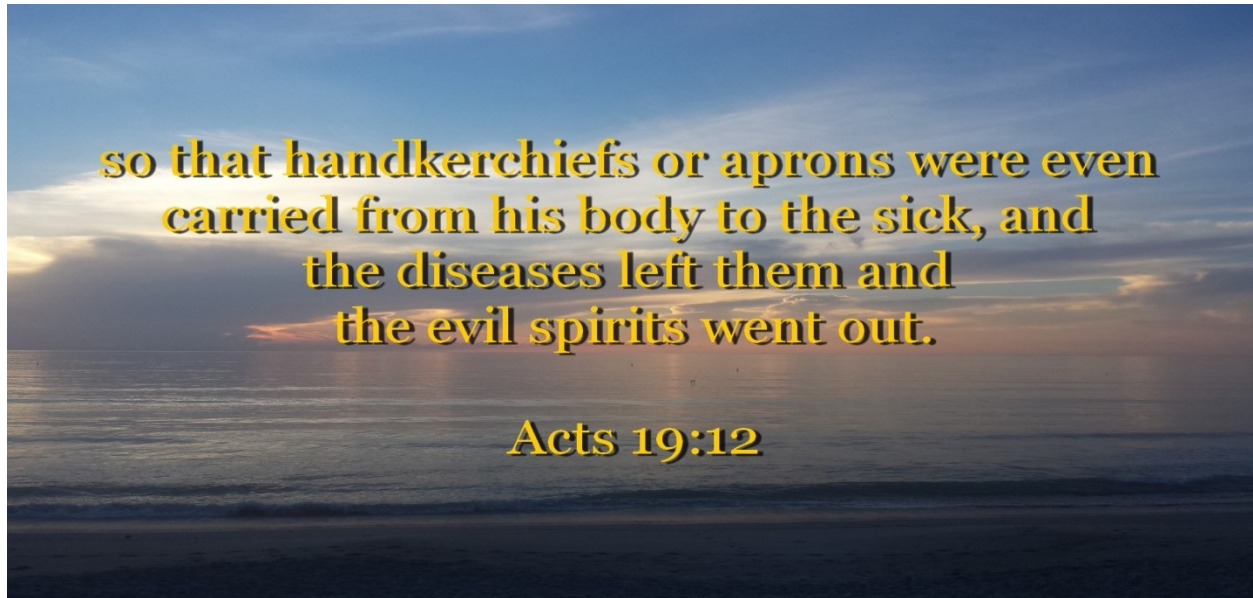
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His wisdom in using Paul to work miracles at Ephesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for the miracles He works so that people will come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 674

## Handkerchiefs Today



How are the sick healed? Handkerchiefs and aprons from Paul's body were carried to the sick and diseases left them and evil spirits went out.

Jesus did not have to go to the home of the centurion to heal the centurion's slave paralyzed there. Jesus only had to say the word and the slave was healed. Peter did not have to touch people for them to be healed, but it was enough that his shadow fell upon them. The power of God works in many different ways to heal people and produces a variety of healings. The Spiritual Gifts of Healings covers a group of gifts of healings.

At Ephesus handkerchiefs from Paul were sufficient to heal diseases and cast out demons. Likewise, aprons worn by Paul were sufficient. Notice that diseases and demons were not the same thing. Diseases manifest themselves in the physical body. Demons likewise manifest themselves in the physical body, but they are spiritual beings taking up residence in that fleshly host.

Jesus had absolute power over demons and cast them out with the word. They feared Jesus when they saw Him. The Holy Spirit used Paul to cast demons out, just like he cast the demon out of the slave girl at Philippi.

## ***Diseases***

1. **Handkerchiefs**. What happened with the handkerchiefs? Handkerchiefs carried from Paul's body healed people and cast out demons.
2. **Aprons**. Likewise, aprons from Paul's body had the same effects.
3. **Carried**. The handkerchiefs and aprons were carried away from Paul's body because people knew they had power in themselves and that Paul's hands were not always required for the miracle to take place.
4. **Body**. Contact with Paul's body was enough for an object to pick up healing power.
5. **Sick**. God miraculously healed diseases when the aprons and handkerchiefs were taken from Paul's body to the sick.
6. **Diseases**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember those aprons and handkerchiefs were able to cure diseases in the body.
7. **Spirits**. We rejoice today because those aprons and handkerchiefs were also able to cast out demons.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that God has the power to use objects to heal diseases and cast out demons.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God wanted to draw the attention to Paul because Paul then focused the attention upon the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for His wise use of His powers to bring people to the Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Application for Today**

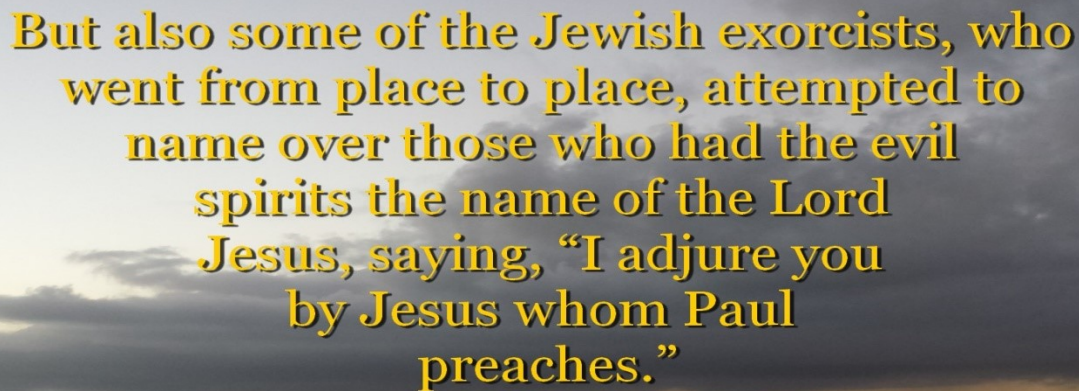
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the many ways He heals diseases and casts out demons. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting the power of God to heal you inside and out, as He wills?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 675

## Exorcists Today



But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, “I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.”

Acts 19:13

What were the Jewish exorcists doing? They were trying to counterfeit Paul’s ministry of exorcism.

Some of the Jewish exorcists traveled from place to place. At Ephesus they attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the Name of the Lord Jesus. They said, “I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.” The problem was they did not know the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit was not indwelling them. Playing around with demons can lead to very bad results.

Demons have great physical power. The Gerasene demoniac had so many demons they identified themselves by the name Legion. They were so powerful they could snap chains and break shackles, so that the demoniac could not be held against the power of the demons. He roamed the tombs, gashing himself with stones and crying out. When Jesus arrived, the demoniac ran to see Him and Jesus cast out the demons. They ran into a herd of swine and they ran into the water and drowned. About 2000 swine died that day and the owners asked Jesus to leave their region, but the demons had begged to stay in the same place. Jesus left that area and would not let the demoniac get in the boat with Him as He left. Instead Jesus

commissioned him to stay behind and tell of the great things that God has done in his life and of God's great mercy.

## *Adjure*

1. **Jewish**. How were some Jewish exorcists trying to counterfeit the ministry of Paul? They tried to cast out demons by using Paul's name.

2. **Exorcists**. The Jewish exorcists had heard about Paul casting out demons and thought they could do likewise by naming Paul and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Place**. The Jewish exorcists traveled from place to place, trying to cast out demons.

4. **Name**. The Jewish exorcists realized that they were unable to cast out demons using only their own name so they begin using the Name of the Lord Jesus to try to cast out demons.

5. **Spirits**. The Jewish exorcists also knew that spiritual power was required to cast out spirits.

6. **Adjure**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the Jewish exorcists who tried to adjure spirits in the name of the Lord Jesus Whom Paul preached.

7. **Paul**. We rejoice today because God used Paul to cast out many demons and heal many diseases, but the counterfeits were about to learn the dangers of playing with demons.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the power of God to cast out demons and heal diseases.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that counterfeit exorcists may arise from time to time and place to place trying to cast out demons in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ without knowing Him as Savior.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by placing our faith in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ and not in false exorcists.**

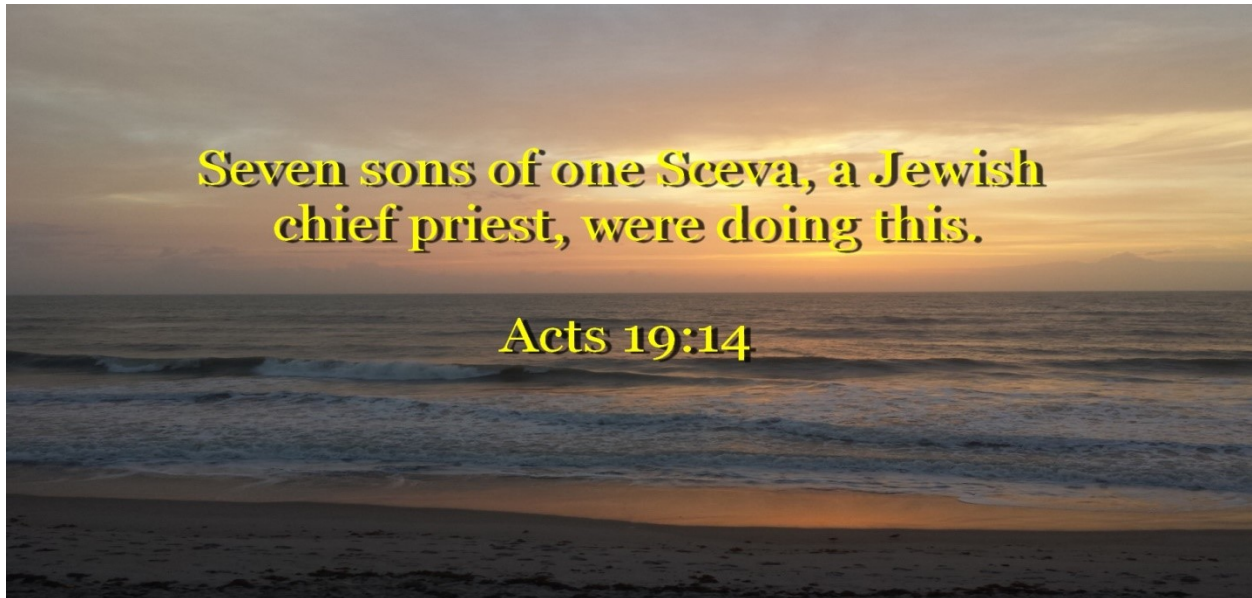
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking heed to stay away from counterfeit exorcists who try to play games with unclean spirits. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that He has all power over diseases and evil spirits?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 676

## Sons Today



What were the seven sons of Sceva doing? They were trying to cast out demons in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A Jewish high priest had seven sons. They used to go from place to place casting out demons. After witnessing the success and power of Paul casting out demons, they began to adjure demons to come out in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ whom Paul preached.

The seven sons of Sceva tried to counterfeit the work of God. Demons are nothing to trifle with. The seven sons of Sceva were pulling on the beard of a lion and bad results would soon follow for them.

God worked great miracles through the hands of Paul to authenticate him as a servant of God. The miracles also drew attention to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed by Paul. When people saw the miracles, they should understand that God was at work through Paul.

While demons and false prophets may work all kinds of miracles at times, they always expose themselves as counterfeits because they do not

proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. In fact they oppose Him in all their ways.

## *Sceva*

1. **Seven**. What did the seven sons of Sceva try? They tried to cast out evil spirits using the name of Jesus.

2. **Sceva**. Sceva was a Jewish high priest.

3. **Priest**. Although he was a high priest, his sons had no power over evil spirits.

4. **Spirits**. When they encountered a man with an evil spirit, they tried to counterfeit the work of God through the hands of Paul.

5. **Name**. They tried to cast out the evil spirit in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6. **Jesus**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus has all power over evil spirits, but only allows certain of His children to exercise that power at His discretion.

7. **Paul**. We rejoice today because God chose Paul to work miracles and cast out demons, but counterfeiters paid a heavy price for their devious ways.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the seven sons of Sceva.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for His power over evil spirits.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that counterfeiters will try to replicate the work of God.**

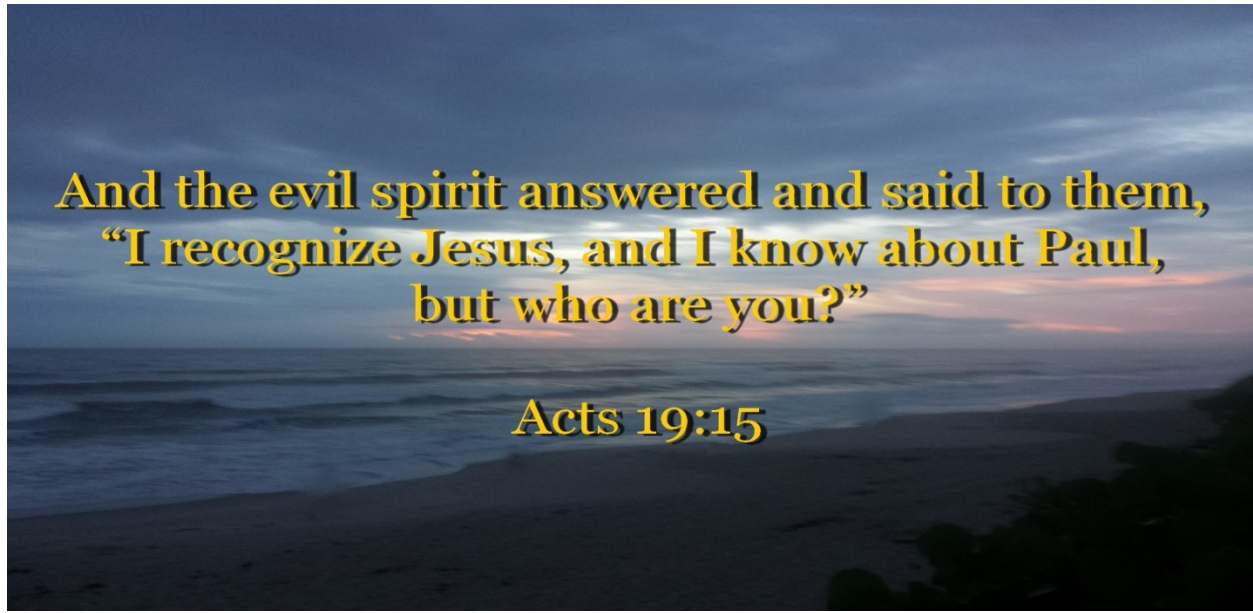
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus alone has the power over evil spirits. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting Jesus to overcome the power of evil spirits in your life?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 677

## Evil Spirit Today



What did the evil spirit say to the seven sons of Sceva? The evil spirit asked them who they were.

The seven sons of Sceva tried to cast out a demon from a man. The evil spirit spoke to the seven sons of Sceva. The evil spirit said that he recognized Jesus and he knew about Paul. He asked the seven sons of Sceva who they were.

When the evil spirit asked who they were, it means that they were not sent by God or equipped with the power of God. Humans alone are not able to overcome the power of evil spirits. Generally, angels are more powerful than human beings, including fallen angels.

God does not appreciate counterfeits of any type. The seven sons of Sceva tried to counterfeit the ministry of Paul in casting out evil spirits. Jealousy often motivates people to counterfeit the works of God and His power. God does not share His glory and power with anyone. Paul did not cast out any demons by himself, but only through the power of God working through him. The seven sons of Sceva did not comprehend that they were

going to be no match for an evil spirit and that their counterfeiting operation would be terminated publicly and forcefully.

## ***Recognize***

1. **Spirit**. What did the evil spirit say to the seven sons of Sceva? He asked them who they were.

2. **Recognize**. The evil spirit said “I recognize Jesus.” When Jesus met evil spirits, they immediately recognized Him as the Son of God in the flesh and feared Him.

3. **Jesus**. Jesus was well known to the evil spirits.

4. **Know**. The evil spirit also said: “I know about Paul.”

5. **Paul**. Paul had cast out evil spirits in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Who**. Living holy in the family of God means that when an evil spirit asks you who you are, and does not recognize you, then you know you are in trouble.

7. **You**. We rejoice today because God has all the power over evil spirits, but the seven sons of Sceva were about to find out what happens to those who counterfeit the power of God.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of God to cast out demons at will.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the finger of God was active through Jesus in casting out demons.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing that demons never dominate the family of God because our faith in Jesus overcomes the world and all it contains.**

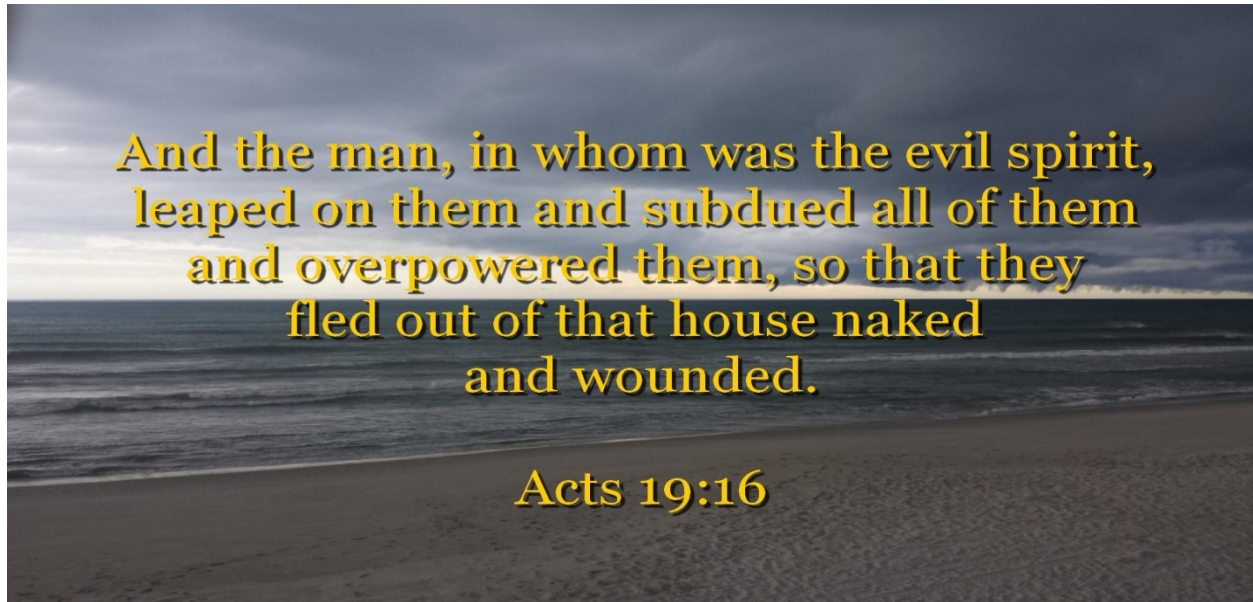
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His power over demons so that we fear only God and nothing else. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God we have nothing to fear from demons because they can do nothing to us after our bodies die?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 678

## Subdued Today



What did the man with the evil spirit do to the seven sons of Sceva? He overpowered them.

Counterfeiting the works of God never produces the intended results. When the seven sons of Sceva thought they could counterfeit the power of God in exorcising evil spirits, they learned a very brutal lesson.

The man with the evil spirit they were trying to exorcise jumped upon them. The man overpowered all seven of them. He subdued all of them. They fled out of the house naked and wounded. Their humiliation and physical injuries testified to the power of God for all to see by exposing them as counterfeits and pretenders who never knew God.

God can bolster the ministry of his messengers like Paul in many ways. In this case the seven sons of Shiva were exposed as frauds and deceivers. They had no power to contend with the evil spirit and suffered the consequences of beating and public nakedness. They were humiliated and discredited in every way. Paul, however, shined all the brighter because nobody could counterfeit his ministry of casting out evil spirits and healing

the sick. God had placed His blessing upon Paul and his message and he stood out from the crowd of imposters.

## *Fled*

1. **Man**. What did the evil spirit do to the seven sons of Sceva? He overpowered all seven of them at once.

2. **Spirit**. One evil spirit had no problem with seven sons of Sceva.

3. **Leaped**. He leapt upon them, imposing his physical will upon them.

4. **Subdued**. He subdued them without a problem.

5. **Overpowered**. He had supernatural power as a demon and overpowered the seven sons of Sceva.

6. **Fled**. Living holy in the family of God means that the seven sons of Sceva fled from the evil spirit in the man who had subdued them and overpowered them.

7. **Naked**. We rejoice today because Paul cast out demons by the power of God, but the seven sons of Sceva fled naked and wounded out of the house of the man with the evil spirit.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the supernatural power of one evil spirit overcoming seven men at the same time.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by knowing counterfeiter without the power of God have no power over demons.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by wearing the armor of God daily to protect ourselves against the onslaught of the devil and his demons.**

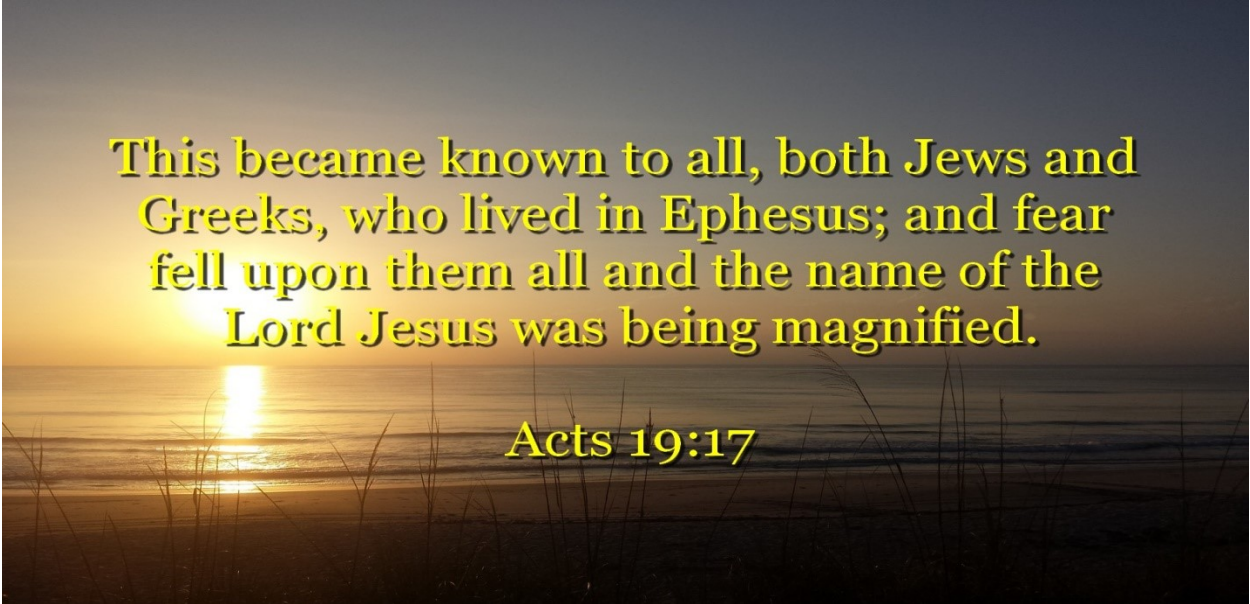
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God that the power of God remains infinitely greater than the power of demons. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that He keeps us safe in His grace for all eternity as we stand firm in Him, having taken up the armor of God?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 679

## Known Today



This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

Acts 19:17

Who heard about the seven sons of Sceva? Everyone who lived in Ephesus knew what happened to the seven sons of Sceva.

God uses nonbelievers to display the glory of His power. In this case, the evil spirit battered the seven sons of Sceva and then they ran away naked. Their plight became known to everyone in Ephesus. They were exposed as imposters trying to counterfeit the works of Paul. They thought they could achieve the same results that Paul could achieve by naming Paul and Jesus to the evil spirits.

Fear fell upon everyone at Ephesus. The imposters had been exposed and the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ was being glorified because Paul told everyone that Jesus Christ was the only Savior. The message Paul delivered about Jesus was confirmed with power by the living God.

The Name of the Lord Jesus Christ was being glorified at Ephesus. The seven sons of Sceva only magnified the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They tried to duplicate the ministry of Paul in dealing with evil spirits. They failed miserably and publicly and nakedly. The very opposite of what they hoped to

achieve occurred because the people of Ephesus feared God and magnified the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## ***Magnified***

1. **Known**. What was the result of the seven sons of Sceva running away naked and wounded? The name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

2. **All**. All the people in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, came to know what happened to the seven sons of Sceva.

3. **Fear**. Fear fell upon them all.

4. **Fell**. The fear fell because God had worked miracles through Paul and the evil spirit had wounded and humiliated the seven sons of Sceva, showing them to be imposters.

5. **Name**. The Name of the Lord Jesus Christ shone brightly at Ephesus.

6. **Jesus**. Living holy in the family of God means that when the seven sons of Sceva could not cast out the demon, but it triumphed over them, the power of the Lord Jesus Christ became even more apparent.

7. **Magnified**. We rejoice today because the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ was magnified in Ephesus because of the failure of the seven sons of Sceva.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the seven sons of Sceva and the evil spirit wounding and humiliating them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that imposters often suffer the immediate consequences of their evil acts.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of Jesus to cast out demons and triumph over imposters.**

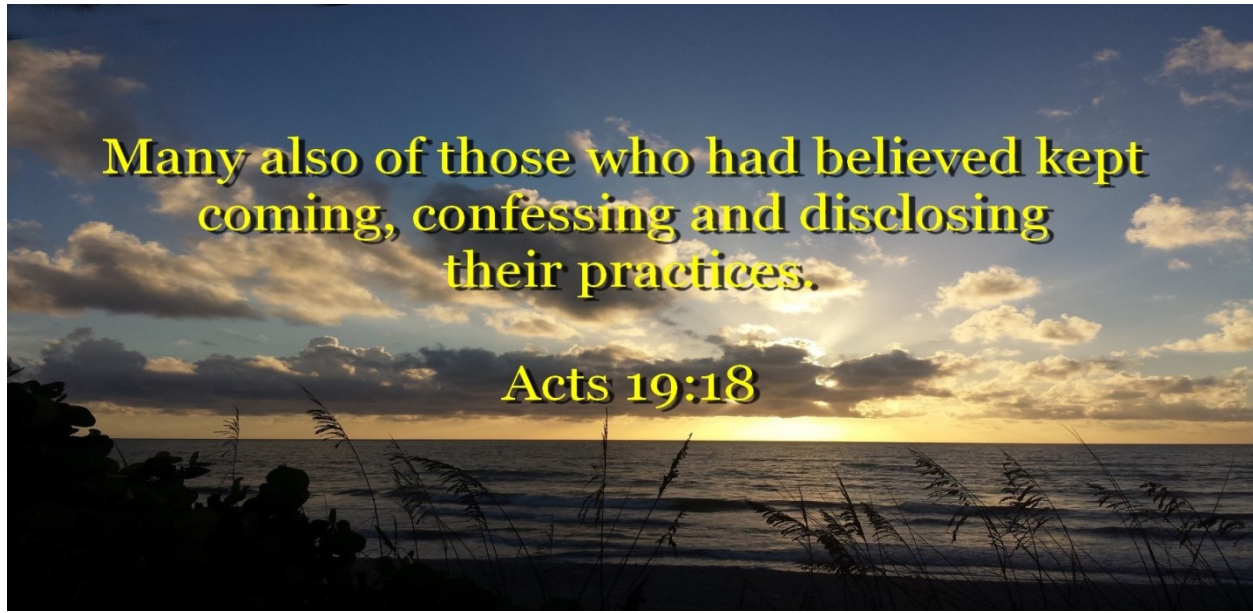
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by glorifying God for the many ways He magnifies the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the contrast between the seven sons of Sceva and the apostle Paul?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 680

## Believed Today



What happened after the seven sons of Sceva were overpowered? Some people believed in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and turned to Him for salvation.

So often people express an interest in saving faith, but quickly lose that interest and return to their old ways of life. At Ephesus many of the people who believed were coming forward. Jesus said that His disciples were known as people who continued in His word. Those who loved Jesus kept His commandments.

The people of Ephesus had supported the work of Jewish exorcists and others. Some of the people of Ephesus practiced magic and did evil works. Witnessing the power of Jesus Christ casting out demons contrasted brightly with the failure and humiliation of the seven sons of Sceva. What the seven sons of the high priest could not do with their Judaism, Paul did routinely in Ephesus by casting out demons and healing the sick.

The people who believed at Ephesus confessed their evil ways and dark practices. They now saw quite clearly that their magic and their evil ways



only led them to deeper problems. The power of Jesus Christ, however, triumphed over all magic and all evil, providing hope for eternity and salvation today.

## *Confessing*

1. **Many**. What happened in Ephesus after the seven sons of Sceva were exposed as counterfeiters? Many people believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

2. **Believed**. They believed because they had seen the power of God working through Paul and the evil spirit triumph over the seven sons of Sceva.

3. **Kept**. Many of those who believed kept coming to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

4. **Coming**. By coming to the Lord Jesus, they were starting a relationship of salvation with Him.

5. **Disclosing**. They were confessing and disclosing their evil practices.

6. **Their**. Living holy in the family of God means that they disclosed their evil practices, including their practice of magic and sorcery.

7. **Practices**. We rejoice today because those evil practices only play into the hands of demons, but faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to salvation provides victory for all eternity.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that many people came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ because of the failure of the seven sons of Sceva.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by encouraging people who have come to Christ, confessing and disclosing their evil practices.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that we do not fight against flesh and blood, but against all kinds of evil powers and beings in heavenly places.**

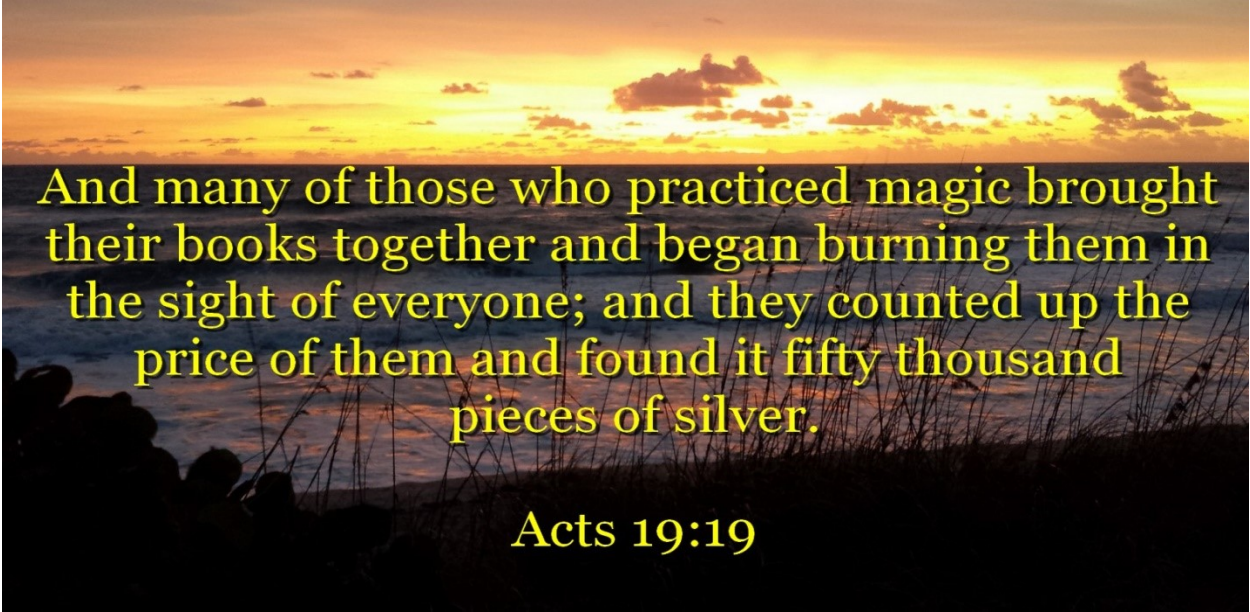
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for people turning away from evil powers and embracing the love of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by growing up in Christ and leaving behind all the evil practices?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 681

## Many Today



And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

Acts 19:19

What about the magic books? Some of the people at Ephesus brought their magic books and burned them.

After everyone witnessed the counterfeit activity of certain priests, many people turned to the Lord Jesus at Ephesus. Many of those people who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone. The power of the Lord Jesus in casting out demons showed many people in Ephesus that their own magic powers amounted to that nothing. Jesus had absolute authority over all evil spirits and could command them to come out of a person at His will.

Jesus brought His power to Ephesus in the person of Paul the apostle. Of course, the power of Jesus is present everywhere in the universe, because He is God. But when Paul came to Ephesus, he began casting out demons and healing disease so that everyone knew he did that work in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When they counted up the price of the magic books that had been burned in Ephesus, they found the price to be 50,000 pieces of silver. The power of Jesus Christ brought many people to saving faith in Him as Savior.

## ***Burning***

1. **Many**. What happened after the humiliation of the seven sons of Sceva? Many of the Ephesians who practiced magic burned their books of magic.

2. **Practiced**. Some of the Ephesians who practiced magic and used books containing evil practices felt convicted about such books and practices.

3. **Magic**. They determined to leave their practice of magic behind, by the power of Jesus Christ.

4. **Books**. They also dealt with their books for destruction.

5. **Burning**. They brought their books together and began the destruction of all those expensive magic books.

6. **Everyone**. Living holy in the family of God means that when people like the Ephesians convert to the Way, they often make public declarations of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ so that everyone knows they're leaving their evil practices behind.

7. **Silver**. We rejoice today because many Ephesians gathered their magic books together and burned them before everyone. The value of those books was counted up and turned out to be 50,000 pieces of silver.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by glorifying God for people burning their magic books because of their conversion to the Way.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God holds all the power in the universe and all other powers exist at His will.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for people who turn away from magic and their dark arts, forsaking their evil idolatry publicly, once and for all, and embracing the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.**

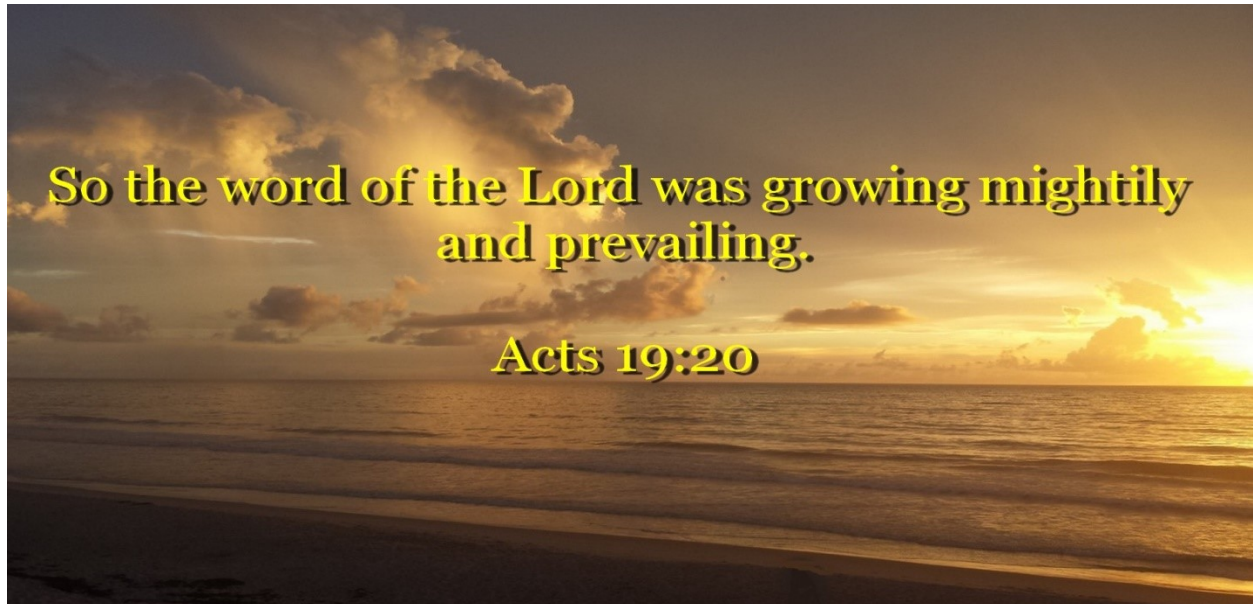
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by welcoming people who turn away from magic and dark arts to serve the living and true God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by leaving the idolatry in your life behind once and for all?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 682

## Growing Today



What was the word of the Lord doing at Ephesus? The word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

The evidence of the word of the Lord growing came in the form of conversions. People heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and turned to Him for salvation. Paul had been consistently proclaiming the Way of the Lord. When the people witnessed the evil spirit overpower the seven sons of Sceva, they became more convinced about the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, Whom Paul proclaimed. Paul also cast out demons in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and they obeyed.

Many of the people coming to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior gave up their magic and burned their magic books, sacrificing 50,000 pieces of silver in effect. The city of Ephesus was rife with idolatry and the power of the Lord Jesus Christ turned many people away from serving dead idols to the Living God.

At Ephesus the word of the Lord was growing mightily. People saw the power of God and responded to the Lord Jesus Christ. The word of the Lord

also prevailed, meaning the Lord Jesus Christ prevailed over both evil spirits and diseases plaguing the population of Ephesus.

## *Prevailing*

1. **So**. What was the result of good things at Ephesus? The word of the Lord was growing.

2. **Word**. God evaluates success by the word of the Lord.

3. **Lord**. At Ephesus the word of the Lord had been spread by Paul to a city full of idolatry.

4. **Growing**. Success came in the form of many people from Ephesus turning to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior so that the word of God was growing.

5. **Mightily**. The word of God was also mighty at Ephesus, curing disease and casting out demons.

6. **And**. Living holy in the family of God means that the word of God was growing mightily at Ephesus and many good things were happening.

7. **Prevailing**. We rejoice today because the word of God not only grew mightily at Ephesus, but it was also prevailing over the demons and disease found there.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God when the word of God grows mightily.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for His word that saves souls, casts out demons and heals people inside and out.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the mighty word of God that prevails over all things.**

## **Application for Today**

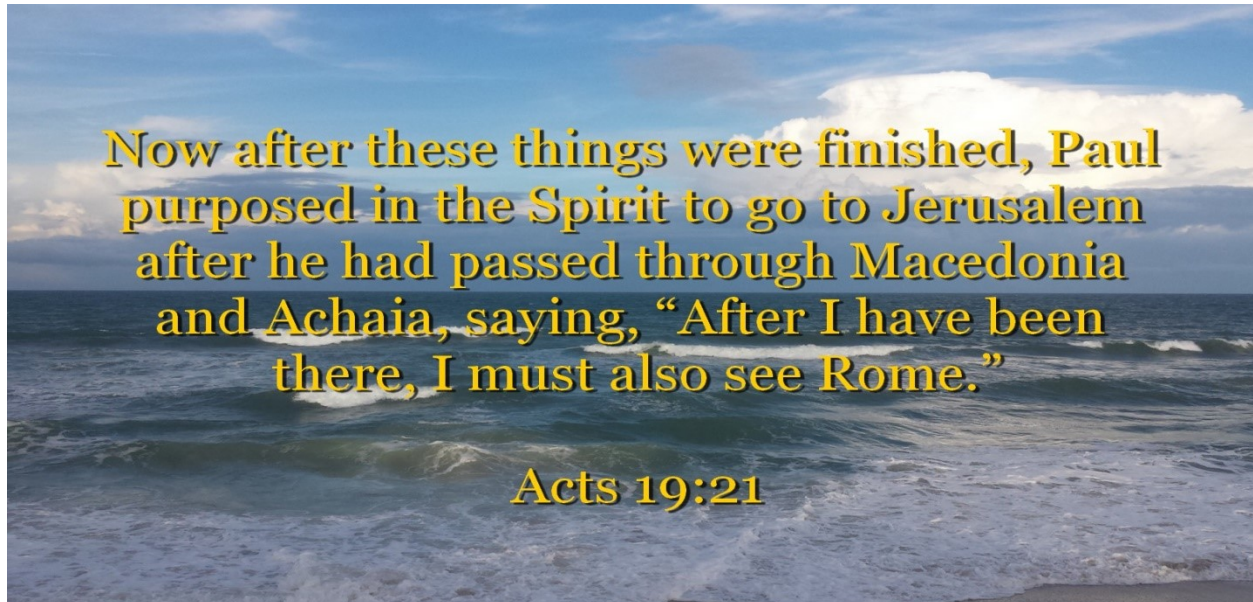
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the power of His word. Will you live holy in the family of God today by enjoying the power of the word of God at work in your community?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 683

## Purposed Today



What were Paul’s plans? Paul planned to leave Ephesus and travel extensively in Europe.

After the things finished, Paul wanted to return to his missionary ways of visiting churches that he had planted and establishing new ones. His last stop, however, would be Jerusalem, as the Lord willed. Jerusalem was certainly the home base of the early church and Paul knew a lot of people in Jerusalem. Paul had visited Jerusalem on several occasions.

Paul also planned on going to Europe. He specifically wanted to pass first through Macedonia and Achaia, where he already planted churches. Paul purposed in the Spirit not only to go to Macedonia, but he also wanted to go on to Rome. Paul went to large cities, often traveling well known routes, so that he could proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to as many people as possible.

Paul loved the churches he established and the people who lived there. He often wrote in his epistles that he longed to see them and spend time with

them. Paul was also developing a ministry team in the disciples who were drawn from various places.

## ***Rome***

1. **After**. What happened after these things were finished? Paul purposed in the Spirit to move on.

2. **Paul**. Paul counted upon the Holy Spirit to direct him as he traveled.

3. **Purposed**. Paul purposed in the Holy Spirit to go to Jerusalem.

4. **Jerusalem**. Paul looked forward to going back to Jerusalem where so many good things had happened in his ministry.

5. **After**. Before Paul went to Jerusalem, Paul wanted to go back to Asia first. He wanted to visit Rome after he passed through Macedonia and Achaia.

6. **Macedonia**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul wanted to go back to Macedonia where he had been severely persecuted and chased by the jealous Jews of Thessalonica.

7. **Achaia**. We rejoice today because the people in Corinth had received the word of God and Paul looked forward to seeing them again.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by making our plans according to the will of the Holy Spirit and His direction for us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by not losing touch with the friends we have made in Christ, no matter where they are at the time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by taking time to revisit old friends in Christ and to make new ones in new places.**

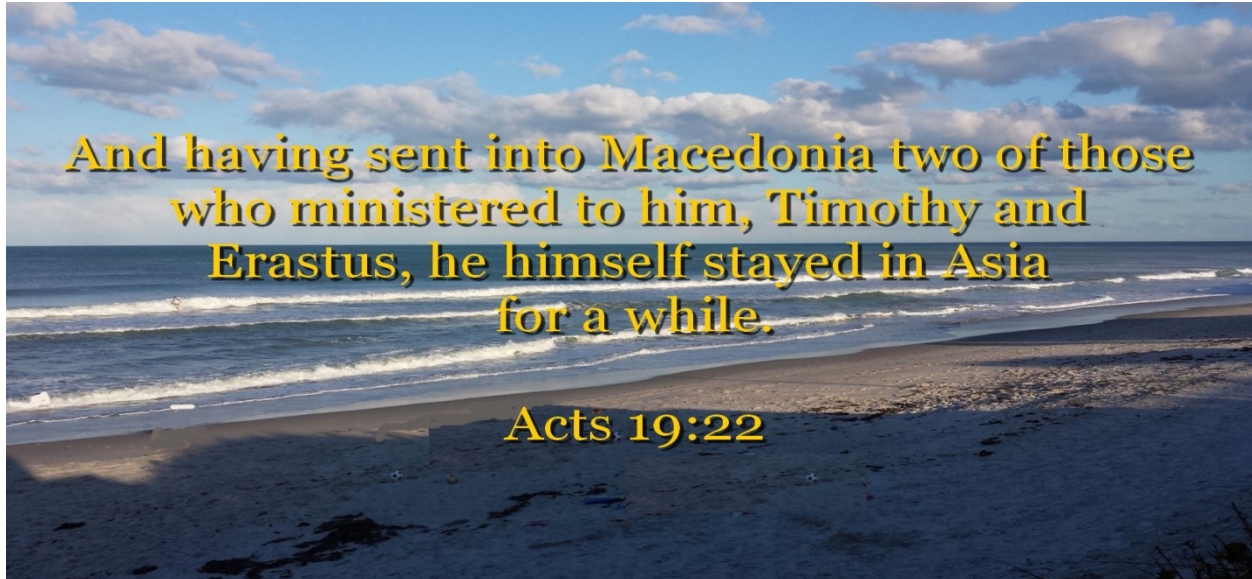
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by traveling at the direction of the Holy Spirit to see old friends in Christ and make new ones in new places. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the worldwide church of God composed of people born again by the power of God?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 684

## Macedonia Today



Who were Timothy and Erastus? Timothy and Erastus were people who joined the ministry team with Paul and he sent them into Macedonia.

At Lystra Paul met Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but her husband was a Greek. Paul circumcised him and took him onto the ministry team with Silas. Timothy became a spiritual son to Paul. Paul had great confidence in Timothy and they labored together in many different fields.

Paul mentioned Erastus for the first time in Ephesus. Apparently, Paul wrote the letter to the Romans while on the third missionary journey. At the close of the letter to the Romans, Paul passed along greetings from Erastus of Corinth. Paul wrote the letter to the Romans while he was in Corinth, but the duties of being the city steward for Corinth precluded a city treasurer from traveling extensively with Paul. Therefore, the traveling companion of Paul named Erastus was unlikely to be the city treasurer of Corinth.

Paul made disciples all the time. He met people in different cities and they joined the ministry team. As Paul wrote letters to different churches, he

often mentioned the members of the ministry team and their connection to the recipient of the letter.

## *Asia*

1. **Sent**. How did Paul prepare for his trip to Macedonia? He sent Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia before him.

2. **Two**. Timothy and Erastus were two of the men who ministered to Paul as he traveled.

3. **Macedonia**. Paul had planted churches in Macedonia, but also met stiff opposition there.

4. **Timothy**. Paul looked upon Timothy as his son in Christ.

5. **Erastus**. Paul picked up Erastus as a traveling companion, and sent him to prepare for Paul's visit to Macedonia.

6. **Stayed**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul trusted Timothy and Erastus to prepare the way for him in Macedonia, but he stayed in Asia for a while.

7. **Asia**. We rejoice today because Paul stayed in Asia because he had not concluded the Lord's business there yet.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by raising up disciples that we can send on journeys.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by allowing other disciples to work outside our immediate supervision.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by showing confidence in disciples by giving them important tasks to perform before we get there.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by training disciples to operate for the Lord Jesus without our immediate supervision. Will you live holy in the family of God today by building disciples you can trust to do the Lord's work even if you are not around?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# 13

## Riot at Ephesus Today

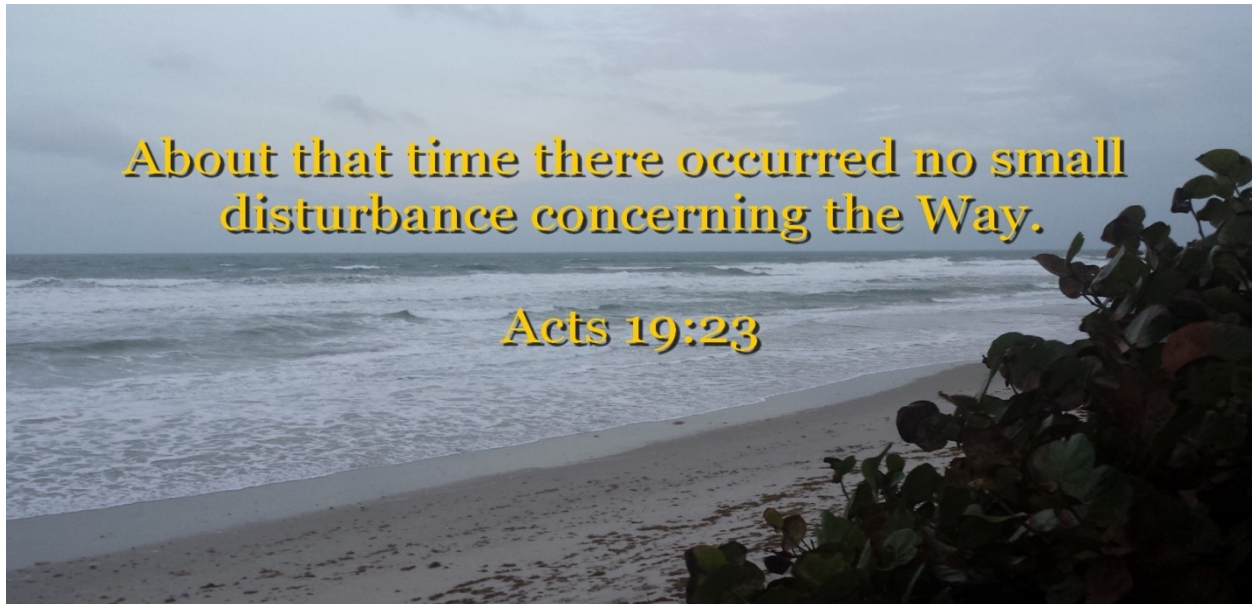
While Paul stayed in Asia, no small disturbance occurred concerning the Way. Demetrius, a silversmith in Ephesus, feared the loss of his livelihood because he made shrines of the idol Artemis of the Ephesians. He gathered together like-minded businessmen and persuaded them to take action against Paul, because he spoke against Artemis as an idol, persuading many people to give up all of their idolatry.

Demetrius stirred up the crowd and the city was filled with confusion and rushed into the theater, dragging Gaius and Aristarchus, the traveling companions of Paul, into the assembly. Paul wanted to rush in to the assembly, but his friends dissuaded him. As the assembly turned into a riot for about two hours, the town clerk finally quieted down the mob and sent them home, telling them that the courts were open and they could bring charges against Paul there.

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 685

## Disturbance Today



What happened as Paul stayed behind in Asia? No small disturbance occurred concerning the Way.

When many people turned to the Lord Jesus Christ at one time, great opposition frequently sprang up. Paul had seen that pattern repeatedly as he traveled through Asia and through parts of Europe, particularly Macedonia. The Jews often incited people to cause a great disturbance in the city, hoping to bring governmental pressure upon the ministry team and Paul in particular. Sometimes they merely chased Paul from one city to another trying to harm him physically and oppose his missionary efforts in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The early Christians were known as people of the Way. When people converted to Jesus Christ, they became followers of the Way. Jesus described Himself as the way to the God the Father, declaring that no one came to His Father, except through Him.



When the no small disturbance concerning the Way occurred, Paul had already made plans in the Spirit to travel to Jerusalem and on from there. With that new disturbance, things were about to change.

## *The Way*

1. **Time**. What happened about that time? No small disturbance occurred concerning the Way.
2. **Occurred**. A disturbance occurred in the Way, indicating that persecution would intensify.
3. **No**. The disturbance was no small persecution.
4. **Small**. Paul had seen relatively small persecution and very serious persecution almost killing him on more than one occasion.
5. **Disturbance**. The disturbance in the Way arose as part of the evil response to the word of the Lord growing mightily and prevailing.
6. **The**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Way will always prosper for eternity, but at times on earth, great disturbances affect the Way.
7. **Way**. We rejoice today because Jesus is the Way and His disciples become followers of the Way.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by following the Way.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by recognizing disturbances in the Way as they start growing.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by knowing that disturbances in the Way will arise from time to time, and some will be far more severe than others.**

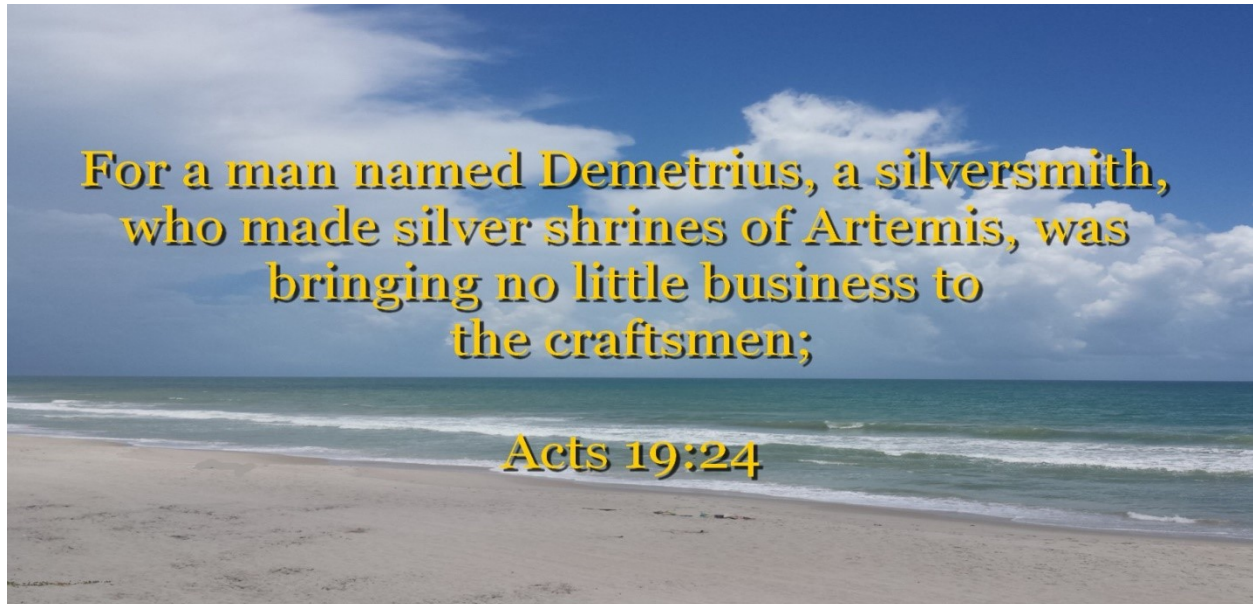
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He ultimately triumphs over all disturbances in the Way. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that what God started He will always bring to completion, according to His will?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 686

## Demetrius Today



Who was Demetrius? He made silver shrines of Artemis.

No small disturbance had arisen in the Way. Then God revealed that Demetrius was stirring up trouble. Demetrius was a silversmith at Ephesus. He made silver shrines of Artemis, an idol. He was making no little business for the craftsmen. In other words, Demetrius was making a lot of money for himself and others with his idols of Artemis. Something similar happened in Philippi.

A young girl with the spirit of divination followed Paul for several days. She kept crying out that Paul was proclaiming the way of salvation. Paul finally got fed up with her, and cast out the demon. Of course, the owner of that slave girl lost all revenue from her fortune-telling. Then he stirred up a mob and dragged Paul and Silas before the magistrates who beat them and imprisoned them.

At Ephesus Paul seriously impinged upon the profits of Demetrius and the craftsmen. When many people turned to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, they no longer had any use for dead and dumb idols to Artemis or

any other false god. Therefore, the people who made money off of idolatry were ready to persecute Paul and the ministry team for taking away their money.

## ***Business***

1. **Demetrius**. Demetrius was a silversmith by trade.
2. **Silversmith**. He used a silversmith's skills to promote idolatry.
3. **Shrines**. He made shrines of a pagan goddess.
4. **Artemis**. Demetrius made his living off of Artemis, the goddess of the Ephesians.
5. **Brought**. He brought business to the craftsmen and others involved in the idolatry of Artemis.
6. **Business**. Living holy in the family of God means that Demetrius valued his business more than he valued a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. **Craftsmen**. We rejoice today because the craftsmen who made idols for the worship of Artemis of the Ephesians would be exposed to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through Paul and his ministry would reach all of Asia.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that idolatry can be very big business.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that businessmen profiting from idolatry will often oppose the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that many people in Asia heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ then turned away from idols to serve the living God.**

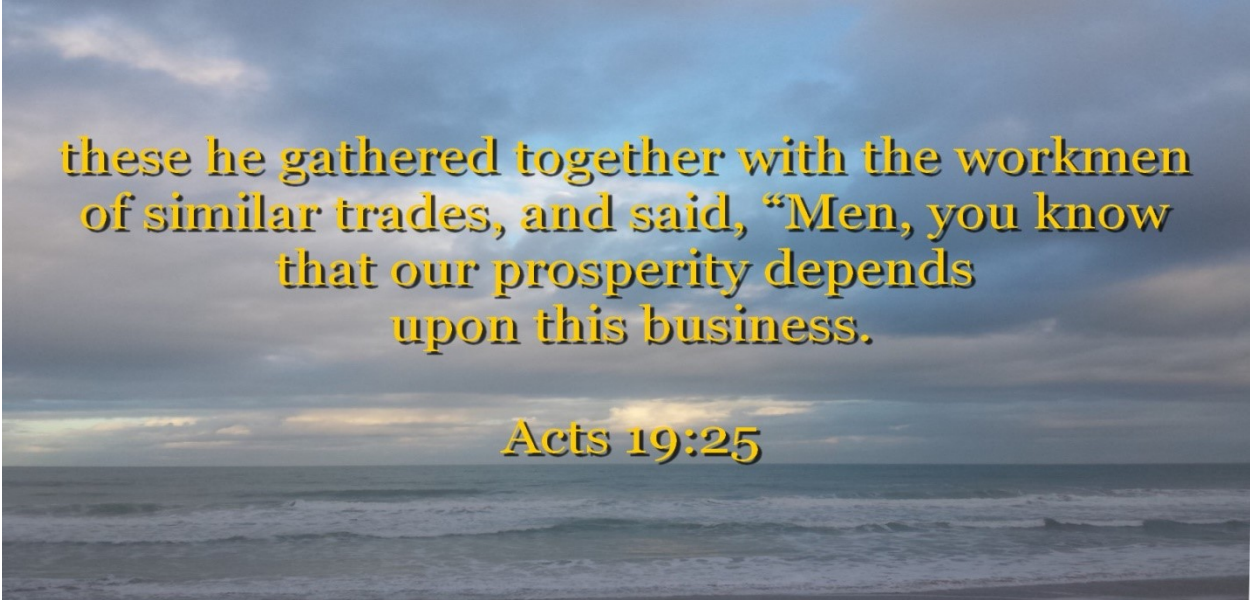
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the power of Jesus Christ to deliver people from the service of dead and dumb idols. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that He is the God of the living because He is the living God?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 687

## Workmen Today



these he gathered together with the workmen of similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business.

Acts 19:25

What did Demetrius do to change the situation? Demetrius first gathered together the other workmen of similar trades.

Demetrius knew that money persuaded people. He pointed out to the workmen of similar trades that their prosperity depended upon the business of selling idols of all types, but especially of Artemis.

Paul seriously threatened the business of idolatry in Ephesus when many people turned to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. Not only did they give up their books of magic and burn them, but they also had no more interest in idols.

Demetrius was not going to take the loss of his business. Like others before him, he galvanized the response of the business owners affected by the lack of business for their idols. Instead of rejoicing that all these people had found eternal life in Jesus Christ, the merchants dealing in idols began a campaign to reverse their losses. They sought to attack Paul and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They hoped to win back the masses of Ephesus by

doing away with Paul and the ministry team. Demetrius formed the plan that hinged upon support from the business community dealing with idols.

## ***Prosperity***

1. **Gathered**. How was the opposition to Paul organized? Demetrius gathered together workmen of similar trades.

2. **Workman**. Demetrius understood the concept of strength in numbers, but he never knew that saying never applied to God.

3. **Trades**. Demetrius gathered the tradesmen together and tapped into their common desire for wealth.

4. **Men**. He addressed them as men who profit from the worship of Artemis.

5. **Prosperity**. He reminded them that their prosperity depended entirely upon idolatry.

6. **Depends**. Living holy in the family of God means that when your business depends upon idolatry, the time has come to leave the idols behind and turn to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, like always.

7. **Business**. We rejoice today because any business that depends upon idolatry opposes the work of God.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by recognizing businesses that oppose the gospel by promoting idolatry and avoiding those businesses.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the opposition against Christ can organize around commonly held interests.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging the people who share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to expect organized opposition, often based upon protecting financial interests related to idolatry.**

## **Application for Today**

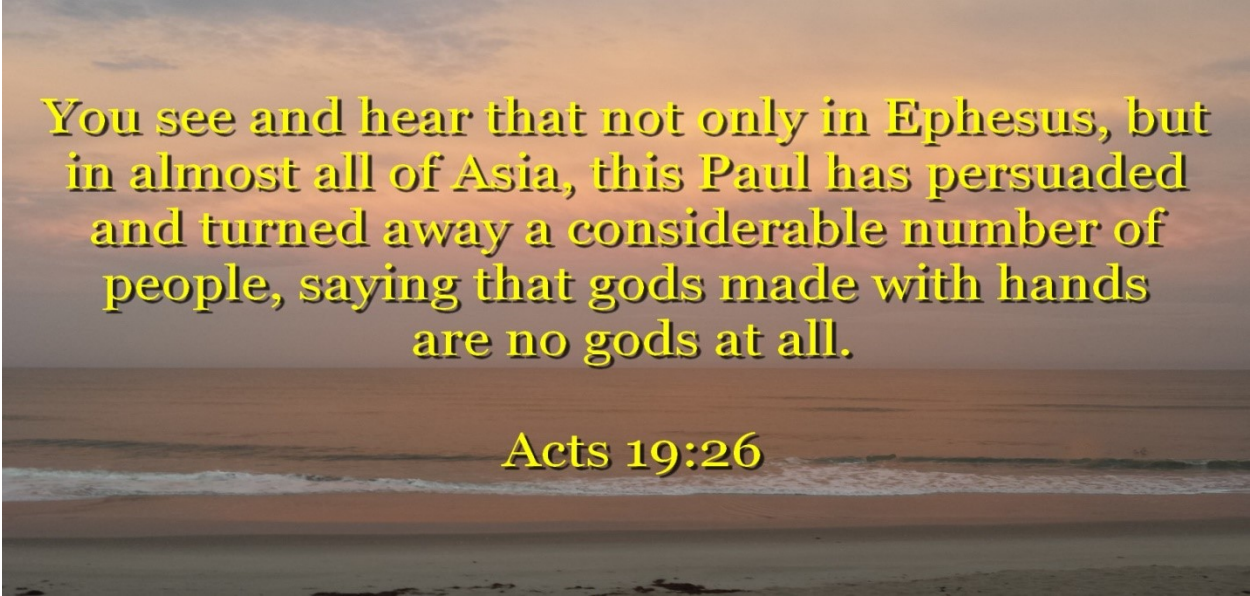
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that the organized opposition did not stop the progress of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Asia. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying that the organized opposition against the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ would not hinder the work of God across the world?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 688

## Persuaded Today



You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all.

Acts 19:26

What argument did Demetrius make to the merchants? Demetrius argued that Paul had turned away a considerable number of people away from idolatry and almost all of Asia.

Demetrius, with evil insight, understood exactly the effects of Paul's preaching of the Lord Jesus Christ. Demetrius testified that Paul had turned almost all of Asia away from idolatry. The people who profited off of idolatry now stood to lose their entire business. Rather than turning to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, those businessmen turned against Paul and tried to reverse his attack upon idolatry. This was not only a business attack, but also a spiritual attack upon the converts and the Lord Himself.

As Demetrius recounted Paul persuading so many people in Asia to turn away from dead idols to the living God, the businessmen depending upon idolatry for their wealth knew they had to do something. If Paul continued persuading people all across Asia, then their business of producing and selling idols would pass away quickly. Driven by the love of money and their rejection of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, they embarked on a plan to protect their income and exalt their idols. Paul and

the ministry team had to be stopped one way or another, from their point of view.

## *Considerable*

1. **You**. What did Demetrius say to stir up the crowd against the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ? Demetrius focused upon Paul turning considerable numbers of people in Asia against idols.

2. **See**. Demetrius reminded the crowd of what they personally had seen and heard regarding Paul and his effect upon people across Asia.

3. **Ephesus**. Paul not only persuaded considerable numbers in Ephesus, but the word of the Lord spread throughout Asia.

4. **Asia**. As people turned to the word of the Lord across Asia, they often gave up their idols.

5. **Paul**. Demetrius blamed Paul for the hard times falling upon the people who profited from idolatry.

6. **Hands**. Living holy in the family of God means that all gods made with hands are no gods at all.

7. **gods**. We rejoice today because Demetrius tried to overcome the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ by stirring up the crowd, but gods made with hands will always be no gods at all, no matter who says otherwise.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that all gods made with hands are no gods at all.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by reminding them that their profits were in jeopardy because of Paul persuading so many people that all gods made with hands are no gods at all.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He was never made at all, but has always existed.**

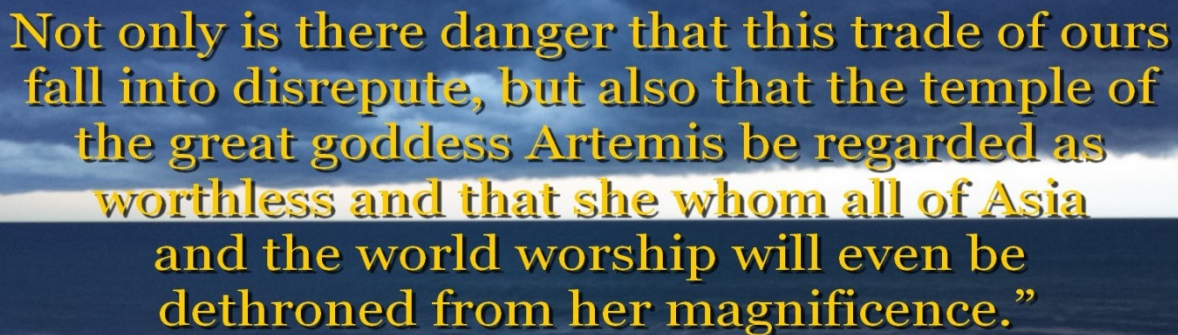
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He looks upon idolaters and invites them to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation and many people in Asia turned to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the multitudes of people who turned to Christ and forsook their idols in Asia as Paul preached there?

**HALLELUJAH!**

## Day 689

# Disrepute Today



Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence.”

Acts 19:27

What worried Demetrius? He was worried that Artemis would be dethroned from her magnificence.

Demetrius split his argument against Paul and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ into several parts. First, he argued that their trade would fall into disrepute. When people received the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, they no longer have use for dumb and dead idols.

Second, Demetrius argued the Temple of Artemis would also fall into disrepair and be neglected. The Temple of Artemis promoted idolatry among all the people who worshiped Artemis. Without that worship of Artemis, the businesses associated with that idolatry would quickly disappear. Therefore, they had to protect the Temple of Artemis, because it was a linchpin of their idolatry.

Third, Demetrius argued all of Asia and the world worshiped Artemis, but she was in danger of being dethroned from her magnificence by Paul and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Of course, Artemis being a worthless idol cannot defend herself because she was dead and dumb. All those who

worship her would become like her. Therefore, the worshipers of Artemis had to take action against Paul and the ministry team.

## ***Dethroned***

1. **Danger**. How did Demetrius try to persuade the businessmen? He mentioned three things to them.

2. **Trade**. First, he said that their trade related to idolatry might fall into disrepute.

3. **Disrepute**. In other words, Demetrius argued that the reputation of their idols may disintegrate and then their trade would dry up.

4. **Temple**. Second, the Temple of Artemis may lose its attraction to people.

5. **Worthless**. Essentially, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus would just be worthless, particularly from a financial standpoint.

6. **Worship**. Living holy in the family of God means that people who worship idols often make money doing so by inviting others to join them in their idolatry.

7. **Dethroned**. We rejoice today because the Gospel of Jesus Christ dethrones all idols and magnifies the Lord Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that people losing their idols which brought them profit may take very aggressive actions.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering what the idolaters did 2000 years ago so that we will be prepared when they do the same things today.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God we have nothing to fear from idolaters, because the power of God uses our faith to overcome the world.**

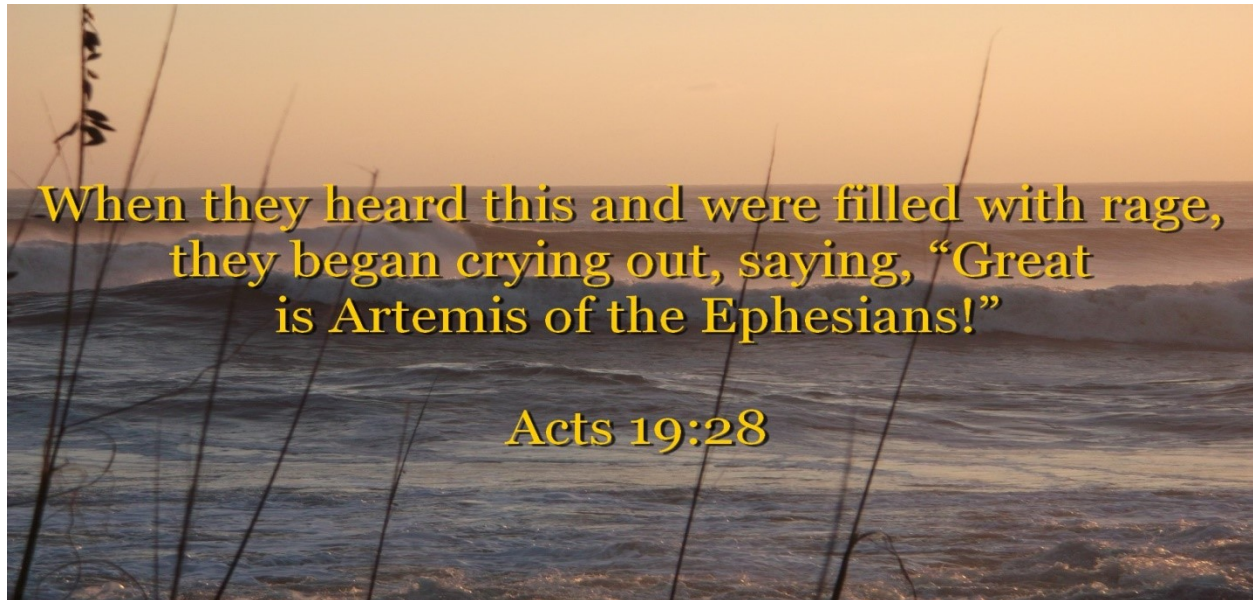
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding the ways of idolaters who persecute us because of our faith in Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that He lives eternally and has saved us from all of our sins through Jesus Christ our Lord?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 690

## Filled Today



How did the businessmen respond to the speech of Demetrius? They were filled with rage.

Demetrius followed a well-known plan of attack. He not only showed how the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ affected the wealth of the businessmen, but he also argued that they would lose the Temple of Artemis and she would be dethroned. Demetrius cleverly appealed to both the profit interests of the businessmen and their emotions.

By whipping up their concern about business losses, coupled with their emotions running high over the loss of their evil traditions and income, they knew they had to do something quickly. They began to cry out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians".

As the crowd whipped itself up into a frenzy, with the help of Demetrius, a familiar pattern of mob attack was growing. The no small disturbance in the Way arose because Demetrius understood that mob action may be very helpful to his plans. Of course, opposing the Lord Jesus Christ and persecuting His children will always bring judgment upon those

persecuting Jesus and His children. Demetrius and his crowd had embarked on a very dangerous enterprise against God, the one and only living God.

## ***Rage***

1. **When**. What did the businessmen do when they heard Demetrius? They flew into a rage.

2. **Heard**. The businessmen heard Demetrius and his plan worked.

3. **Rage**. The businessmen were filled with rage against Paul and everyone saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all.

4. **Crying**. The businessmen formed the mob and began crying out loudly.

5. **Great**. They kept crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians.”

6. **Artemis**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus Christ is being proclaimed as the Savior all over the world today, but the greatest fears of Demetrius have been realized in that Artemis of the Ephesians remains nothing but an idol made by men’s hands.

7. **Ephesians**. We rejoice today because the Ephesians heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and many of them turned away from Artemis to serving the living God in spirit and in truth.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by loving God all the more for delivering us from idols made by men's hands.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by fleeing idols and idolatry in our lives so that we do not repeat the errors of the past.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God as the living God who does not need anything from men, but gave His only Son to die for our sins and then be resurrected on the third day.**

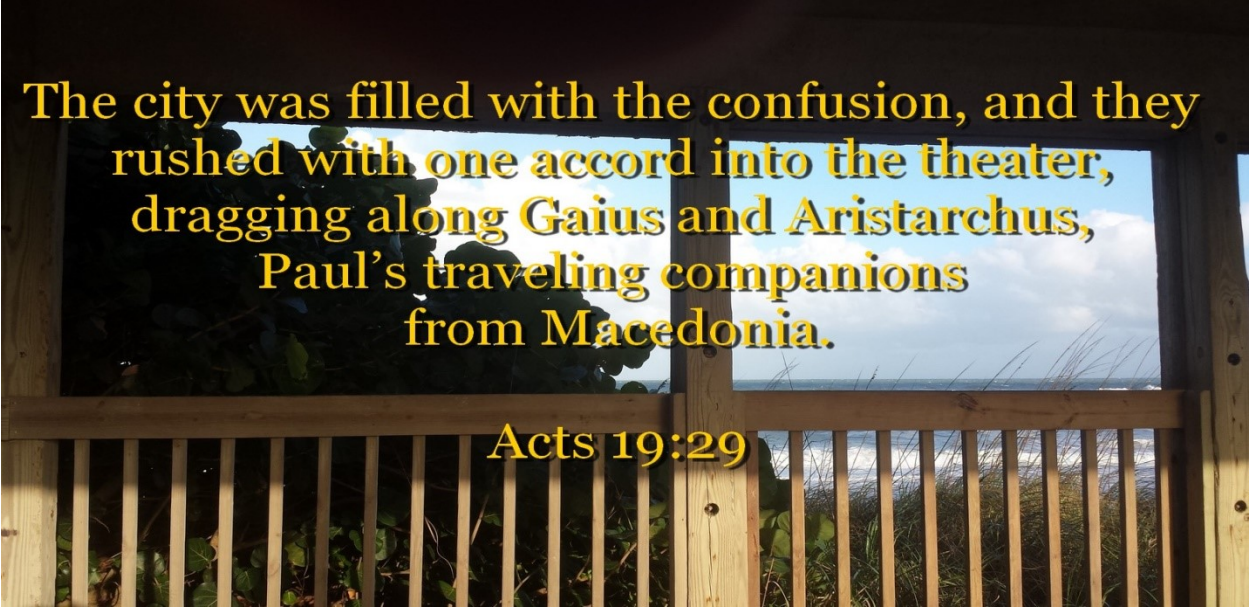
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for revealing Himself to us as the living God who brings life to the dead so that we may live with Him forever. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking the Lord Jesus Christ that He was never made by men's hands or anyone else's, because He was in the beginning with God and was God.

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 691

## Confusion Today



The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

Acts 19:29

After Demetrius whipped up the crowd at Ephesus, what happened? The city was filled with confusion.

Demetrius warned the businessmen making profits off of their idolatry that they stood to lose everything because of Paul and his preaching. Demetrius told them that their idols would be worthless, the temple would be lost and the great goddess Artemis would be dethroned. Of course, the people of Ephesus understood they had been serving false gods and many of them turned to the Lord Jesus Christ after they witnessed His power and love.

As the city fell into confusion because of the words and work of Demetrius, the mob rushed with one accord into the theater. The theater provided a large place for meetings. They dragged Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia, into the theater. New people often joined the ministry team with Paul. Paul had ministered the word of God in Thessalonica, Philippi, and Berea in the land of Macedonia.

Paul had seen these things happen before. One person or group of people would stir up a mob and they would try to take action against Paul and the ministry team. Now the same thing was happening at Ephesus.

## ***Rushed***

1. **City**. What happened with the mob? The whole city was thrown into confusion.

2. **Confusion**. The confusion arose because some people had no idea why they were there.

3. **Rushed**. The mob rushed forward, careening out of control.

4. **Accord**. They came with one accord to the theater.

5. **Theater**. The theater provided a meeting ground for a large mob.

6. **Gaius**. Living holy in the family of God means that the mob dragged Gaius and Aristarchus into the theater, because they knew they were part of Paul's ministry team.

7. **Aristarchus**. We rejoice today because Gaius and Aristarchus were from Macedonia and accompanied Paul on his travels.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Gaius and Aristarchus being dragged into the mob.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that our friends may not want to plunge themselves into the mob to try and save us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the saints who gave their lives for the word of God.**

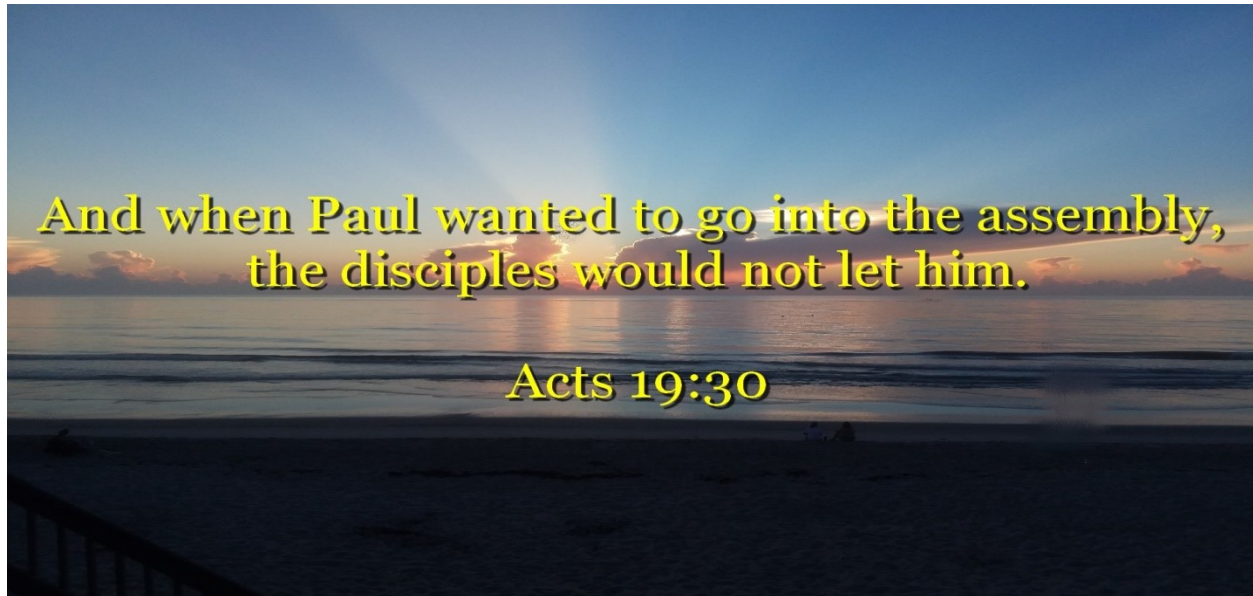
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praying for those who have been seized and held against their will because they are missionaries serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying for missionaries held in foreign countries for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 692

## Paul Today



How did Paul take the news about the crowd in the theater? Paul wanted to go into the assembly.

Paul knew persecutions and fears. The Lord Jesus appeared to Paul in the night vision and told him not to be scared any longer. Jesus promised that His presence would be with Paul and that He had many people in the city of Corinth so that he would not be attacked there. Paul had been beaten, stoned, imprisoned and chased. He knew about persecution firsthand and had risked his neck many times for the sake of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The disciples intervened and would not let Paul go into the theater. They were obviously worried about his safety when an entire mob of people was there filled with rage. At times in our lives, our friends try to restrain our courage and replace it with prudence. In this case, the disciples prevailed upon Paul and he did not enter the theater.

Paul did not lack courage. He relied upon his friends and the Lord Jesus Christ. Risking his life in that mob was not going to achieve a thing, but God had other plans to resolve the matter.

## *Disciples*

1. **When**. What was Paul's reaction to hearing that Gaius and Aristarchus were dragged into the theater? Paul wanted to go immediately.
2. **Paul**. Paul was not the type to desert his friends in times of trouble.
3. **Assembly**. The assembly in the theater held Aristarchus and Gaius against their will.
4. **Disciples**. The disciples prevailed upon Paul not to enter the theater. Sometimes our friends have to hold us back.
5. **Would**. The disciples would not let Paul go into the raging mob in the theater.
6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that our friends protect us at times by not letting us do what we want to do on first impulse.
7. **Him**. We rejoice today because the disciples held Paul back from the theater to preserve him from physical harm.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by looking after our friends and holding them back at times from their intended path of great danger.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the council of our Godly friends can provide great insight in times of stress and trouble.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking out for other saints in trying to persuade them to avoid certain dangers.**

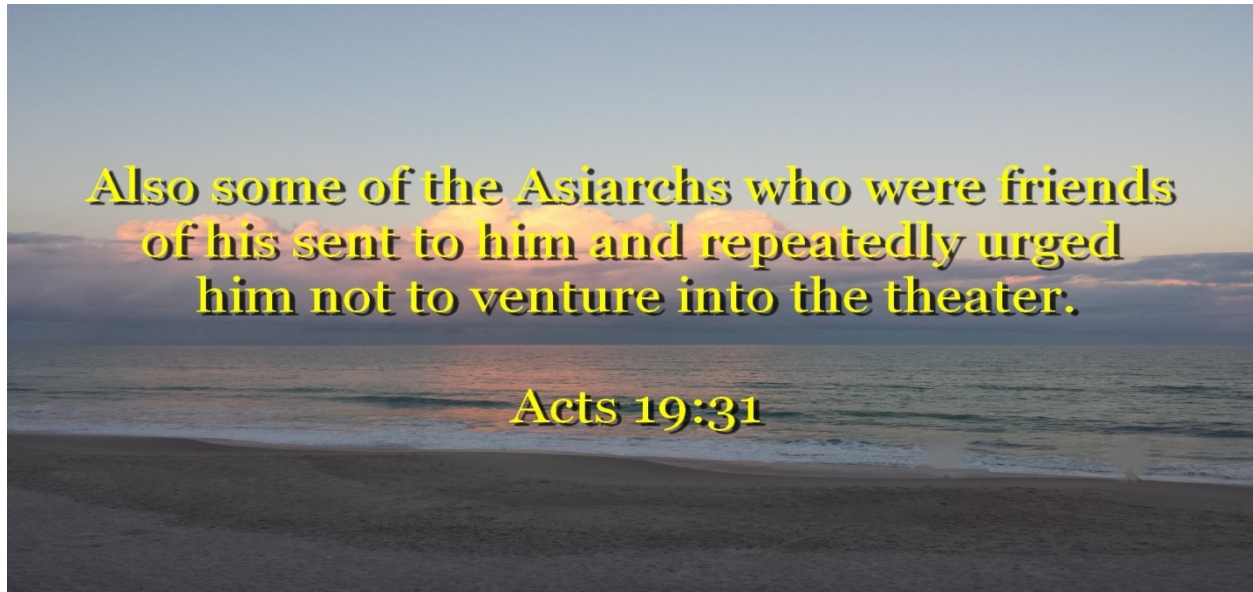
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the disciples of Ephesus who held back Paul from the theater. Will you live holy in the family of God today by holding friends back from certain dangers?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 693

## Asiarchs Today



What did the Asiarchs urge Paul to do? They urged Paul to stay out of the theater.

Inscriptions bear witness to the office of Asiarch in the Roman Empire. Their exact identity and function remains in dispute. They certainly held the position of authority in certain cities. They were elected to office and approved by the proconsul.

Somewhere along the way Paul had made friends with some of the Asiarchs. Like the disciples, they urged Paul to stay out of the theater. They sent word to him and repeatedly urged him to stay out.

Paul had the courage of a lion, but he also had the wisdom from God to know not to enter the theater while the crowd was in a rage. While Paul stayed outside the theater, the mob inside continued to rage in confusion.

Like many other missionaries, Paul had difficult choices to make. He loved his traveling companions and wanted to advocate on their behalf. He



also understood the dangers of being in the middle of a mob out of control. Paul put his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and did not enter the theater.

## *Urged*

1. **Some**. What did the Asiarchs tell Paul? They warned Paul repeatedly not to go into the theater.

2. **Asiarchs**. Paul had made friends with several Asiarchs, indicating that they had either come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ or become sympathetic to his cause or both.

3. **Friends**. Paul had friends in both low places and in high places.

4. **Sent**. They sent to Paul more than once, urging him to stay out of the theater.

5. **Urged**. Not only did the disciples urge Paul to stay out of the theater, but the powerful Asiarchs, with their understanding of Roman government, urged Paul not to go into the theater.

6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that our friends do not always tell us what we would like to hear from them, but they often have our best interest at heart.

7. **Theater**. We rejoice today because the friends of Paul prevailed upon him not to go into the theater, so that he would have more fruitful days of ministry in front of him.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the friends of Paul holding him back from the theater.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for friends in high places when they give us good advice in Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in friends to look after us when emotions are running high.**

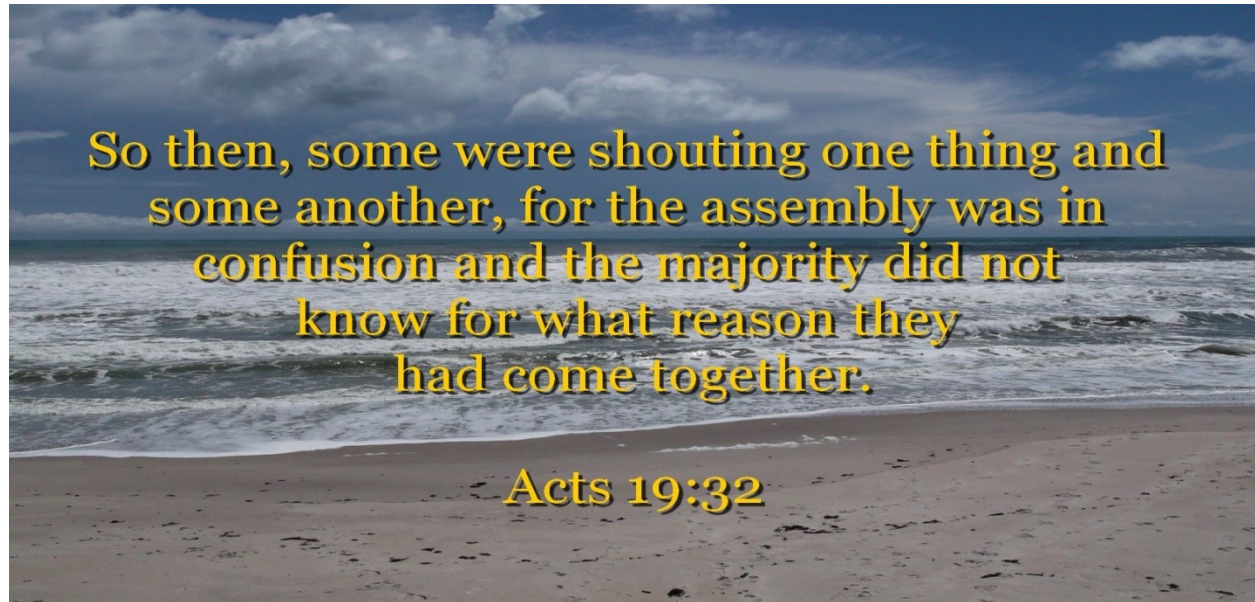
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to deliver people in danger when our help may not help anything at all, but make the problem worse. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to listen to your friends who try to restrain you from danger?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 694

## Assembly Today



What happened inside the theater? The assembly inside the theater was in great confusion.

Demetrius had stirred up the mob and filled them with rage. The crowd stormed into the theater. Once there, people were shouting at one another, but saying different things. Confusion reigned in the theater. The majority of the people inside the theater did not know why they had come together there.

Demetrius had launched a plan to stir up the mob to attack all those who followed Paul and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Demetrius intended to use the mob to his advantage and the advantage of the businessmen he supported. Their livelihoods were in serious peril because Paul was proclaiming that gods made with hands were no gods at all. People began to understand that Artemis of the Ephesians was no god at all and her temple meant nothing. The businessmen who made their money from idolatry associated with the false gods of Ephesus knew they stood to lose everything if the conversions continued.

The problem with crowds turning into raging mobs means that confusion often reigns. The mob takes on a life of its own and flashes out of control.

## *Confusion*

1. **Some**. What was the crowd doing? They were shouting different things to each other.

2. **Shouting**. The shouting in the assembly only added to the confusion.

3. **Assembly**. The assembly has started with Demetrius whipping up the business community into a rage and then assembling a mob.

4. **Confusion**. Confusion gripped the group in the theater with many people screaming at one another.

5. **Majority**. The majority of the people in the assembly at the theater had no idea why they were there.

6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that mobs persecuting believers may grow quickly without knowing why they are even gathered together.

7. **Reason**. We rejoice today because Paul did not enter the theater because his friends held him back from entering the shouting, confused mob gathered together, with the majority not knowing why they had gathered together in the first place.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by avoiding mobs shouting at one another in great confusion.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some mobs take on a life of their own, starting small with a specified reason and growing into a confused mass of people shouting together.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to deliver saints caught up by a mob for being part of a ministry team.**

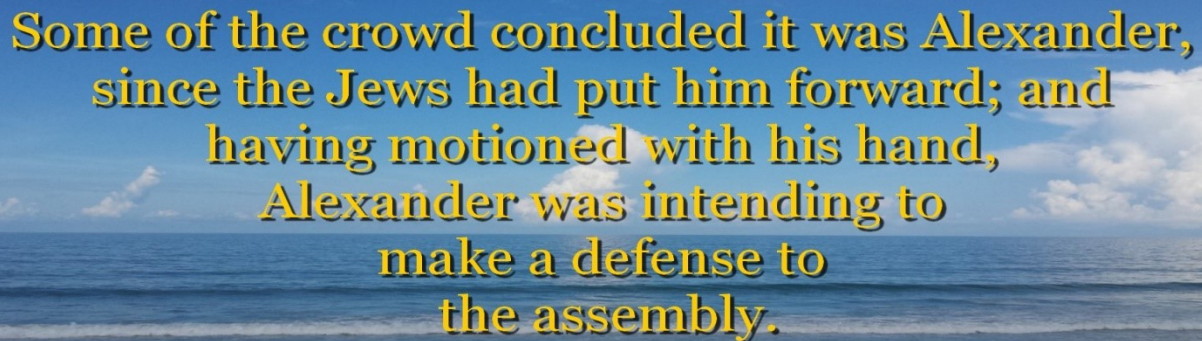
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by avoiding mobs thrown into confusion and without purpose. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying for saints to avoid mobs as they continue their missionary work for the Lord Jesus Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 695

## Alexander Today



Some of the crowd concluded it was Alexander, since the Jews had put him forward; and having motioned with his hand, Alexander was intending to make a defense to the assembly.

Acts 19:33

Who was Alexander? The Jews put forward Alexander.

As the mob raged, some of the crowd concluded it was Alexander. The Jews had put him forward for the purpose of making a defense. As Alexander motioned with his hand, he was intending to make a defense to the assembly. At this point in the story the nature and purpose of that defense remains unclear.

What is clear is that when a Jew in Ephesus stands up to address a raging mob, then things may head to deeper trouble in a hurry. In fact, mobs are known for turning on themselves so that everyone becomes endangered. Romans had laws against disorderly conduct and this massive assembly in the theater had all the earmarks of unlawful activity. The Asiarchs had already warned Paul not to go in there and they had the political authority to do something about it.

The Roman Empire as a whole hated disorder. They imposed order through their Emperor and his armies and civil governments. At times, they could rule with a fist of iron when some group careened out of control for one

reason or another. Ephesus with its mob in the theater was drawing unwanted attention from the government.

## *Defense*

1. **Crowd**. What did the crowd conclude? Some of the crowd concluded they had been drawn together because of Alexander.

2. **Concluded**. The crowd drew that conclusion because Alexander had been put forward by the Jews.

3. **Alexander**. Apparently, Alexander was to offer a defense for the Jews.

4. **Jews**. Because the Jews were opposed to idolatry, and Artemis of the Ephesians in particular, they viewed the Jews as enemies of their idolatry.

5. **Hand**. Alexander raised his hand, preparing to offer a defense.

6. **Defense**. Living holy in the family of God means that offering a defense in the middle of a raging, confused mob will often be very difficult at best.

7. **Assembly**. We rejoice today because Paul was not in the midst of that mob trying to be heard, because his friends kept him back.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the confused mob focusing upon Alexander.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by knowing that God had intervened for Paul by keeping him out of the assembly at the theater.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His mercies to missionaries when the ministry team benefits from many friends urging caution.**

## **Application for Today**

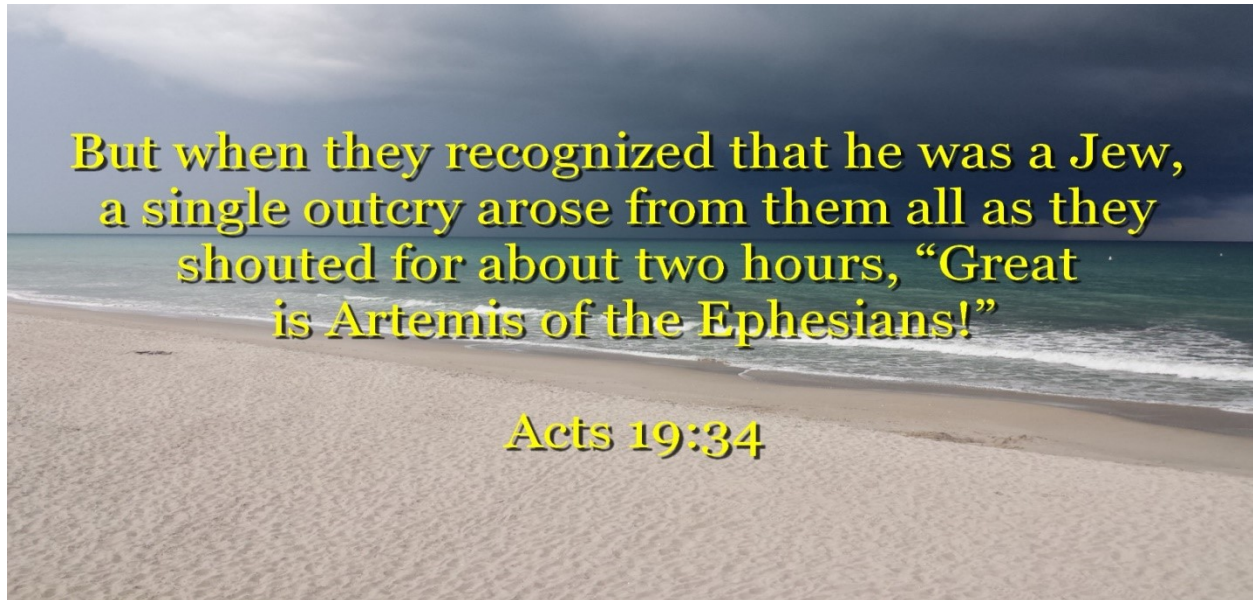
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting on God to speak through our friends so that we may be spared from further trouble by the grace of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the confused, raging mob at Ephesus focusing upon Alexander, instead of Paul?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 696

## Recognized Today



What happened when they recognized Alexander was a Jew? They began shouting, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

The mob at Ephesus went into the theater and filled it with their confusion. They were shouting at each other and many did not know why they were there. At some point, Alexander motioned with his hand preparing to make a defense, having been put forward by the Jews.

When the crowd recognized Alexander as a Jew, a single outcry arose among them. They shouted, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” This cry unified the crowd because the businessmen in the crowd instigated the whole mob, fearing the loss of their business built upon idolatry. They depended upon the people of Asia continuing to worship idols and buy their products related to the false gods. They perceived quite correctly that Paul and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ posed a dire threat to their business. When people turned to the Lord Jesus Christ, they realized they had been serving dead and dumb idols made with human hands, which are no gods at all. The cry in the theater lasted for about two hours. Pandemonium reigned in the theater and it was quite a public disturbance.

## *Jew*

1. **But.** What happened when the crowd recognized that Alexander was a Jew? The crowd began a unified shout.

2. **Recognized.** The crowd recognized that Alexander was a Jew, as he started to make his defense by raising his hand.

3. **Jew.** Realizing he was a Jew, opposed to their goddess Artemis, and all other idols, they began to shout.

4. **Cry.** The crowd cried out with a unified voice in one accord.

5. **Shouted.** The crowd shouted with one voice, no longer yelling at one another.

6. **Hours.** Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the crowd in Ephesus in the theater yelling for two hours.

7. **Great.** We rejoice today because Gaius and Aristarchus were no longer the center of attention because the crowd kept yelling “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how volatile the crowd was at Ephesus in the theater.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that Paul was not in the midst of the crowd.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His power to control crowds and deliver missionaries.**

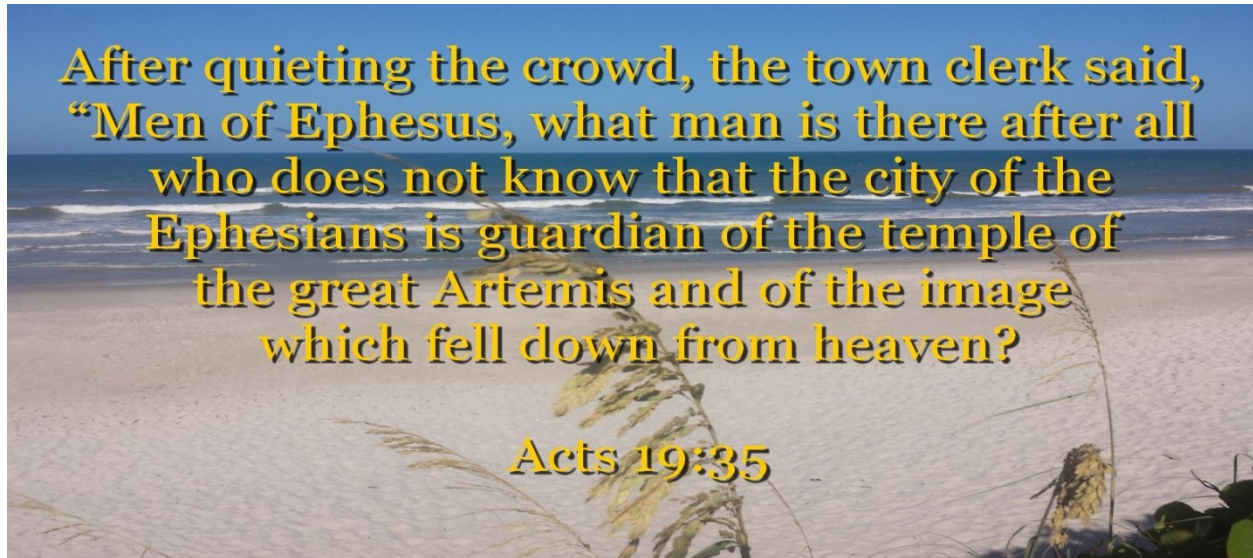
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the misplaced fervor of the crowd in the theater. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that we no longer serve idols and shout the name of some dead and dumb god for two hours?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 697

## Quieting Today



What did the town clerk do? The town clerk quieted the crowd.

As a Roman official, the town clerk had duties for Rome. Without the consent of Rome, the local official could do nothing. The town clerk stated the obvious. He addressed the men of Ephesus and asked them what man does not know that the city of the Ephesians is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis? Everyone knew that Ephesus was the home of the temple of the great Artemis and the image which fell down from heaven. No one could deny such facts, according to the town clerk.

The town clerk displayed tremendous savvy by championing the cause of the businessmen and pointing out delicately to the mob that everyone knew that Artemis was the goddess of the Ephesians. They did not need to keep chanting and shouting and causing uproar. The town clerk apparently had skill in dealing with mobs.

Paul had angered the businessmen by proclaiming all over Asia that gods made with hands are no gods at all. Therefore, when people turn to Christ for salvation, they left behind their dead and dumb idols to serve the living God. As the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ progressed, the threat to

the continued business built upon idols became apparent to the businessmen. They incited the mob in protest.

## *Clerk*

1. **Quieting**. What did the town clerk say to calm the crowd? After quieting the crowd, the town clerk asked an adroit question.
2. **Crowd**. He asked the crowd what every man knew about Ephesus.
3. **Clerk**. The town clerk knew how to deal with the mob.
4. **Men**. He began by addressing the men of Ephesus directly.
5. **Ephesus**. He asked what men did not know about Ephesus?
6. **Guardian**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the town clerk declaring to the mob that the city of the Ephesians is guardian of the temple of the great Artemis.
7. **Image**. We rejoice today because God used the town clerk to state the obvious and calm the crowd by reminding the crowd that everyone knew that the men of Ephesus were guardians of the image that allegedly fell down from heaven.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for using government officials to break up mobs.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the town clerk stated the obvious to all the crowd.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for the manifold ways He delivers His missionaries from mobs and great evil.**

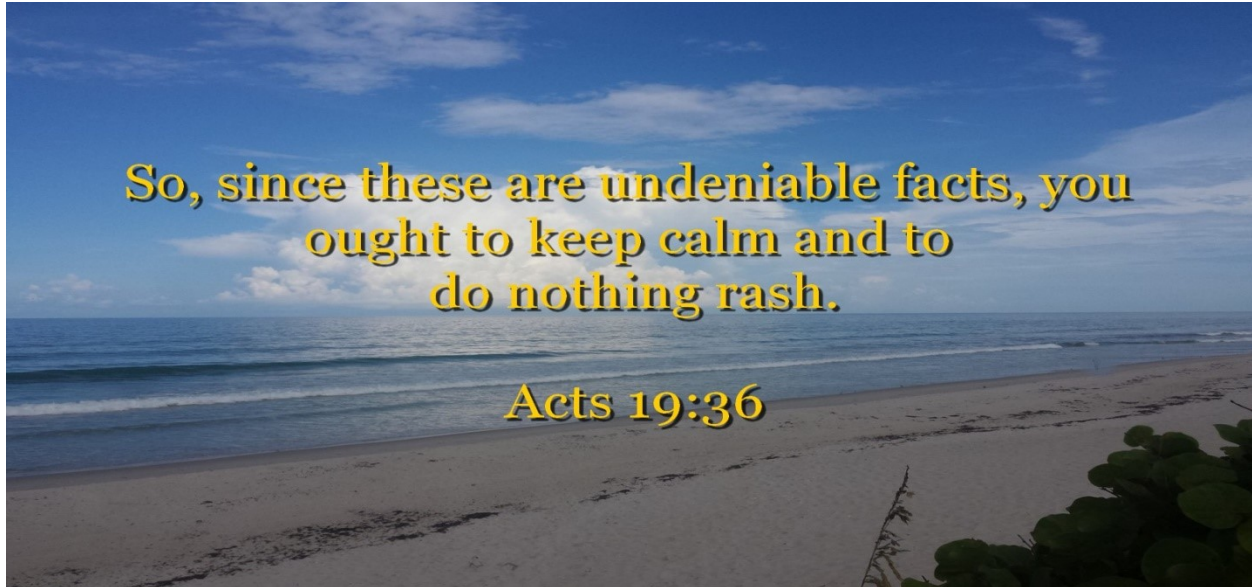
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the power of God to channel the direction of mobs by someone stating the obvious to them. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying for missionaries facing tough crowds today?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 698

## Facts Today



How did the town clerk calm the crowd? He warned them to keep calm and do nothing rash.

Having stated the obvious about the temple of Artemis and the image which allegedly fell from heaven, the town clerk appealed to the crowd to keep calm. They had been shouting for over two hours and had taken Gaius and Aristarchus, dragging them into the theater. They also reacted negatively to Alexander the Jew.

The town clerk also told the mob not to do anything rash. If the mob attacked innocent people, who may be Roman citizens, then Roman law would hold them responsible. Although the crowd had been whipped into a frenzy, the town clerk brought a measure of peace and time to think about his words. Everyone understood the power of the Roman legions to enforce their laws. Inciting a riot at Ephesus would only bring the wrath of Rome down upon them. The town clerk had avoided a major incident with careful words.

Paul had witnessed crowds before doing many rash things against the missionaries. He had suffered personal harm in more than one city. At Ephesus the town clerk may have averted a real disaster for everyone.

## *Calm*

1. **Since**. What conclusions did the town clerk draw? The town clerk stated the obvious and then drew a conclusion about avoiding trouble.
2. **Undeniable**. The town clerk stated that the facts were undeniable about the city of Ephesus.
3. **Facts**. No one could deny the facts that he recited.
4. **Calm**. Because everyone knew about the temple of Artemis and of the image that fell from heaven, the crowd should calm down.
5. **Do**. The town clerk also urged them not to be hasty in their actions.
6. **Nothing**. Living holy in the family of God means that we appreciate officials who speak to calm chaos and the missionaries benefitted from the crowd doing nothing rash.
7. **Rash**. We rejoice today because the town clerk essentially warned the mob that rash behavior would result in Roman penalties.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering how the town clerk calmed an entire mob with a few words.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by considering all our words carefully and the effect they will have upon others.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that the right word is like apples of gold in settings of silver.**

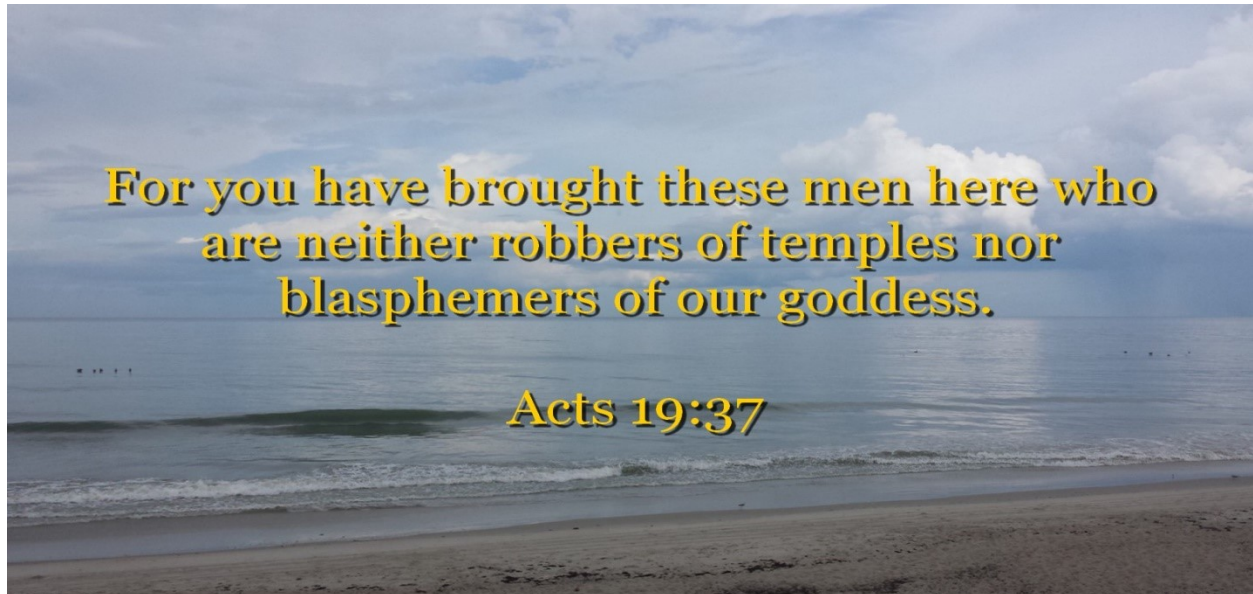
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by speaking the right words at the right time. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that He gives us the right words to say at the right time to calm people?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 699

## Brought Today



What else did the town clerk point out to the mob? The town clerk said that the crowd had no criminal basis for attacking the men.

The town clerk knew that the mob had brought Aristarchus and Gaius into the theater. The businessmen had hoped that the crowd or the government would take action against the missionaries. The businessmen were acting from financial motives to protect their business associated with the idolatry. In their minds no more idol worship, no more business. They opposed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ because it hurt their pocketbooks. Paul encountered all kinds of opponents motivated by many different things, but having one thing in common: they all hated Paul and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The town clerk pointed out that Gaius and Aristarchus were not charged with robbing a temple. Apparently, people robbed temples to take valuable objects from them. Demetrius himself was a silversmith, producing idols related to the worship of Artemis. People may be tempted to steal valuable items, particularly if they knew the idol itself was deaf, dumb, and

dead. The town clerk also noted that the missionaries did not blaspheme the name of Artemis.

## *These Men*

1. **Men**. What did the town clerk point out to the mob? He declared that no religious laws were broken.

2. **Brought**. The mob brought Gaius and Aristarchus into the theater.

3. **Robbers**. The town clerk said no one had accused them of being robbers of temples.

4. **Temples**. Apparently, Ephesus had a law against robbing temples because people were stealing silver items from the temples.

5. **Blasphemers**. Likewise, no one accused them of being blasphemers.

6. **Our**. Living holy in the family of God means that we must be careful to avoid needless conflict with people like the Ephesians who had religious laws promoting idolatry and outlawing any blasphemy against “our goddess.”

7. **Goddess**. We rejoice today because Paul and the ministry team had steered clear of blasphemy against Artemis.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the cool head of the town clerk at Ephesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by avoiding blaspheming local gods.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing the Lord Jesus Christ as He protects His missionaries.**

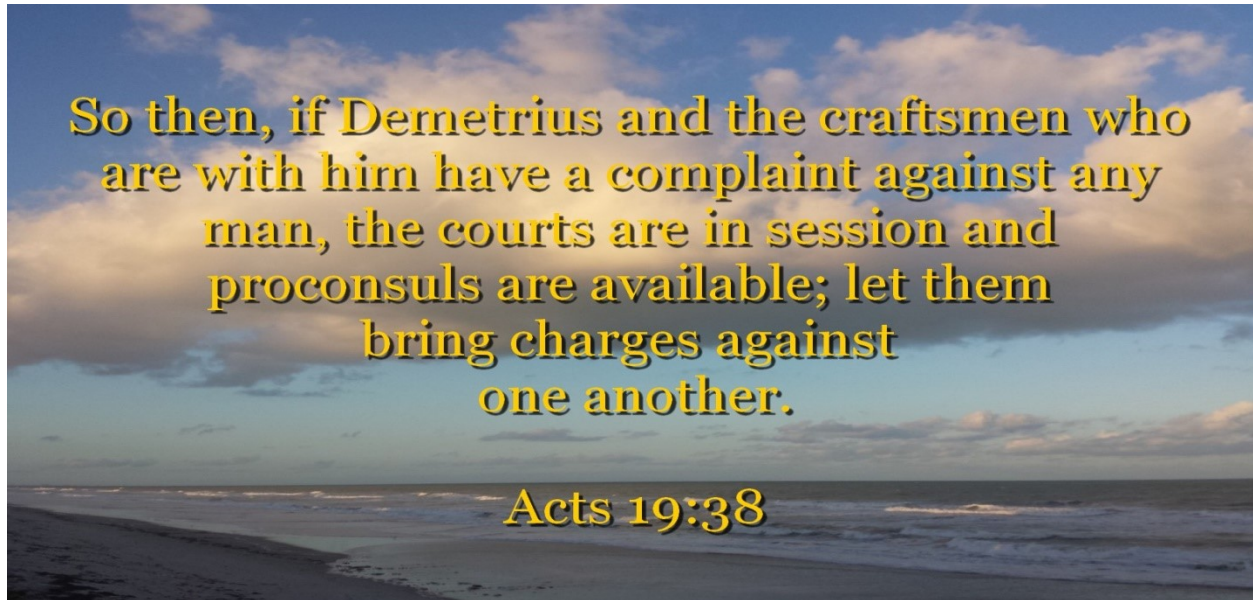
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking care not to insult local gods while proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following the leading of the Holy Spirit and proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to avoid giving needless offense?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 700

## Complaint Today



What solution did the town clerk pose for the mob? The town clerk declared that the courts are in session and the proconsuls available for resolution of all disputes.

With clever speech and sound arguments, the town clerk defused the emotions of the mob and gave them an alternative. Whatever claims the businessmen had against the missionaries, they could bring them through the courts. The proconsuls were available to settle disputes and make rulings. The solution was quite simple. The offended parties could bring charges in the civil courts and the matter could be heard according to due process of law. A riot in the theater would not produce the justice of Rome.

The town clerk knew that Demetrius and the other craftsmen had instigated the whole problem with the mob. The town clerk further appreciated the cunning of those men by forming the mob, but the town clerk outwitted them by calming the mob with clever speech, pointing out the obvious to the mob. The town clerk also provided the perfect way to diffuse the entire problem.

In this case at Ephesus, the Lord Jesus used the town clerk to stop an angry mob from hurting further Aristarchus and Gaius. Paul did not need to risk his life by entering the theater because God had other plans to deliver the men.

## *Courts*

1. **Demetrius**. What did the town clerk say specifically to Demetrius and the craftsmen? He reminded everyone that the courts were open.

2. **Craftsmen**. If Demetrius and the craftsmen had a problem with the missionaries, the town clerk said to go to court.

3. **Complaint**. They could file their complaint and proceed in the local courts to resolve their differences.

4. **Man**. Whoever had a complaint against any man could avail themselves of legal process through the courts.

5. **Courts**. The courts in Ephesus were in session and ready to hear cases.

6. **Session**. Living holy in the family of God means that God established civil courts to resolve disputes in a civil matter.

7. **Proconsuls**. We rejoice today because the Roman courts at Ephesus had proconsuls acting as judges to resolve disputes and they provided an escape route for Gaius and Aristarchus.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by reminding people that civil courts, and not mobs, should resolve disputes.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for the different ways He delivers missionaries being persecuted for His name.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by delighting in our heavenly Father Who sent His beloved Son to deliver us from our sins.**

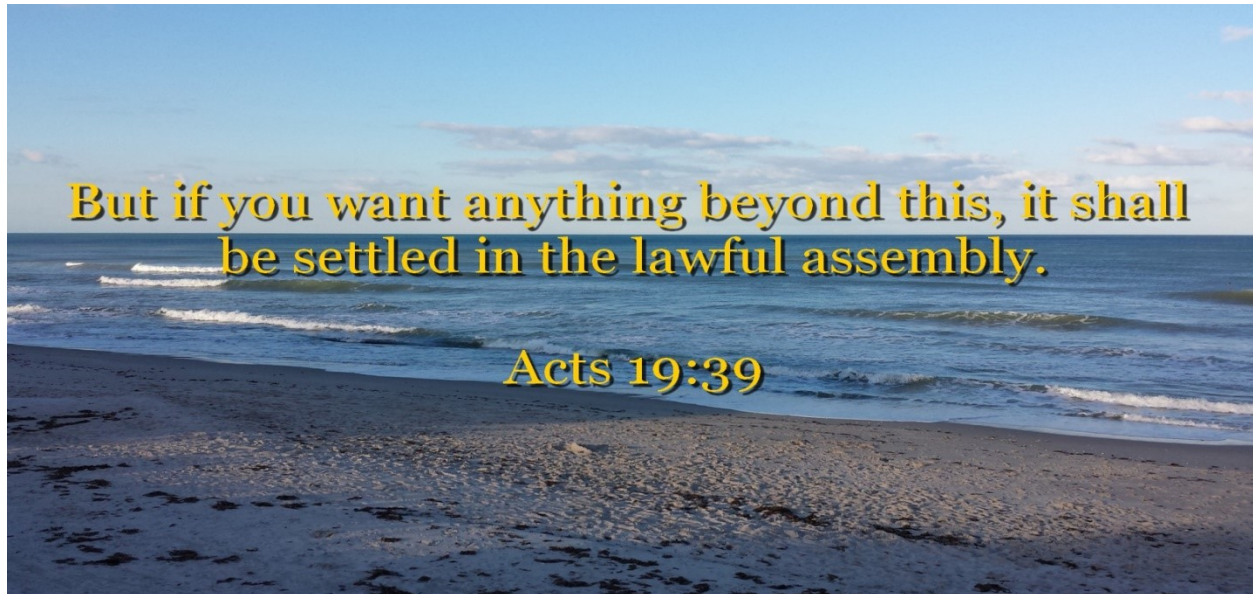
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising Jesus for the courts that hear cases and resolve disputes, instead of mobs acting rashly. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the truth so that we do not give offense without cause in proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 701

## Settled Today



What limits did the town clerk put upon the mob? The town clerk said if the courts were not sufficient for the businessmen, then a lawful assembly would be called.

The businessmen who profited from idolatry associated with Artemis had formed the mob. The mob then grabbed Gaius and Aristarchus and dragged them into the theater. Paul wanted to rush into the theater to help them, but his friends restrained him.

The mob raged for two hours chanting about Artemis of the Ephesians. It did not understand exactly what its purpose was, but the mob were very agitated and kept shouting at each other.

The town clerk showed up and brought calm to the gathering. He stated the obvious that everybody knew about Artemis. Therefore, they did need to keep shouting what everybody already knew. The town clerk also showed that the missionaries had not robbed the temple or blasphemed the name of Artemis. Finally, the town clerk told the mob that the courts were open and



proconsuls ready to render judgments after each party brought their case. The town clerk also said the assembly was becoming unlawful.

## *Lawful*

1. **But.** What limitation did the town clerk put on the mob? The town clerk said that if they wanted more than he had offered, then they should call a lawful assembly.

2. **Anything.** The town clerk implied that the present assembly is not lawful.

3. **Beyond.** In reviewing the options, the town clerk also told them that they could go beyond what he offered with the courts, but they would have to follow procedures to have a lawful assembly.

4. **Settled.** Disputes beyond the civil courts could be settled in the lawful assembly.

5. **The.** Roman law applied at Ephesus provided for courts and for lawful assemblies, but the assembly must be lawful, according to Roman law.

6. **Lawful.** Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the town clerk diffusing the angry mob by reminding them of their right to a lawful assembly at a later date.

7. **Assembly.** We rejoice today because the right to an assembly to decide important matters for the city helped Gaius and Aristarchus escape the clutches of an angry mob.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by diffusing situations by providing reasonable alternatives to take place later.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that some government officials can seek justice by diffusing mobs.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He works in many different ways to protect the missionaries He sends all over the world.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that offering reasonable alternatives which take place later may get you out of a present jam. Will you live holy in the family of God today by keeping cool under pressure and trusting God to provide a reasonable solution?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 702

## Danger Today



What danger did the town clerk raise with the mob? The town clerk told the mob they were in danger of being accused of a riot.

The businessmen profiting from the idolatry of Artemis formed the mob to pressure the missionaries and the Christians. They saw that their business profits were in danger as people all over Asia turned away from the idolatry of Artemis. They formed the mob and dragged some of the missionaries into the theater. The mob then began to rage and shout for about two hours.

The town clerk arrived and talked sense to the mob. The clerk showed that the mob was merely shouting the obvious to everyone and that the courts were open. The clerk then told the mob that they were in danger of being accused of a riot. No real cause existed for the mob in the first place. Therefore, the Ephesians in the mob would be unable to account for the unlawful assembly and all the disorderly behavior.

The town clerk had a powerful way of disarming the mob. As he spoke he gained their attention and demonstrated to everyone that they were acting

badly. While some there may have thought they were redressing the wrongs inflicted upon Artemis and the businessmen, the town clerk provided reasonable alternatives to shouting in the theater.

## ***Disorderly***

1. **We**. How did the town clerk convince the mob to leave? The town clerk talked to them about their own misbehavior.
2. **Danger**. He described to the mob that they were in danger of having charges brought against them.
3. **Accused**. The mob could be accused of breaking Roman law.
4. **Riot**. The mob could be accused of a riot in connection with what happened in the theater.
5. **Events**. The events of that day looked and sounded like a riot, with people shouting at one another for hours.
6. **Cause**. Living holy in the family of God means we remember that the mob understood it really had no cause for the riot or the assembly.
7. **Disorderly**. We rejoice today because the disorderly conduct at the theater actually helped the crowd to disperse quietly under threat of legal action against the mob.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by reminding people that their own riotous conduct may subject them to criminal penalties.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by talking reasonably with disorderly people because sometimes they hear and understand.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by keeping our cool and focusing our faith upon Jesus to help us when people get disorderly around us.**

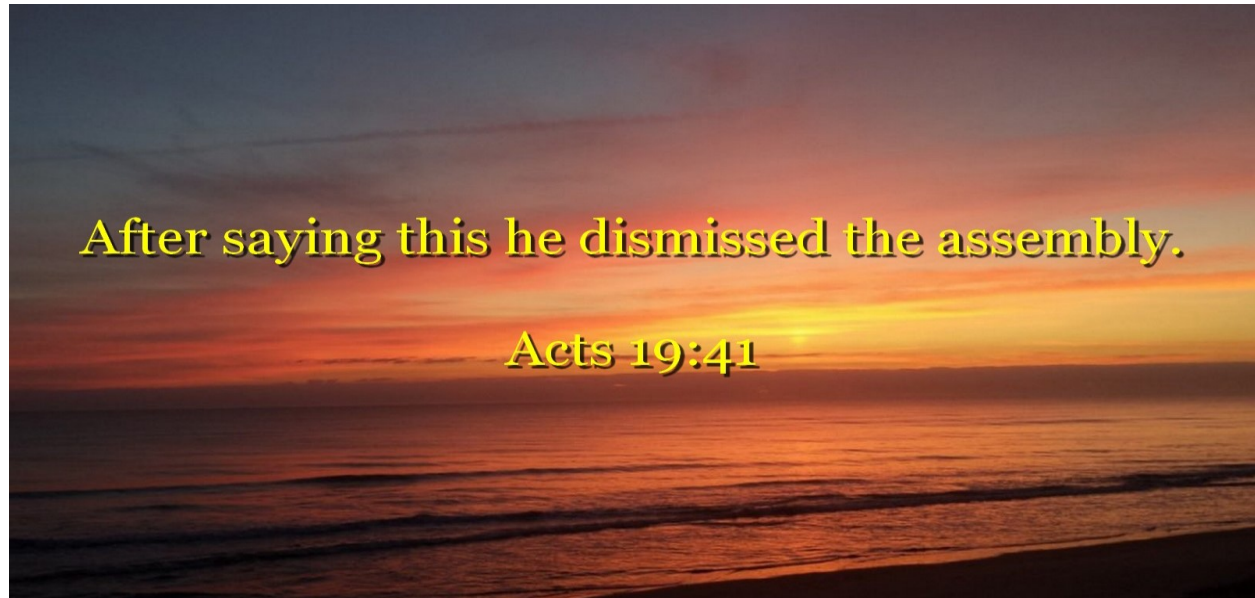
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He brings order out of disorder and makes the rioters quiet down. Will you live holy in the family of God today by keeping calm when disorder and riots break out around you because you trust the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 703

## Dismissed Today



What did the town clerk do after giving his speech? He dismissed the assembly.

God had clearly intervened on behalf of Aristarchus and Gaius. The town clerk had calmed down the mob like putting a muzzle on a wild dog. His words sounded reasonable to the mob and they stopped their shouting and started listening to him.

The town clerk started with a statement of the obvious about Artemis and ended with a warning that the mob had created a riot or an unlawful assembly. In effect, he had showed the crowd that they were traveling on dangerous ground in the eyes of the Roman government. Ephesus still remained under Roman control and it could enforce its will with a powerful army.

The town clerk dismissed the assembly. The effect of what he did was to disarm the mob of its violence and set the missionaries free. God used the town clerk to help out the missionaries. Although Paul wanted to go into the theater to help the missionaries, his friends restrained him. Paul also had

some very powerful friends in government who also warned him not to enter the theater. By God's power, things turned out well.

## *Assembly*

1. **After**. How did the clerk end the assembly? He dismissed them.
2. **Saying**. The clerk used well-chosen words to gain the attention of the rioters in the theater.
3. **This**. After explaining their legal options, the mob came to its senses.
4. **He**. He then had an opportunity to dismiss the crowd while they were listening.
5. **Dismissed**. He dismissed the crowd after convincing them that there is nothing more they could do that day within the bounds of Roman law.
6. **The**. Living holy in the family of God means that God saved Gaius and Aristarchus from mob action by the town clerk talking to them about legal steps and alternatives available to the assembly.
7. **Assembly**. We rejoice today because the town clerk gained control of an angry mob and saved Aristarchus and Gaius from punishment inflicted upon them by the angry mob.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the town clerk calmly dismissing the rioters in the theater.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praying that God would use the government to protect us from unlawful activity.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He used the town clerk to protect the missionaries from mob violence.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God Who knows how to protect His own with the town clerk. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for those government officials who intervened to help God's children escape unlawful punishment?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# 14

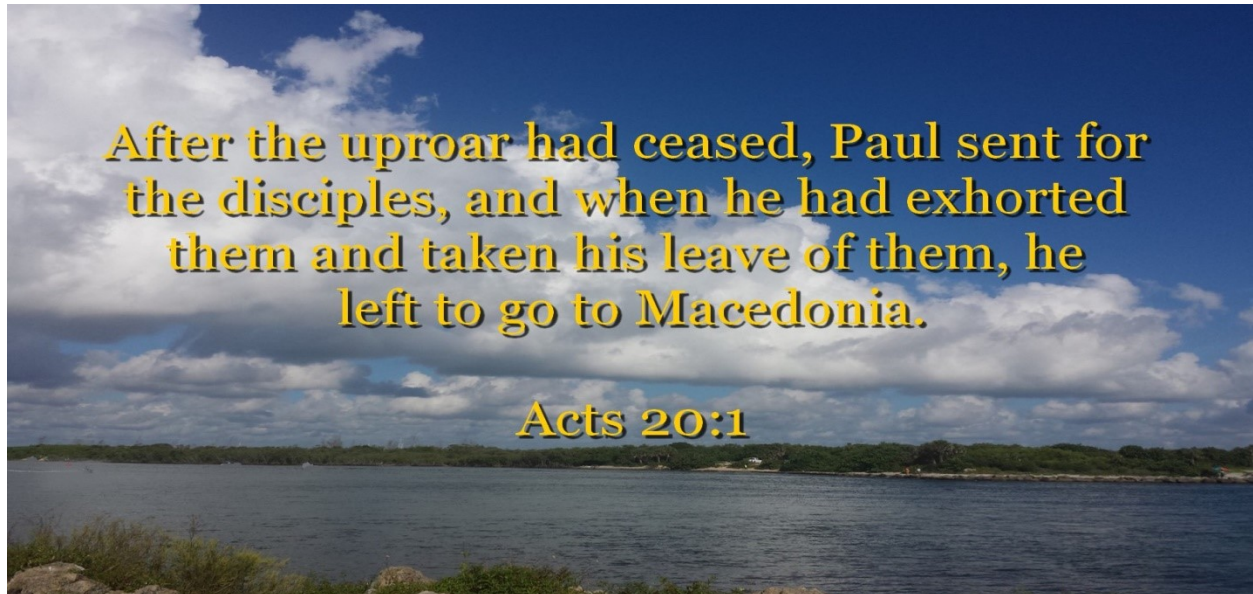
## **Macedonia, Greece, Troas Today**

Paul left Ephesus and went to Macedonia. After encouraging the brethren in those districts, Paul came to Greece and spent three months there. The Jews plotted against him and he journeyed through Macedonia to Philippi, where he embarked upon a ship bound for Troas and stayed there five days. Paul broke bread with them and delivered a message lasting till midnight, because he wanted to leave the next day. The young man named Eutychus fell asleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. Paul embraced the young man and declared that his life was in him. They took the boy away alive, greatly comforted.

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 704

## Exhorted Today



What happened after the uproar ceased? Paul left.

After the town clerk managed to calm the mob in the theater and disperse them, Paul sent for the disciples. He then exhorted them and then left them to go to Macedonia.

Paul stayed in Ephesus at least 18 months. During that time of fruitful ministry, he started with 12 disciples who had only heard of the baptism of John. Paul explained to them the facts about Jesus and His death, burial and resurrection. They believed the word Paul spoke to them concerning Jesus and were baptized. At first, they were meeting with the Jews in the synagogue, but when the Jews resisted and blasphemed, Paul left the synagogue and took the disciples to the school of Tyrannus.

The ministry from Ephesus was so effective that, combined with the other churches of Asia, all the people of Asia were exposed to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The enemies of Paul at Ephesus charged that Paul had persuaded many, many people in Asia of to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. The people making idols understood that Christianity now posed a

serious threat to their business income and created an uproar in Ephesus. The town clerk quelled the uproar and sent the mob home. He reminded them that the courts were open.

## *Left*

1. **After**. What happened after the uproar? The uproar ceased when the clerk dismissed the assembly.

2. **Uproar**. The mob had rioted because the businessmen profiting from idolatry were losing business.

3. **Paul**. Paul then sent for the disciples.

4. **Disciples**. Paul started with 12 disciples in Ephesus about 18 months earlier.

5. **Exhorted**. He exhorted them after the assembly ended and Gaius and Aristarchus were released.

6. **Left**. Living holy in the family of God means that God called Paul to move on from Ephesus and so he left.

7. **Macedonia**. We rejoice today because God directed Paul to return to Macedonia and exhort the churches there.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul calling the disciples to himself for a farewell from Ephesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following God's lead as He moves us from place to place to continue ministry.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by enjoying God's leading and the fellowship of disciples.**

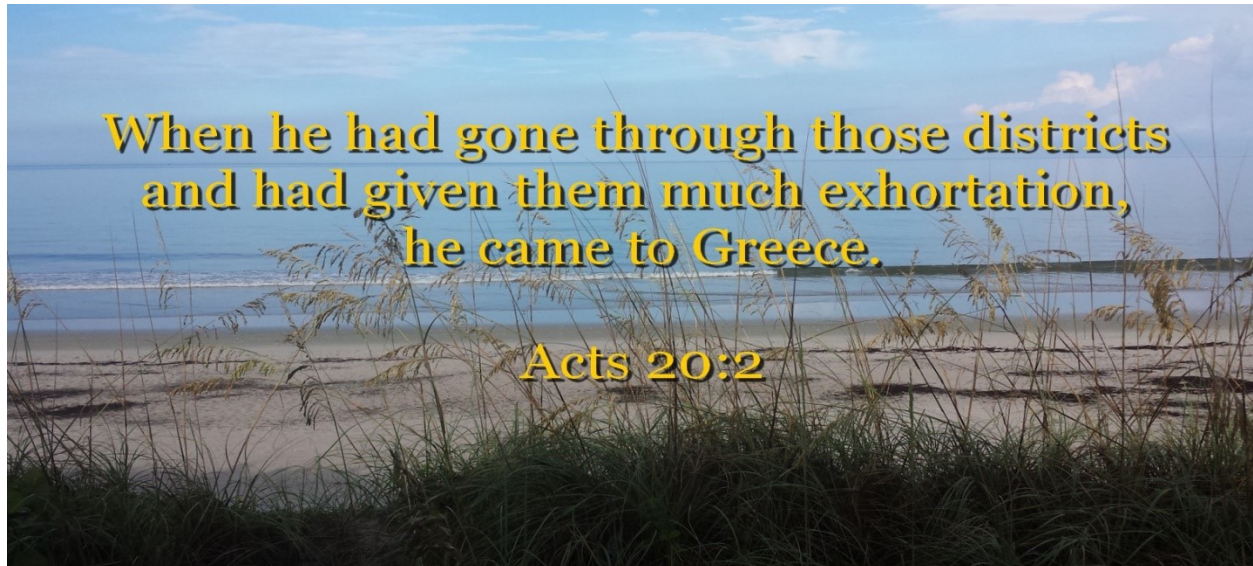
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that God may move us from place to place so that we encourage and exhort disciples in many places. Will you live holy in the family of God today by staying open to God's leading in your life so that He may put you where He wants you?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 705

## Given Today



What happened in Macedonia? Paul returned to the churches of Macedonia and exhorted the brethren there.

Paul and Silas had traveled to Macedonia and spread the word of the Lord in Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea. Although Paul suffered at the hands of the Philippian authorities and was chased by the jealous Jews of Thessalonica, the noble Bereans received him and studied the word daily to see that what Paul was saying was true.

When Paul returned to Macedonia, he did the same thing he did at Ephesus. He exhorted the churches in the word of God. He targeted his ministry particularly upon the existing disciples to strengthen and encourage them. Paul visited the churches he planted, but he also made a habit of moving on.

Paul was determined to go to Greece. At Corinth he had spent 18 months and left a thriving church there. Paul was obviously looking forward to going back to Corinth and exhorting the brethren there too.

Paul not only built missionary teams around himself, but he also left disciples in many churches. Those churches became self-sustaining by the power of God.

## ***Exhortation***

1. **When**. What did Paul do when he passed through Macedonia? Paul did what he always did, exhorted the brethren.

2. **Passed**. Paul passed through Macedonia, visiting the churches that had already been planted there.

3. **Districts**. Paul passed through the districts, but kept moving towards his final destination.

4. **Exhortation**. Paul spent time delivering exhortation to the churches that he had planted with Silas and Timothy earlier.

5. **He**. He informed tight bonds with the Thessalonians, Philippians and Bereans.

6. **Came**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul did not stay in Macedonia, but followed the leading of the Lord in continuing on to Greece.

7. **Greece**. We rejoice today because Paul traveled all the way to Greece to see the brethren there, and particularly the church at Corinth that he had planted there.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul moving from place to place and encouraging the brethren.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by exhorting the brethren to love God more as we spend time with them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by enjoying the brethren who stop by and encourage us and exhort us in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

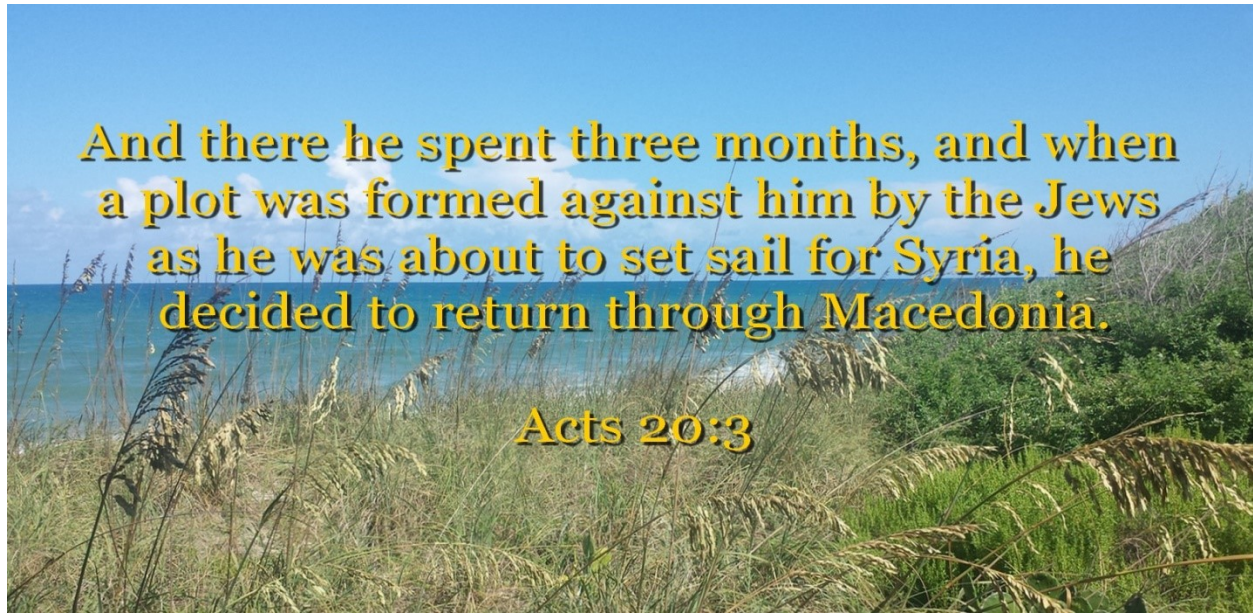
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus for His great love that we can share with people all over the world. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for visiting missionaries who encourage us with the word of God?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 706

## Plot Today



How long did Paul spend in Greece? Paul had been about 18 months at Corinth on his first visit and about three months on the second visit to Greece.

Paul remembered the churches that he planted. He made friends there and like to stay in touch with them. Based on the letters he sent to the Corinthians, the young churches needed a lot of guidance from Paul firsthand. They were rich in spiritual gifts but weighted down with divisions among them. Their breaking of bread services were disorderly and they had divisions and disputes over many matters of practice.

The Lord Jesus appeared to Paul at Corinth and told him that he would not be attacked there, because Jesus had many people in Corinth. When Paul returned to Greece, the Jews formed the plot against him as he was about to set sail for Syria. Paul learned about the plot and determined he would return through Macedonia. Of course, Paul had met very fierce persecution from the jealous Jews of Thessalonica. Even so he determined that he would leave by another route.



## *Decided*

1. **Three**. Why did Paul abruptly change his travel plans? After Paul spent three months in Greece, he was about to leave when he heard the Jews plotted to kill him.

2. **Plot**. Paul had arranged travel by boat to Syria when he got news of the plot against him.

3. **Jews**. The Jews had once again made plans to kill Paul once and for all.

4. **Sail**. Having considered his options, Paul decided that sailing to Syria may not have been the best choice.

5. **Syria**. Syria provided a way to go back to Antioch and Jerusalem and the churches in that area.

6. **Decided**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul acted prudently and changed his travel plans so that he decided to return through Macedonia.

7. **Macedonia**. We rejoice today because Paul went back to Macedonia, a place of fierce persecution, to strengthen the saints there and avoid the Jews' plot to kill him.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking heed of plots against the saints.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by changing travel plans to avoid persecution and death threats.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by helping the saints become aware of death plots and aiding their escape from the enemy.**

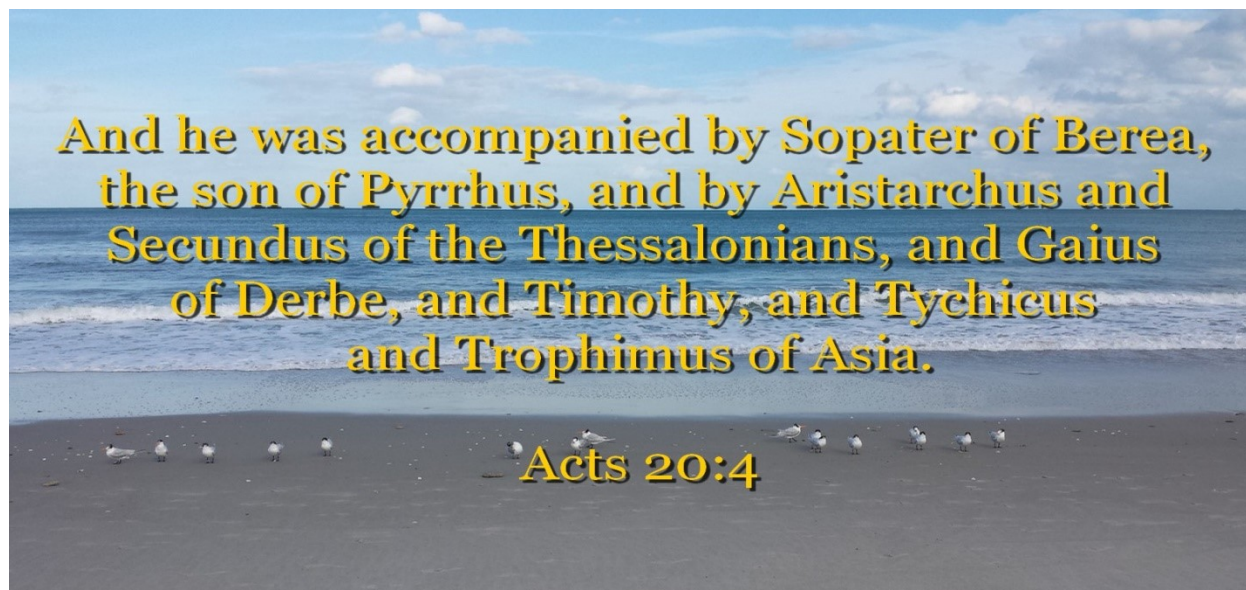
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by helping saints escape the evil plans of the enemy. Will you live holy in the family of God today by warning saints of evil plans against them and helping the saints avoid them?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 707

## Accompanied Today



Did Paul travel by himself? Paul had many traveling companions.

As Paul was leaving Greece, the ministry team traveled with him. Sopater of Berea, the son of Pyrrhus, accompanied Paul. Paul had visited Berea after Thessalonica and both of those places were in Macedonia. The Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians and searched the Scriptures to see if the things Paul proclaimed were true. Having Sopater along for the trip to Macedonia made a lot of sense.

Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica also accompanied Paul. The jealous Jews of Thessalonica gave Paul a very difficult time and chased him after he left Thessalonica. Yet, the church at Thessalonica continued on and Aristarchus and Secundus traveled with Paul. Gaius from Derbe and Aristarchus were with Paul at Ephesus when the riot broke out and they were dragged into the theater. Clearly, Gaius and Aristarchus continued to travel with Paul even after that experience at Ephesus.

Timothy from Derbe and Trophimus from Ephesus and Tychicus rounded out the Asian traveling companions. Paul made disciples wherever he went and they joined the ministry team.

## ***Trophimus***

1. **Accompanied**. Who traveled with Paul? Paul had men from both Asia and Europe as traveling companions.

2. **Sopater**. Sopater, the son of Pyrrhus, came from Berea, of Macedonia, where noble-minded saints examined the word of God carefully.

3. **Aristarchus**. Aristarchus came from Thessalonica, where the jealous Jews gave Paul a really hard time and chased him.

4. **Secundus**. Secundus also came from the Thessalonians.

5. **Gaius**. Gaius came from Derbe in Asia.

6. **Timothy**. Living holy in the family of God means that Timothy came from Asia as well.

7. **Asia**. We rejoice today because Tychicus and Trophimus also came from Asia, so that Paul traveled with saints from the churches he planted in Asia and Macedonia.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by traveling with saints as a unified ministry team.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by learning from the senior members of the ministry team.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by forming strong ministry teams to spread the word of the Lord.**

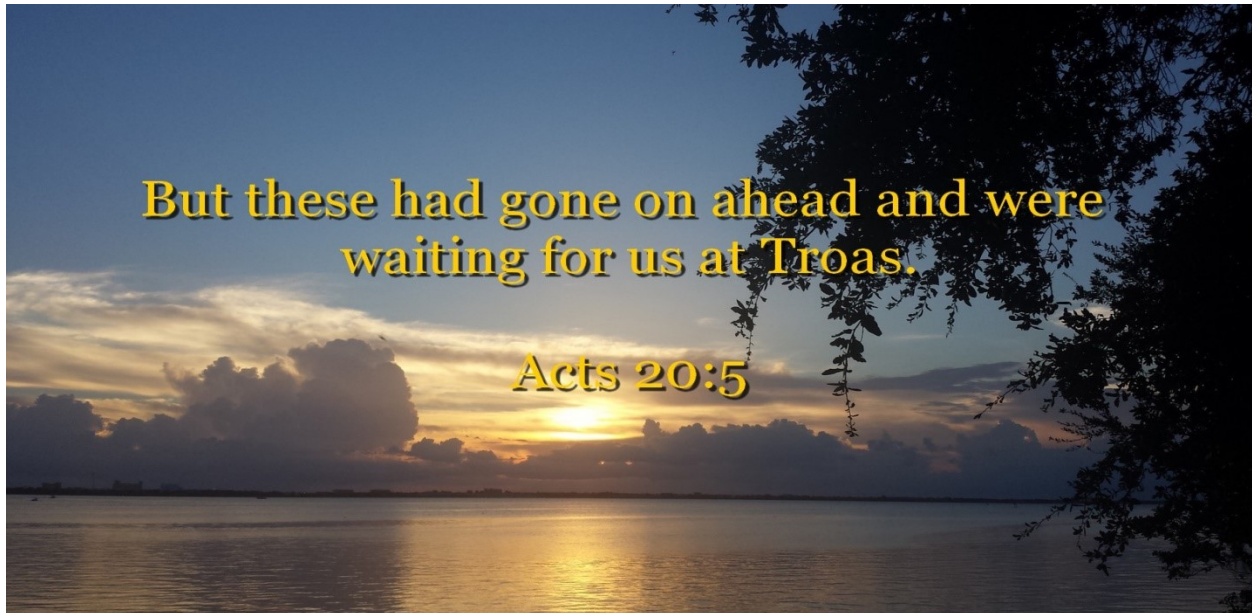
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by joining together in ministry teams. Will you live holy in the family of God today by enjoying the work of the Lord Jesus Christ as He builds His church by drawing saints together into ministry teams?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 708

## Waiting Today



Did Paul leave Greece with the ministry team? Luke and perhaps other members of the ministry team traveled with Paul while the rest of the team had gone ahead to Troas and were waiting for Paul there.

Paul received the Macedonian vision at Troas in Asia. Based upon that vision, Paul and the ministry team left Asia and headed to Macedonia. Therefore, when the rest of the ministry team went to Troas, Paul was already familiar with sea travel from there. Troas also served as a hub for land routes.

The term “us” indicates that Luke traveled with Paul to Macedonia. Paul had spent considerable time in Macedonia and planted churches there. The Jews may never have thought that Paul would return to Macedonia because of all the persecution he suffered there. Even so Paul made his way to Macedonia.

Paul traveled frequently among the churches. Intense persecution often drove him from place to place, but he also returned to the very places of persecution. Paul was more interested in strengthening the churches than avoiding all persecution. Paul risked his neck for the sake of the brethren on

numerous occasions. In fact, Paul often acted for the benefit of others and not for his own personal safety.

## ***Troas***

1. **But**. Where did the ministry team go? They went ahead to Troas.
2. **These**. All the people he mentioned previously departed before Paul.
3. **Gone**. They had gone on ahead and left Paul behind to take a different route to the rendezvous point.
4. **Ahead**. With the ministry team moving ahead, Paul could leave more easily and quietly without drawing attention.
5. **Waiting**. The ministry team would be waiting for him when he arrived.
6. **Us**. Living holy in the family of God means that the ministry team plans together and then separates as circumstances warrant.
7. **Troas**. We rejoice today because the team would be heading back to Troas, a spiritually significant place for Paul.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by separating the ministry team as circumstances warrant.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking precautions to avoid trouble when possible.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for fellow believers who can travel by themselves and function as an autonomous ministry team when needed.**

## **Application for Today**

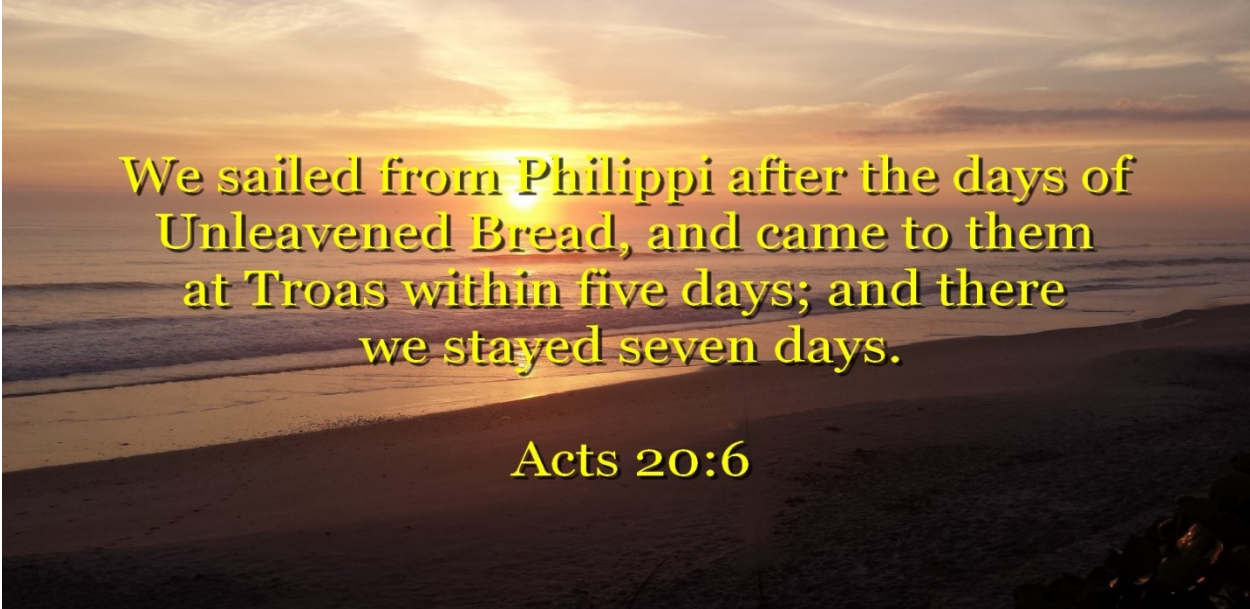
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by as we follow God's directions and separating as he directs us to increase safety. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying for the ministry teams to make wise choices about travel arrangements?

**HALLELUJAH!**



## Day 709

### Sailed Today



We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days.

Acts 20:6

Where did Paul go from Philippi? He went to Troas and met the other traveling companions.

Luke provided many historical details of the travel. Luke wrote that the ministry team with Paul, including Luke, sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread which occurs in March-April. They arrived at Troas within five days. Then they stayed at Troas for seven days.

Paul sent members of the ministry teams to various places as church messengers. They essentially functioned as a type of apostle bringing news to and from the ministry team. As we see from the ministry team waiting at Troas, members of the team came from both Europe and Asia. Naturally, they would like to go home from time to time and visit the churches. They brought news about Paul and returned with news about the churches.

Paul used a network of men to visit a network of churches. In Ephesus 12 disciples had an influence on all of Asia. Many churches in Asia apparently contributed to the effort of spreading the word of the Lord. Even the enemies

of Paul acknowledged that many people in Asia had heard about the love of Jesus Christ and His powerful message of redemption and salvation.

## *Stayed*

1. **We**. Who were the “we”? The “we” passages suggest that Luke was traveling with Paul.

2. **Sailed**. Paul left Corinth and sailed away.

3. **Philippi**. Paul traveled to Philippi in Macedonia where he had spent time planting and nourishing a church there.

4. **Days**. Paul stayed in Philippi for the days of Unleavened Bread, a Jewish feast associated with Passover.

5. **Troas**. Leaving Philippi they traveled to Troas.

6. **Five**. Living holy in the family of God means we remember the details in the Bible that help us know the details of Paul’s travels and ministry, including the five days it took to sail from Philippi to Troas.

7. **Seven**. We rejoice today because Paul stayed in Troas for seven days, strengthening the church as was his practice when he traveled. He also joined the ministry team waiting for him there and he arrived safe and sound.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God kept Paul and his traveling companions safe as they left Greece.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for His safekeeping.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by reuniting with friends in Christ and breaking bread together.**

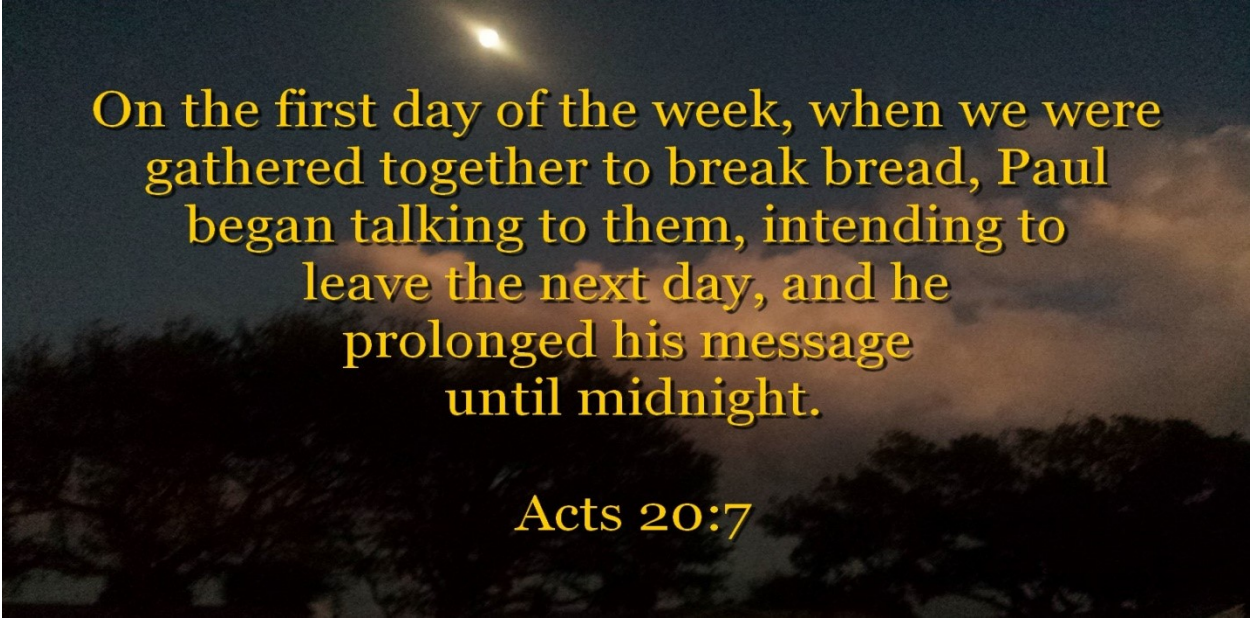
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for times of refreshment with the family of God after escaping from death threats. Will you live holy in the family of God today by breaking bread with the family of God and worshiping the God Who delivers His own from many perils?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 710

## Gathered Today



On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

Acts 20:7

What happened at Troas? Paul began speaking and continued until midnight.

The events at Troas provide further insight into the ministry of Paul. On the first day of the week, the saints gathered for the breaking of bread. This verse, among many others, provides support for the church gathering together on Sunday to break bread.

As the church began to break bread together, Paul began to deliver a message. He continued the message until midnight. This indicates that the breaking of bread service also had time for messages to be delivered. Paul had no problem speaking until midnight because he intended to leave the next day.

These early church services showed the importance of breaking bread every week. The early church practiced breaking of bread on Sunday. Of course, some people in Jerusalem broke bread every day from house to house. At Corinth, saints broke bread together but their services were unruly.

Paul sought to strengthen and encourage churches. He passed through many areas, but spent time with them exhorting the saints in the word of the Lord.

## *Message*

1. **First**. Why were the saints gathered together on the first day of the week? They gathered for the breaking of bread.

2. **Week**. As Christians they met on the first day of the week, the day of the Lord's resurrection.

3. **Gathered**. Paul gathered with the other saints to break bread and remember the Lord Jesus.

4. **Bread**. The breaking of bread also provided a time for fellowship and a message.

5. **Intending**. Paul began talking to the saints, intending to leave the next day.

6. **Prolonged**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Paul prolonging his message until midnight.

7. **Message**. We rejoice today because Paul prolonged his message to deliver full encouragement to the saints gathered together to break bread before he left the next day.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by gathering together on the first day of the week to break bread.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by enjoying the messages from saints at the breaking of bread.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God brings saints together and then they leave as God directs them to other places of ministry.**

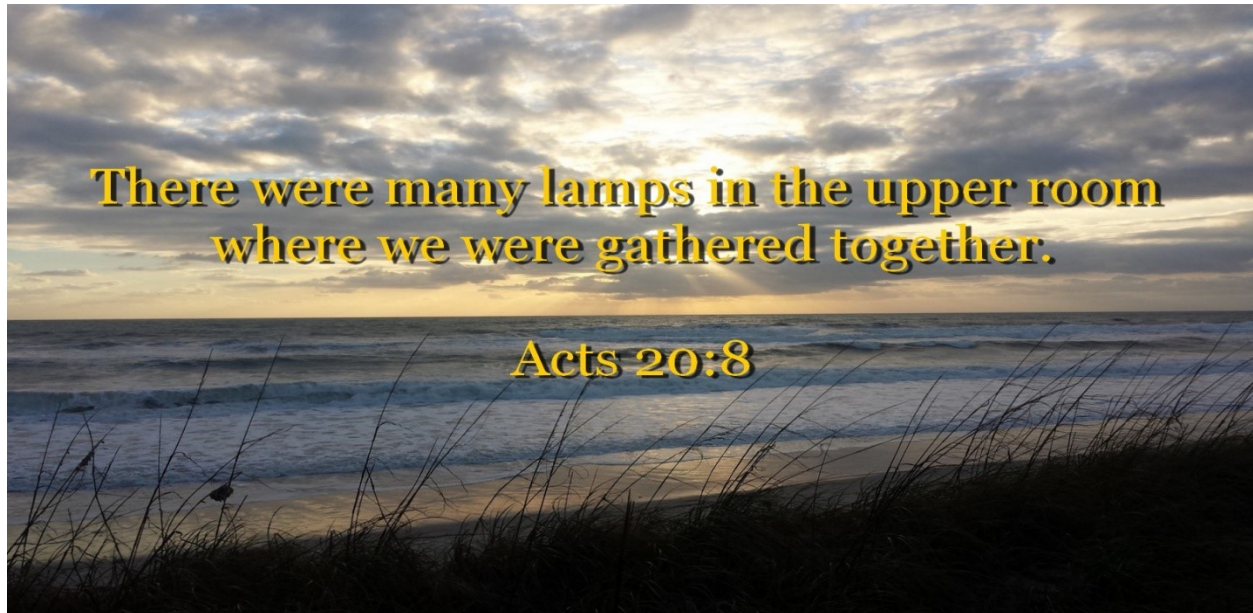
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by enjoying the time we have together to break bread and enjoy messages. Will you live holy in the family of God today by breaking bread with other saints on the first day of the week?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 711

## Lamps Today



Where were the missionaries gathered in Troas? They were gathered in a large upper room.

They had gathered together on the first day of the week to break bread together. Paul had begun to deliver a message, but he extended it until midnight, because he was leaving the next day.

Luke noted that the upper room had many lamps in it. Lamps burn and often give off smoke. Conceivably, the smoke accumulated in the upper parts of the room.

The missionaries liked to get together with their friends in Christ and break bread together on the first day of the week. Paul knew that he would be leaving on the next day. He brought messages to the churches to encourage them to walk with Christ. Paul was a speaker gifted by God with revelation for the church. Paul did not only read the New Testament, God used him to write many New Testament epistles.

Paul spent considerable time in synagogues in different places persuading them that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ. He was often very persuasive with people and they came to have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to save them.

## ***Room***

1. **Many**. Why mention many lamps? The detail of the many lamps may explain the atmosphere in the upper room.

2. **Lamps**. Lamps in that era may have smoked as they burned.

3. **Upper**. The missionaries were gathered together in the upper room and it had many lamps.

4. **Room**. The room could have been filled with a very smoky atmosphere.

5. **We**. The “we” probably indicates that Luke was with the missionaries at Troas.

6. **Gathered**. Living holy in the family of God means that believers love to gather together and break bread and talk about God’s word together.

7. **Together**. We rejoice today because the ministry team gathered in the upper room at Troas for a time of fellowship and encouragement before Paul departed.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and the ministry team gathered together to break bread on the first day of the week in the upper room at Troas.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by spending time with the ministry team before the team splits up the next day.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by breaking bread and sharing the word of God together to build strength for the journey ahead.**

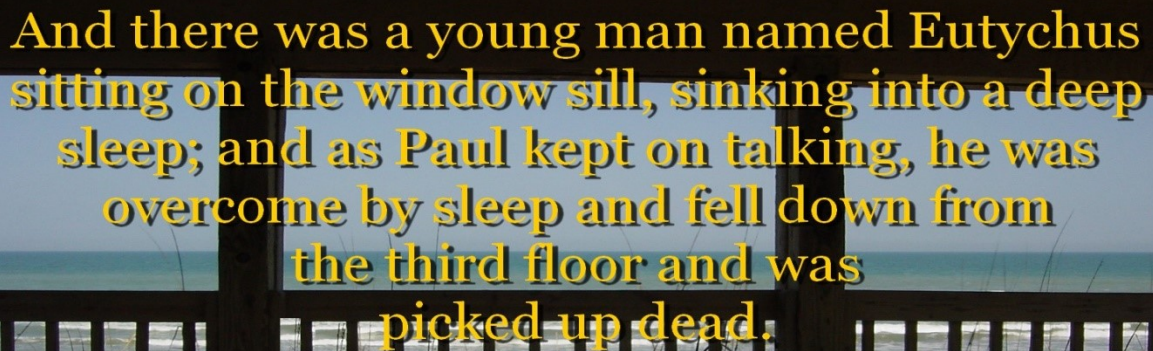
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by encouraging one another by getting together when time permits. Will you live holy in the family of God today by making time to gather with other saints to break bread on the first day of the week?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 712

## Eutychus Today



And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead.

Acts 20:9

What happened to Eutychus? He fell asleep and fell down.

As Paul prolonged his message to midnight, a young man named Eutychus was sitting on the window sill. He began sinking into a deep sleep. As Paul was talking towards midnight, Eutychus was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor. The others picked him up dead.

Eutychus fell asleep and died during Paul's message. Some people say that the lamps caused smoke that influenced his fall into sleep and then he fell to the ground far below. At any rate, Paul now had a dead man to deal with among the missionaries and friends.

God worked many signs through the hands of Paul. As God spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the various new places, God provided signs and wonders to open the hearts of the people. People were healed by garments that Paul had worn. Many people came to faith because of the faithful preaching of Paul.

In this case, everyone in the room quickly learned of the death of Eutychus. The only question would be what would God do about the death of the young man?

## *Dead*

1. **Young**. Who fell asleep during Paul's message? Eutychus fell asleep.
2. **Eutychus**. Eutychus was a young man listening to Paul's message.
3. **Sill**. He was sitting in the window sill on the third floor.
4. **Sinking**. As he listened to Paul prolonging his message to midnight, he fell into a deep sleep.
5. **Paul**. Paul kept talking long into the night because he was leaving the next day.
6. **Overcome**. Living holy in the family of God means that Eutychus was overcome by sleep and fell down listening to Paul, but he became famous that day for falling asleep and falling down.
7. **Dead**. We rejoice today because Eutychus fell to the ground, and was picked up dead, but Paul was there and good things were going to happen.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering when bad things happen, God can solve any problem.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to take care of the big problems and the small problems and all other problems.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He is a kind and merciful and loving God every day, all day, and forever.**

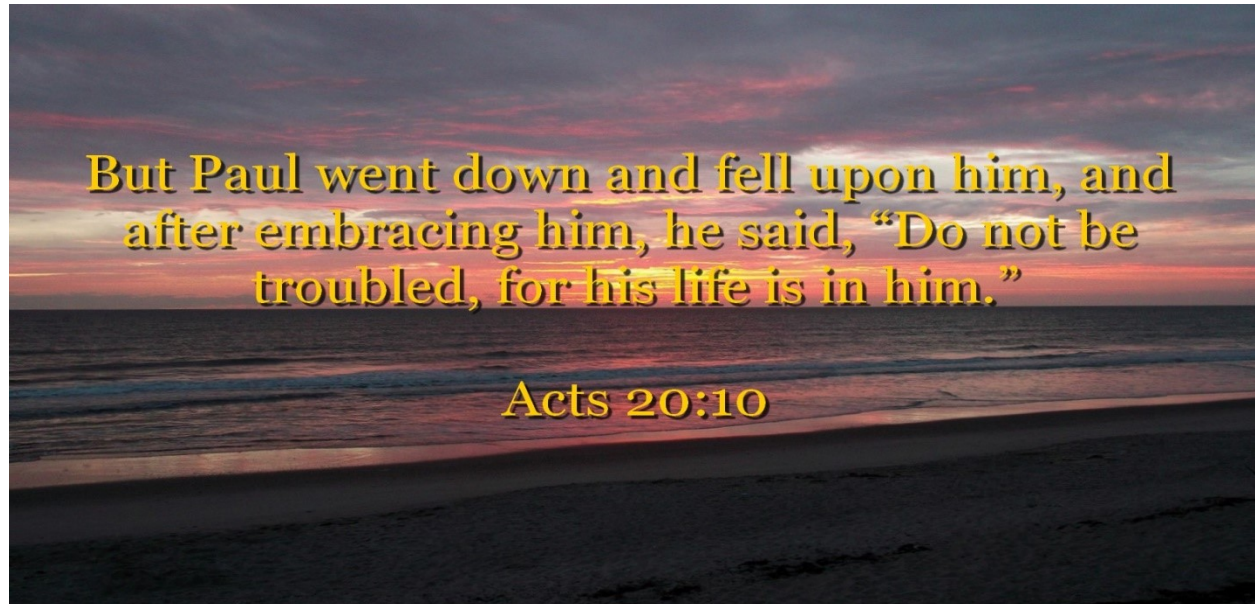
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Eutychus falling asleep and falling down as Paul continued his message past midnight. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that Paul preached a long message, but also had the power from God to take care of Eutychus?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 713

## Paul Today



But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, “Do not be troubled, for his life is in him.”

Acts 20:10

What did Paul say about the death of Eutychus? Paul said not to be troubled.

When Eutychus fell from the third-floor window, Paul went down and fell upon him. After embracing him, Paul said that his life was in him. Paul told the people not to be troubled.

At that point, Paul knew that the young man would be okay. Paul had confidence that the young man would be restored to health. Paul’s words were designed to bring comfort to those who were saddened by those events.

Paul swiftly moved to help Eutychus. Paul embraced Eutychus and sensed the life of the young man was in him. The others had picked up the young man dead, but now understood the young man would live.

God worked all kinds of miracles. In this case, God had mercy upon everyone there, including anyone related to Eutychus. God demonstrated His great compassion by restoring the life to the young man as everyone looked on. Paul immediately brought the good news that no one needed to

be troubled by the fall of the young man, because his life was in him. Paul had helped the young man and everyone witnessed the grace of God in action.

## *Life*

1. **But**. How did Paul help Eutychus? Paul came down and embraced him.

2. **Paul**. Paul left the third-floor and made it down to the ground to see the young man.

3. **Down**. As Paul came down from the third floor, he intended to examine the young man.

4. **Third**. Having reached the ground where the young man landed after falling from the third-floor window sill, Paul was ready to examine the young man.

5. **Embracing**. Having reached the ground Paul fell upon the young man and then embraced him.

6. **Troubled**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Paul's concern as he left the third-floor to find the child lying on the ground and announcing that no one should be troubled.

7. **Life**. We rejoice today because Paul declared that the child still had his life in him.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by stopping a message to help somebody in need.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by moving quickly to bring help to accident victims injured during the gathering for breaking of bread.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for sparing the life of the young man who fell from the third floor.**

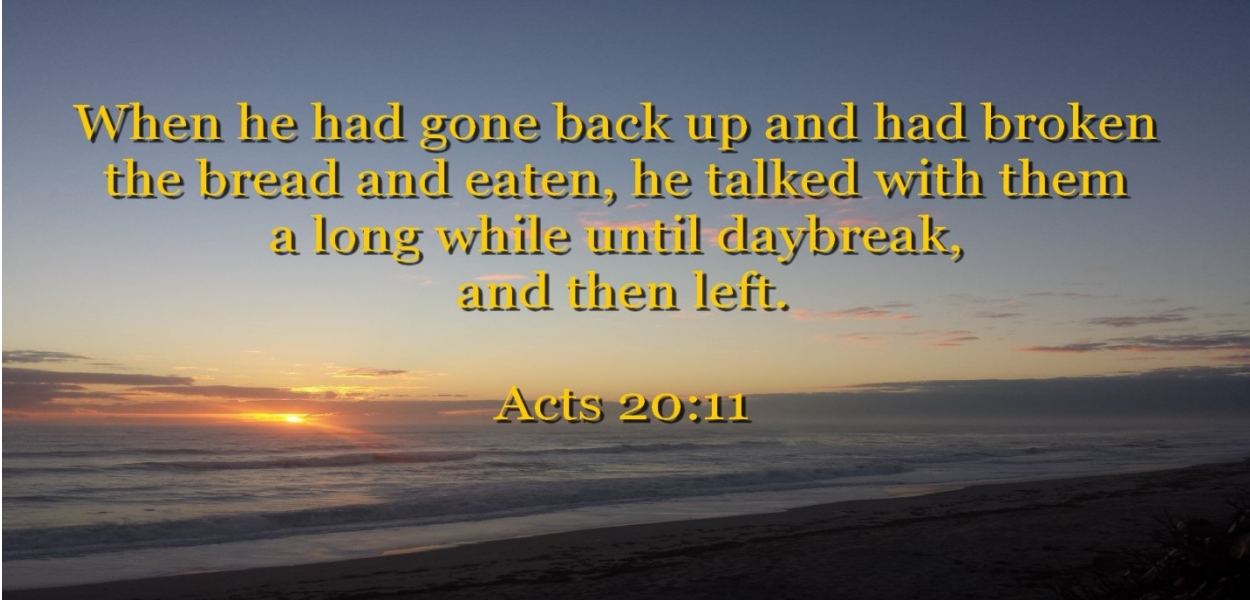
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the story of Paul embracing Eutychus and declaring no one should be troubled because his life was still in him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His mercies and sparing the lives of people who have been injured?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 714

## Daybreak Today



When he had gone back up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left.

Acts 20:11

What did Paul do after helping Eutychus? Paul went back up to the upper room.

Paul then broke the bread and ate with the saints gathered there. Paul resumed his normal activities with the brethren. He had prolonged his message until midnight, because he planned on leaving the next day.

Paul continued talking with them after breaking bread. They spoke together until daybreak and then Paul left. Paul considered it far more valuable to spend time with the brothers than getting some sleep. Paul knew that on the ship he would have time to sleep, but the time with other saints was far more precious to him.

Paul spent time with people, even at the expense of his own body. Paul said that he did not let his bodily desires control him, but dedicated himself to the Lord Jesus Christ and the ministry. Paul knew that going back to Jerusalem and Antioch would bring new challenges. Therefore, he maximized his time with the brethren as God gave him opportunity.



## *Left*

1. **When**. What did Paul do after returning to the third-floor? He broke bread and ate it with the group.
2. **Back**. After helping the young man who fell, Paul went back upstairs to the third-floor.
3. **Bread**. Paul broke bread with them in the middle of the night.
4. **Eaten**. After he had eaten with them, he continued talking to them.
5. **Talked**. He talked with them a long while.
6. **Daybreak**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul valued the time with the ministry team and others and kept talking with them until daylight.
7. **Left**. We rejoice today because when Paul finished talking and daylight had arrived, they knew that Paul loved spending time with them more than he loved sleep.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul breaking bread with the missionaries and others after midnight.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by valuing time to spend with other believers before we depart.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by spending time with people we love because we never know when we might see them again.**

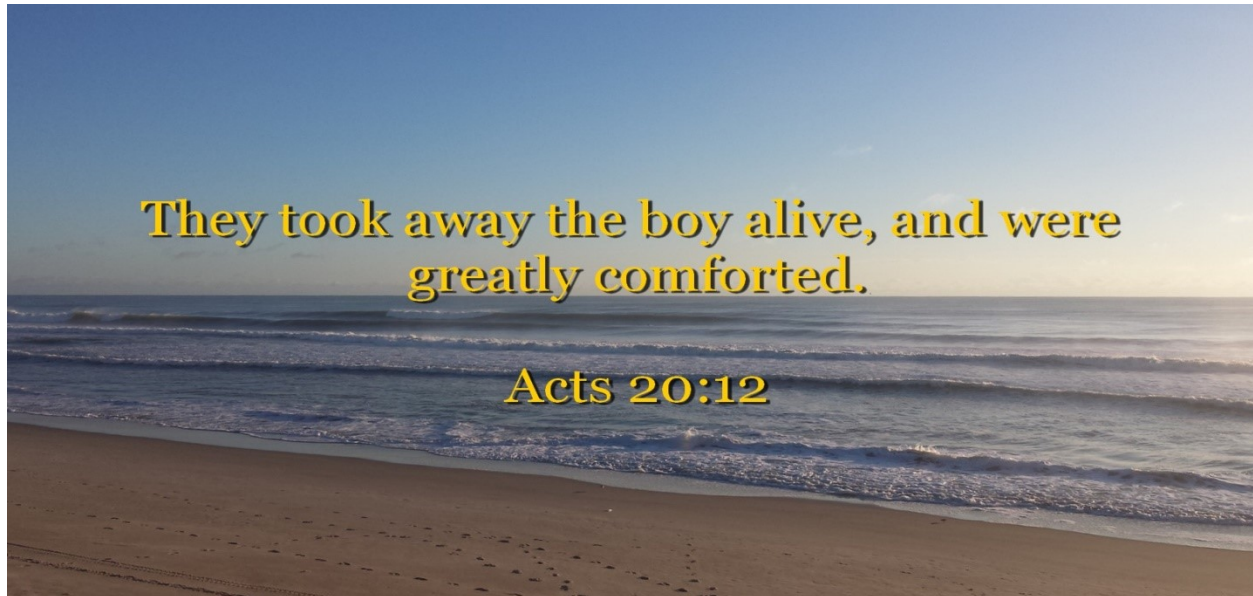
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by spending time late at night with people we love in Christ because we never know when we may see them again. Will you live holy in the family of God today by letting the people know you love them by spending time with them?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 715

## Alive Today



What happened to Eutychus? They took the boy away alive and were greatly comforted.

When Eutychus fell from the third-floor window, they picked him up dead. Paul went down and embraced the boy and brought happy news. Paul declared that the boy was still alive and no one should be troubled.

The group certainly had a lot to talk about both before and after midnight. Paul had prolonged his message to midnight, because he was planning on leaving the next day. Apparently, the boy was overcome by sleep and fell from his perch in the third-floor window.

As Paul left, they took the boy away alive. They were greatly comforted and knew that Paul had helped the boy. Those happy words from Paul, “do not be troubled,” proved to be timely and welcomed. As Paul left, he did not leave a mourning crowd behind, but a comforted crowd because the boy was still alive.

God had poured out His mercy and grace upon the young man and all the people gathered together. They had a great time breaking bread without the heartache of the death of the young boy. God had done great things for them.

## ***Comforted***

1. **They**. How does the story of Eutychus end? They took the boy away alive, and were greatly comforted.

2. **Took**. Eutychus fell from a third story window and, yet, they took him away alive.

3. **Away**. As they took him away, no one was mourning his death.

4. **Boy**. Although the boy had fallen three stories, and taken up dead, they took him away alive.

5. **Alive**. Paul had fallen upon him and embraced him and then the child was alive.

6. **Greatly**. Living holy in the family of God means that they took Eutychus away alive after Paul helped him.

7. **Comforted**. We rejoice today because God blessed Eutychus and the missionaries and so Paul the left them greatly comforted because the boy was alive as Paul left.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that they took Eutychus away alive.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for His mercy towards Eutychus and everyone who loved him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by taking comfort when God extends the life of someone we love.**

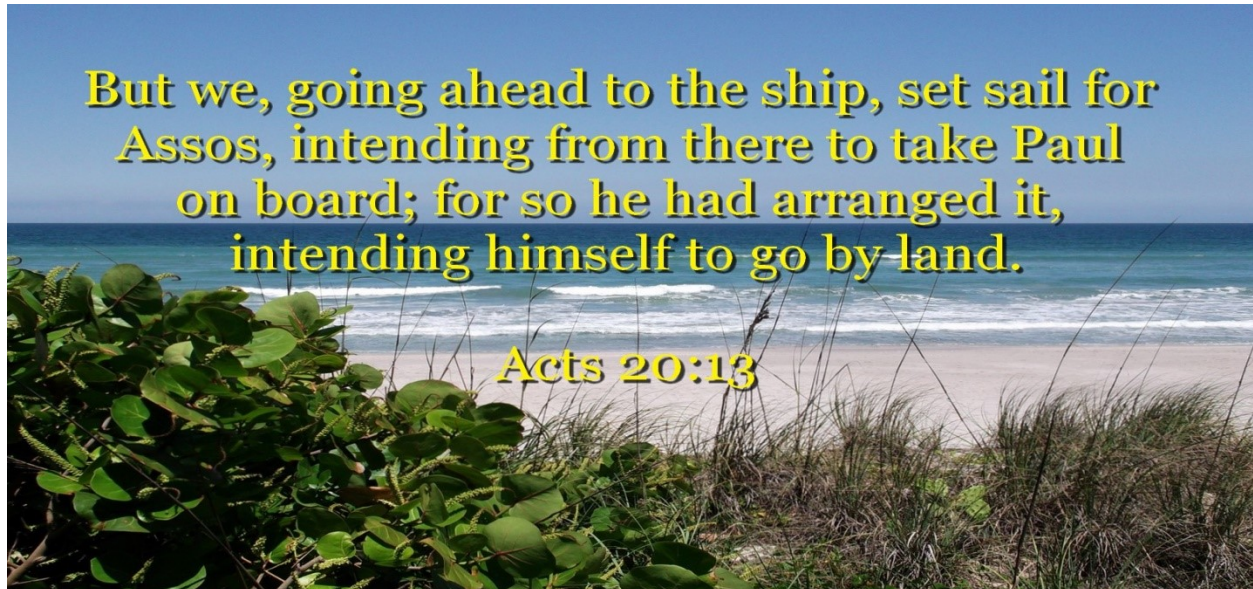
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the people that walked away from very serious accidents. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for all the times He extended your life?

**HALLELUJAH!**

## Day 716

### Sail Today



Where was the missionary team heading when it left Troas? The missionary team was heading for Assos.

By Roman roads Assos lies about 31 miles from Troas and takes about two days. While the ministry team sailed from Troas, Paul intended to go by land. Paul had arranged for the boat to pick him up at Assos. Paul was still heading back to Syria.

Paul had split off from the ministry team before. He frequently sent people ahead of him and then came later. At other times Paul went first and the ministry team caught up with him. The Jews had been seeking the life of Paul in Europe and Asia. Paul had made many enemies while planting many churches.

While Paul took precautions, he never gave up ministering to people who needed to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul also made it a point to revisit churches that he planted, even when it meant a danger for him to go there. Paul valued the spiritual growth and development of the young churches and so was willing to lay down his life for them. Paul

understood persecution better than most people. Before meeting Jesus on the Damascus Road, Paul was a chief persecutor himself.

## *Land*

1. **We**. What were Luke and the ministry team planning to do? They were planning to go ahead Assos.

2. **Ahead**. As they traveled ahead by sea, Paul was traveling by land to meet them there.

3. **Ship**. Paul intended to join the ship at Assos.

4. **Assos**. If they all arrived safely at Assos, then they would proceed with their journey to Syria.

5. **Arranged**. Paul had arranged further rendezvous at Assos because he obviously had plans to walk overland.

6. **Intending**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Paul did not always stay with the ministry team, because he was intending to meet them later.

7. **Land**. We rejoice today because Paul traveled by land as the need arose and also by sea, but he was always about spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to new places and meeting new people on the way and to strengthening the existing churches.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul separated from the ministry team for days.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Paul did not lead the ministry team, but the Lord Jesus did.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of Jesus Christ to move individuals to different places at different times so that they can come back together at just the right time and place.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by following the leading of God, even if He takes you away from the ministry team for a while. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following God's will and trusting the ministry team to follow God's will also?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 717

## Assos Today



What happened at Assos? As planned beforehand, Paul joined the missionaries at Assos.

Paul had arranged for the missionary team to go by ship from Troas to Assos. Paul would have taken at least two days to travel from Troas to Assos. He may have wanted to see people or meet people along the road as he traveled. Having left Assos, the next day they arrived at Mitylene, the chief city of the island of Lesbos.

Luke included many historical details about Paul's travels. The details of Luke's travel history make good sense in light of the geography. Luke was writing firsthand details about where Paul went and the things he did when he got there. Luke wrote in a style all his own, yet the Holy Spirit moved him to speak for God. The words Luke wrote in the original autographs perfectly conveyed God's revelation word for word. God emphasized repeatedly that His words were Holy Words, breathed out by God Himself.

The miracle of inspiration of Scripture means that Luke wrote like Luke, with his own vocabulary and syntax. Luke included many historical

details and his narrative follows Paul around the Mediterranean world. Paul himself wrote many epistles and they do not sound like the writing style or content of Luke. Yet God breathed out both the words that Luke wrote and the words that Paul wrote.

## *Mitylene*

1. **And**. How did Luke write? Luke wrote a narrative, generally following the travels of Paul in chronological order.
2. **Assos**. As arranged, Paul met the ministry team at Assos.
3. **Took**. They took Paul onboard the ship with them and prepared for travel. Sailing often was much easier than walking for days.
4. **Onboard**. Paul came on board the ship and joined the ministry team and they continued their journey down the coast of Asia Minor, threading their way through islands.
5. **Came**. They finally came to Mitylene.
6. **To**. Living holy in the family of God means that God can split up ministry teams for a while and then join them back together so they all come to the same place at the same time, ready for more ministry together.
7. **Mitylene**. We rejoice today because Paul and the missionaries came to Mitylene according to their plan without serious incident because God was helping them journey towards their destination.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by trusting God to bring the missionary team back together.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by enjoying the time God gives us to spend in fellowship and travel with other saints.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His traveling mercies.**

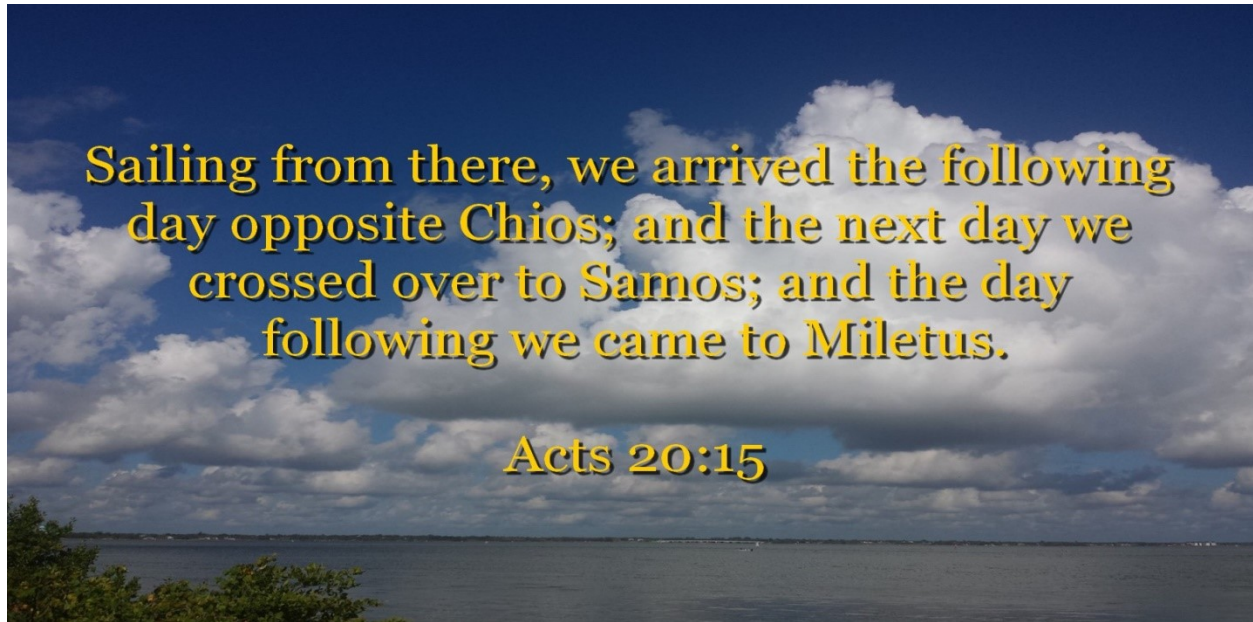
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the believers who have traveled with you to do the work of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for all the ministry teams traveling today to spread the word of the Lord?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 718

## Arrived Today



Where did Paul go after joining the boat at Assos? Paul sailed to Mitylene and then on to Chios.

Chios was an island about five miles from the mainland. The next day they crossed over to Samos, an island near the mainland. The following day they landed at Miletus.

Paul traveled down the coast of Asia Minor following established trade routes. His route took him between islands and the mainland. Local knowledge of the sea lanes through the area helped Paul get safely to his destination.

Luke provided many historical details with precise locations and landmarks about the travels of Paul. Luke knew the landmarks and islands and recorded them. Those details provide insight into the places well-known in the New Testament world.

Luke knew about sailing along the coast of Asia Minor, through the Greek islands near the mainland. Traveling by sea was usually quicker and

easier than land travel, provided the weather and boat cooperated. Paul was a seasoned traveler and would spend considerable time traveling the waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

## *Miletus*

1. **Sailing.** Where was the ministry team headed? In the short run, they were headed for Miletus.
2. **Arrived.** After passing by Mitylene, they arrived opposite Chios.
3. **Following.** The ship sailed by Chios on the following day after leaving Mitylene. Luke not only provided well-known landmarks for the journey, but he also provided a rough timeline of events as they sailed.
4. **Chios.** The ship sailed past Chios, but it served as a marker on the journey.
5. **Day.** The next day after Chios, they crossed over to Samos.
6. **Samos.** Living holy in the family of God means that Luke included details like Chios, Mitylene and Samos to provide geographically accurate details about their journeys.
7. **Miletus.** We rejoice today because the missionaries were heading to Miletus, where Paul had important people to see and encourage.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that Jesus leads us every day, even when we sail through the Greek Isles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the detailed account of the sea journey taken by the missionaries.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God moves us from place to place, according to His timetable.**

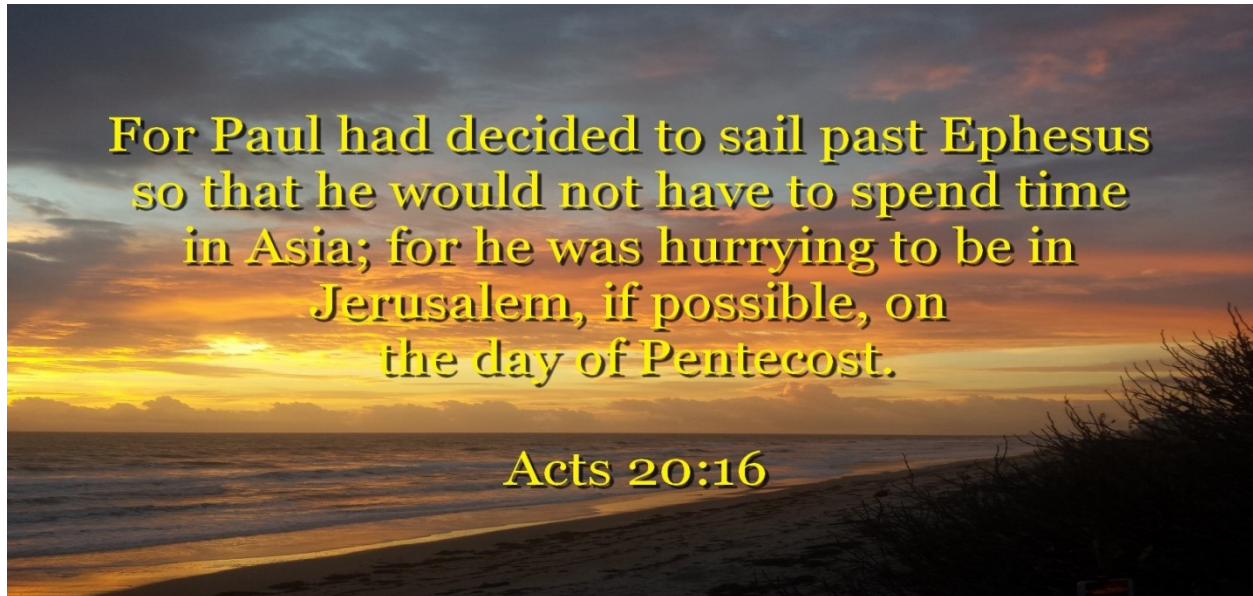
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for leading the missionaries safely through the sea so that they arrived in Miletus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God every time you travel to help you arrive safely?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 719

## Decided Today



Where was Paul heading? Paul was heading towards Jerusalem.

Paul was heading towards Jerusalem and sailing down the coast of Asia Minor towards his destination. The ministry team had sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread. Paul had made a stop at Troas but then headed off towards Jerusalem.

Paul intended to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Therefore, he did not want to spend more time in Asia. His travel schedule would be tight so that he could arrive in Jerusalem no later than the day of Pentecost. Paul must have heard about the events of Pentecost years earlier.

Paul knew that the Holy Spirit had descended at Pentecost after Jesus ascended back to heaven. The apostles had spoken in tongues and the church began to grow quickly. Miracles were taking place in Jerusalem and the religious authorities became jealous and hostile. They arrested the apostles and ordered them to shut up. The apostles declared they were going to follow Jesus and would not stop preaching and teaching in His Name.

## *Hurrying*

1. **Paul**. What were Paul's plans regarding Miletus? Paul intended to sail past Ephesus and meet the Ephesian elders at Miletus.
2. **Decided**. Paul had already decided to sail past Ephesus because he was in a hurry.
3. **Sail**. The decision to sail past Ephesus allowed Paul to save a few days of travel.
4. **Ephesus**. Paul still wanted to see the elders from Ephesus and provide strength and encouragement to them and also learn about how things were going there.
5. **Time**. Paul did not want to spend time in Asia, because he had Jerusalem and Pentecost on his mind.
6. **Hurrying**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul hurried along, cutting time off his journey, by avoiding travel time in Asia.
7. **Pentecost**. We rejoice today because Paul intended to be in Jerusalem at Pentecost, but he was still going to make time for the elders from Ephesus.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by making important decisions about where and how we spend time.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by shepherding our time so that we maximize every day in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ by being at the right place at the right time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Paul following carefully laid plans to avoid Asia, but still have time for the Ephesian elders.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by carefully picking and choosing every route on our destination and selecting carefully the people we see in route. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God will set your schedule every day as to where you should be and when you should be there?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# 15

## Elders of Ephesus Today

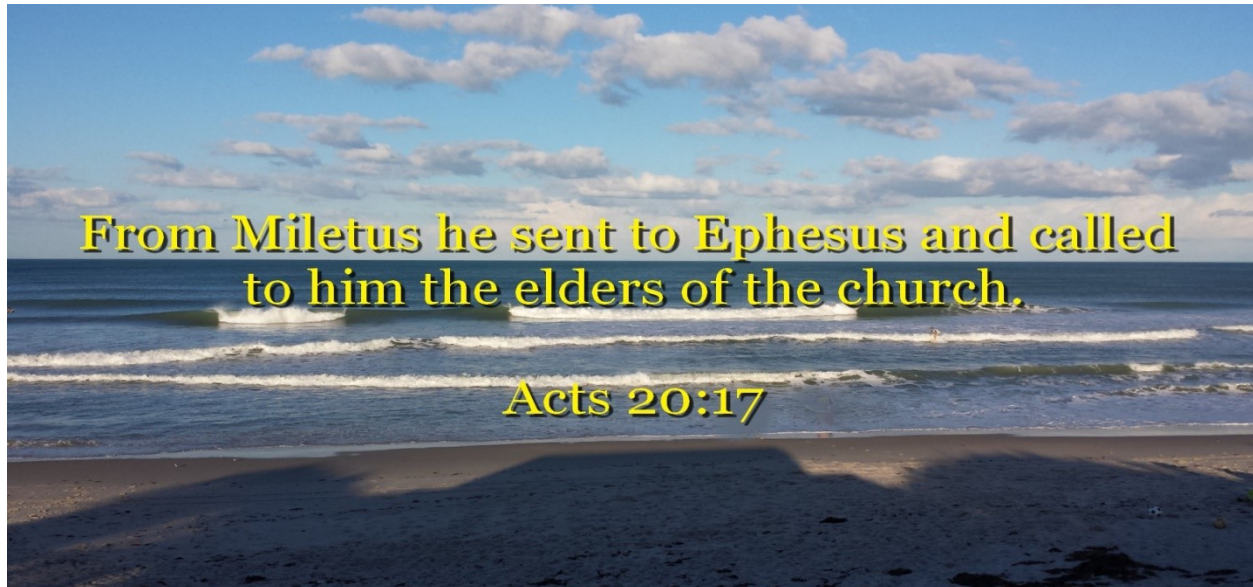
As Paul headed towards Jerusalem, he came to Miletus and called the Ephesian elders to him there. Paul recounted how he served the Lord and Ephesus with humility and tears and with trials because of the plots of the Jews. Even so he did not shrink back from declaring the word of God, and taught from house to house repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul explained that the Holy Spirit solemnly testified to him in every city that bonds and afflictions awaited him in Jerusalem. Because Paul did not consider his life as of any account, he was determined to finish the course and the ministry which he received from the Lord Jesus Christ, to testify solemnly of the Gospel of the grace of God.

Paul told the elders that they would no longer see his face. He declared he was innocent of the blood of all men because he had proclaimed the whole purpose of God to them. Paul charged the elders to be on guard for the flock and for themselves, because the Holy Spirit had set them as overseers to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. Having commended the elders to the grace of God, he knelt down and prayed with all of them. Weeping and grieving and kissing Paul, they accompanied him to the ship.

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 720

## Called Today



What did Paul do at Miletus? Paul called the elders of the Ephesian church to him when he landed it Miletus.

About 50 miles separates Miletus and Ephesus and the land journey would have been farther. Paul did not want to spend the time traveling to Ephesus, but he did want to see the elders of the church there. Therefore, Paul asked the elders to join him in Miletus.

Paul was hastening to Jerusalem and wanted to be there for Pentecost. Even so Paul stopped and made time to talk with the elders from Ephesus. Great things had happened at Ephesus with the 12 disciples he found there. A church had grown up there and now that church had elders.

Paul wanted to strengthen and encourage the church at Ephesus. He knew the elders there were shepherds of the sheep. This meeting will highlight Paul's interest in maintaining the spiritual integrity of the Ephesian church.

The atmosphere at Ephesus was very dangerous for Christians. Paul and the ministry team had made great gains throughout Asia spreading the

Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many believed and left their idolatry behind, endangering the profits of the businessmen who made idols. Paul had left Ephesus after a riot broke out and some of the missionary team were dragged into the theater at Ephesus, but then released.

## ***Elders***

1. **From**. What did Paul do at Miletus? Paul called the elders from the Ephesian church to him.

2. **Miletus**. By calling the elders to him at Miletus instead of going to Ephesus, Paul saved valuable days of travel.

3. **He**. Having landed at Miletus, Paul wanted the elders to join him there.

4. **Sent**. Paul sent messengers from Miletus to Ephesus.

5. **Called**. Paul used those messengers and they called the elders to Miletus.

6. **Elders**. Living holy in the family of God means that the elders of the church at Ephesus traveled to see Paul at Miletus.

7. **Ephesian**. We rejoice today because Paul had yet one more opportunity to spend time with the Ephesian elders before he traveled on to Jerusalem.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking time to see friends on a tight schedule.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by traveling to see friends to save them travel time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by calling people to see us when our schedule prevents us from traveling to them.**

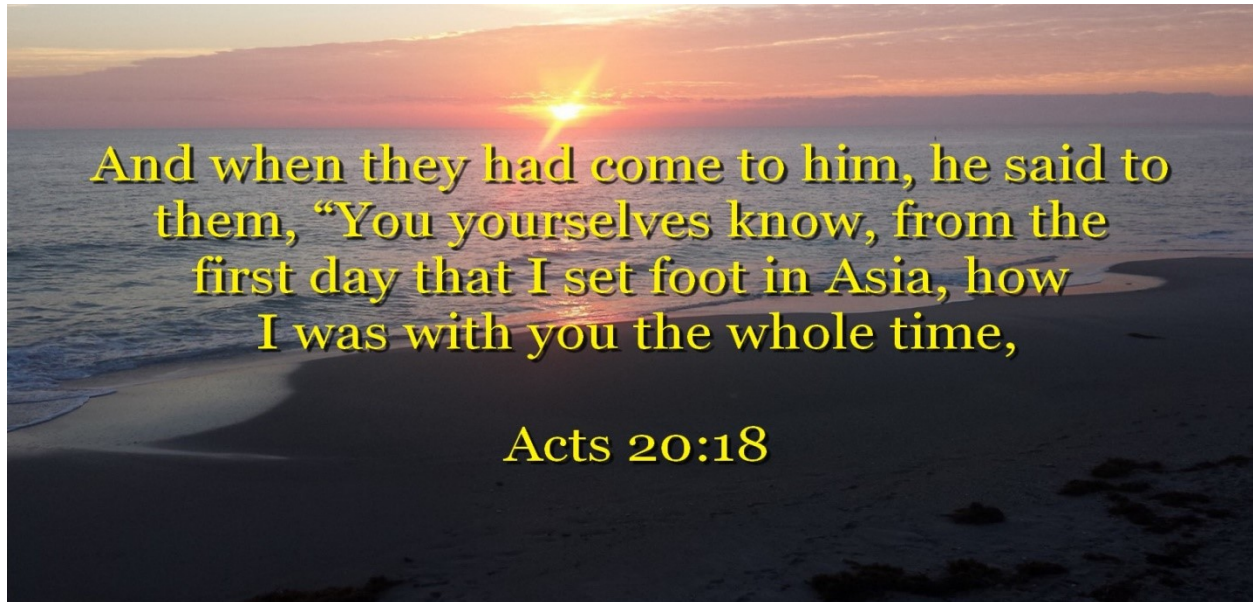
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that Paul had one visit with the Ephesian elders. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to visit with travelers, because you do not know if and when you may see them again?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 721

## Know Today



What did Paul tell the Ephesian elders? Paul reminded the Ephesian elders that he was with them the whole time he was in Asia.

Paul was very direct and explicit. When the Ephesian elders had come to him, Paul told them what they already knew. He said from the first day he set foot in Asia, he was with the Ephesian elders.

Paul apparently was referring to his visit to Ephesus where he met the 12 disciples who were only acquainted with the baptism of John. Paul then explained to them the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and His death, burial and resurrection, according to the Scriptures. Those disciples believed and spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Paul spent time in Ephesus then and all of Asia heard about the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many people turned to Christ for salvation. The businessmen then took steps to persecute Paul and the missionaries because they were losing business. Paul left and went on to visit other churches.

Truly from the day he first set foot in Asia he labored for the Lord and worked with the Ephesian elders. God blessed his efforts and many people across Asia heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## *Time*

1. **Come**. What did Paul say to the Ephesian elders at Miletus? Paul reminded them of what they already knew about Paul.
2. **Him**. The Ephesian elders came to Paul because he called them to Miletus. He was hurrying towards Jerusalem.
3. **Know**. Paul reminded them of what they knew about him and his service for the Lord Jesus Christ to them.
4. **First**. Paul reminded them of what happened when he first came to Asia.
5. **Foot**. From the day Paul set foot in Asia, he spent time with the Ephesian believers.
6. **Asia**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul brought the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to Asia and it prospered through his ministry beginning with 12 disciples at Ephesus.
7. **Time**. We rejoice today because Paul was with them the whole time and never failed them in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by maintaining a great testimony of service as we labor for the Lord.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by making disciples who share their faith and continue in the word of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by meeting with the family of God and exhorting them to continue in the faith.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by making time to spend with people we have discipled, even when we are hurrying to another place. Will you live holy in the family of God today by living today so you can remind people tomorrow about your faithful service in Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 722

## Serving Today



How did Paul spend his time with the Ephesians? Paul served the Lord with all humility.

As Paul recounted his efforts in Asia to the Ephesians gathered to him in Miletus, he reminded them that he served the Lord with all humility. He also served the Lord with tears and with trials which came upon him through the plots of the Jews.

The Jews of Ephesus plotted together to stop Paul from spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They started a riot and dragged Aristarchus and Gaius into the theater. Paul wanted to go in and help them, but his friends in the Asiarchs stopped him from doing so. The town clerk eventually gained control of the mob and dismissed it. Shortly thereafter Paul left.

Paul was not unaffected by these events. Paul recounted his tears caused by the events in Asia. Paul had seen good times and bad times in Asia, but he never gave up and remained faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul was a servant and apostle and teacher to the Gentiles and fulfilled his obligations as a faithful steward of the mysteries of God.

## *Tears*

1. **Serving**. What did Paul say about his serving the Lord? Paul reminded the Ephesian elders that he served the Lord with all humility.
2. **Lord**. Paul was not boasting about himself, but reminding the Ephesian elders of his service to the Lord on their behalf.
3. **Humility**. Serving the Lord with humility meant that Paul was not known as arrogant or boastful.
4. **Tears**. Paul served the Lord with tears, because he loved the Ephesians and suffered for his faith.
5. **Trials**. Paul also experienced many trials related to his proclamation of the gospel in the synagogues and the turning of many people in Asia away from idols to the living God.
6. **Plots**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul endured the businessmen who, losing money from all the people forsaking idolatry, created plots against Paul to silence him one way or another.
7. **Jews**. We rejoice today because Paul by the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His power survived all the plots of the Jews and continued his ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the tears and trials of Paul at Ephesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that Paul was a faithful servant of God who endured the plots of the Jews and survived.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that faithful servants labor in all humility, tears, and trials.**

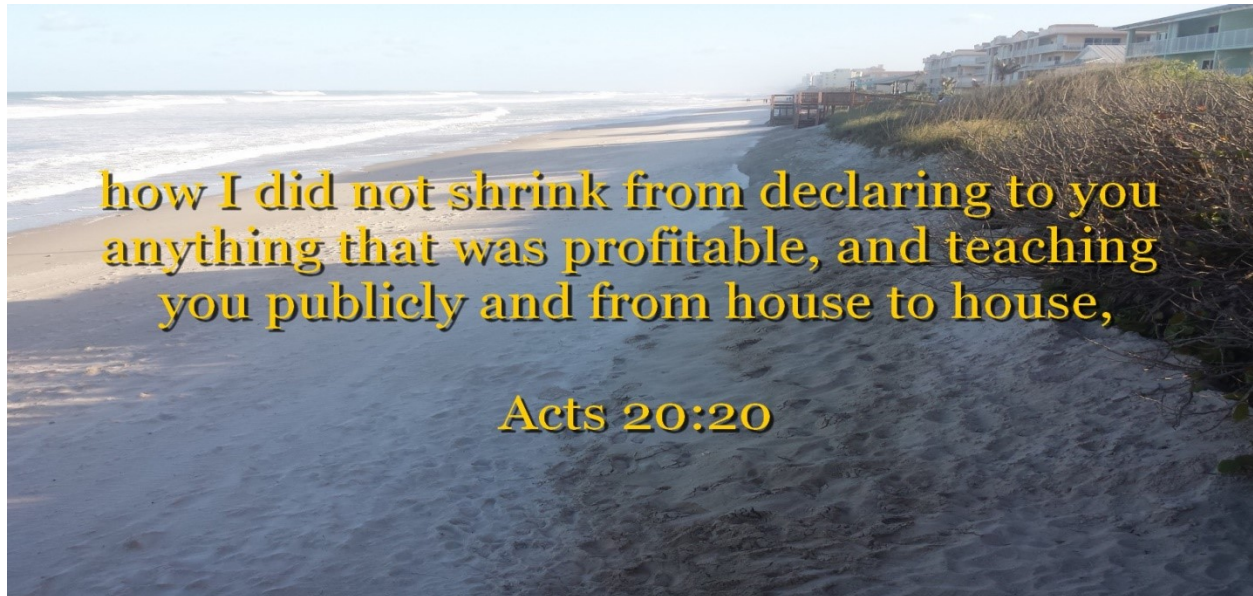
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering all the things Paul endured at Ephesus as part of the service for the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by building friendships in Christ that help you live in holiness before Him as you suffer through tears and trials and plots?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 723

## Profitable Today



What did Paul do for the Ephesians? Paul did not shrink back from declaring to them anything that was profitable.

Can you imagine having a testimony where everyone agrees that you did everything profitable for the brethren? Paul told the Ephesians that he had done everything profitable for them. If he was not telling the truth, surely they would have objected and contradicted. Instead, they knew he was telling the truth because he had done so much for them at great expense to himself.

Paul also went house to house and publicly declared all things that were profitable to the Ephesians. Paul loved the Ephesians and they loved him. From the first day he stepped foot into Asia, Paul spent time helping the Ephesians. He started with 12 disciples and ended with a group of elders coming to Miletus.

All of Asia had heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul had developed a discipleship team in ministry that reached out to the entire district. As he left, the church at Ephesus had elders and disciples multiplying and thriving in Christ, despite the hostile atmosphere there.

## *Teaching*

1. **How**. What did Paul do to help the Ephesians grow up in Christ? Paul did not shrink back from declaring anything profitable to them.
2. **Shrink**. Paul said they knew he did not shrink back, but was bold in proclaiming to them the truth about Jesus Christ.
3. **Declaring**. Paul did not shrink back from declaring the truth from the Scripture that would help the Ephesians grow up in Christ.
4. **Anything**. Paul did not shrink back from declaring anything profitable to the Ephesians, meaning that he helped deliver them from idolatry and knew that the Jews and others would plot to kill him.
5. **Teaching**. Paul reminded the Ephesians that he was there teaching constantly about the Lord Jesus Christ and the will of God for their lives.
6. **Publicly**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul taught the Ephesians publicly so that everyone could hear what he was proclaiming about the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. **House**. We rejoice today because Paul also went house to house, spending individual time with the saints so that they would have strong bonds with him and with the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by not shrinking back from declaring anything that is profitable to the saints.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul did not shrink back because he was prepared to suffer from the trials and plots of the Jews.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God that He delivered Paul and other missionaries from the plots so that they could consistently teach the truth of God in public and house to house.**

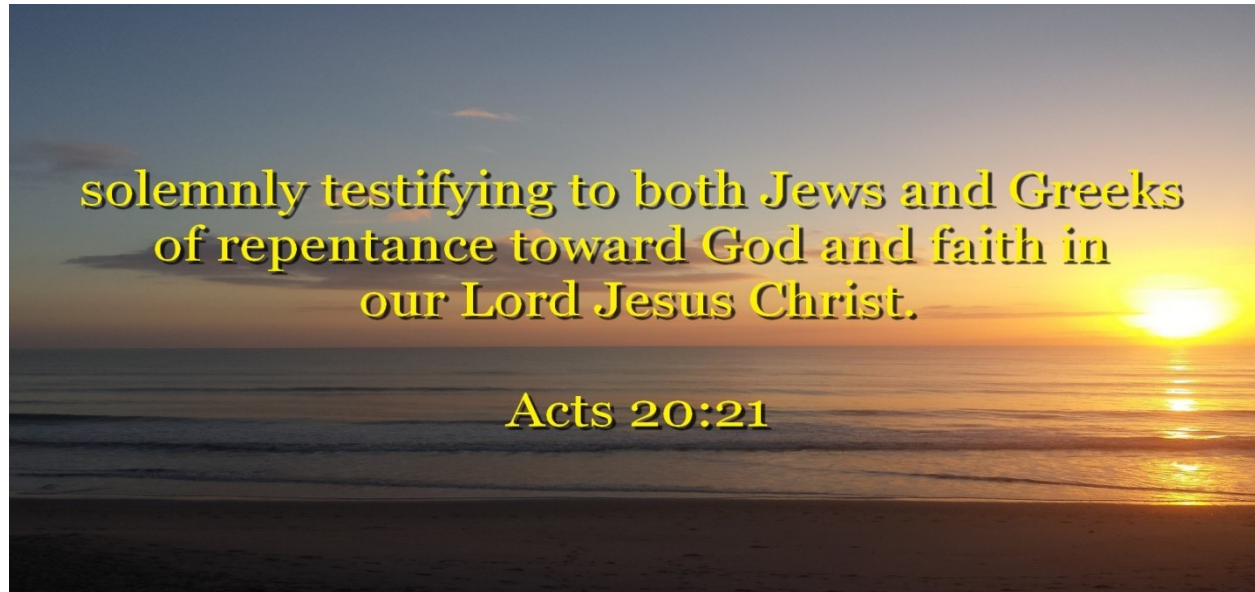
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ to people publicly and from house to house. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following the pattern of Paul in making disciples that will testify to your consistent love for them?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 724

## Testifying Today



solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks  
of repentance toward God and faith in  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:21

How broad was Paul's ministry at Ephesus? Paul solemnly testified to both Jews and Greeks about faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you were to summarize your life's work, would it sound like Paul's declarations to the Ephesians? Would people look at you and say thank you for discipling me and declaring all profitable things to me?

At Ephesus Paul followed his usual pattern of going to the synagogue first on the Sabbath day. He reasoned with them in the synagogues proving from the Scriptures that Jesus really was the Christ. He also proclaimed to them the kingdom of God and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He left the synagogue at Ephesus once the Jews blasphemed the Name of Jesus and rejected the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul then took the disciples with him and went to the school of Tyrannus us for about 18 months. Paul spent time discipling the Gentiles at Ephesus after the Jews heard and rejected the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul followed a familiar ministry pattern of reaching out to the Jews first and then the

Gentiles. Paul was no respecter of persons because he followed the Lord Jesus Christ.

## ***Repentance***

1. **Solemnly**. What was Paul doing house to house in public? Paul was solemnly talking about the Lord Jesus Christ
2. **Testifying**. Paul was testifying about Jesus to the Ephesians.
3. **Jews**. Paul spoke to the Jews in the synagogues.
4. **Greeks**. Paul also spoke to the Greeks.
5. **Repentance**. Paul testified about the need for both Jews and Greeks to find repentance towards God.
6. **Faith**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul proclaimed faith in our Lord Jesus Christ to both Jews and Greeks who would listen to him solemnly testifying.
7. **Jesus**. We rejoice today because Paul proclaimed Jesus to the people of Ephesus, and begged both Jews and Greeks to come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by testifying solemnly to both Jews and Greeks about Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by proclaiming the need for repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by building strong friendships in Christ.**

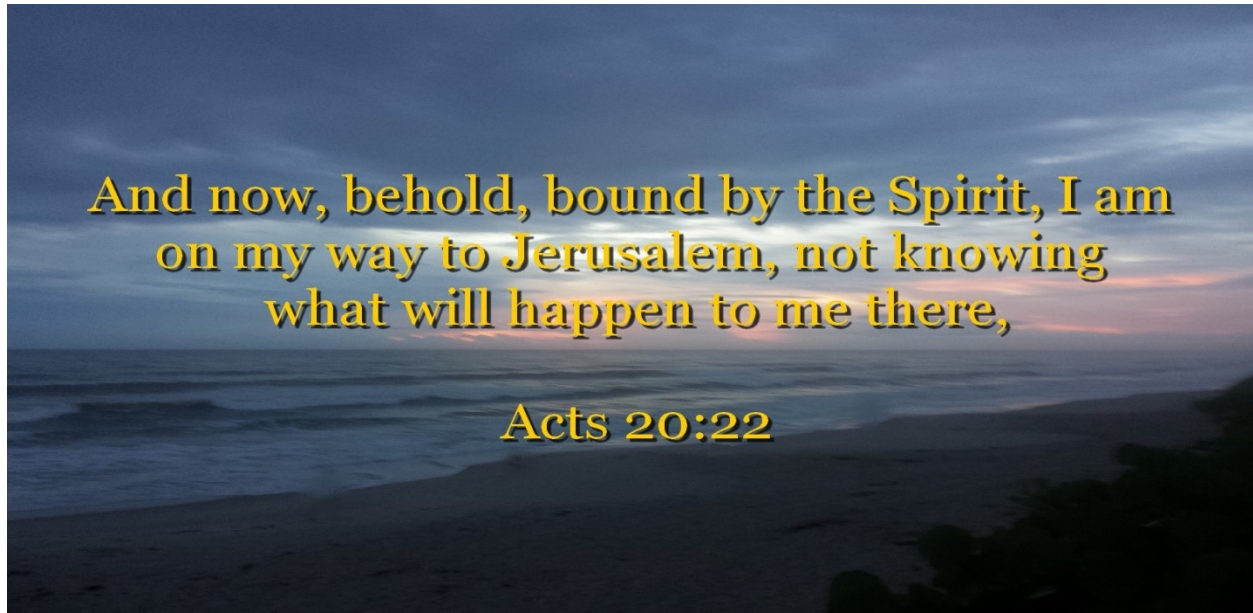
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by teaching saints all that Jesus commanded us?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 725

## Bound Today



What did Paul tell the Ephesians about his future? Paul told them he was bound by the Spirit and on his way to Jerusalem.

Throughout his ministry, the Holy Spirit and guided Paul from place to place. At times, the Holy Spirit would not allow him to enter certain districts because Paul was needed in other places. Paul left Europe and headed to Asia because he received the Macedonian vision.

Paul stopped at Miletus because he was hurrying towards Jerusalem to be there by Pentecost, if possible. Although Paul received specific directions from the Holy Spirit about his travel itinerary, the Holy Spirit had not revealed to him just what was going to take place in Jerusalem. Paul expressed that uncertainty to the Ephesian elders.

Paul stands as a shining example of following the directions of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit not only empowered him to speak wherever he went and God worked miracles through Paul for the benefit of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but the Holy Spirit also guided him from one place to

another. Wherever Paul went, he proclaimed the Scriptures and brought encouragement from them to other believers.

## ***Not Knowing***

1. **Behold.** What did Paul want the Ephesians to behold? Paul wanted them to behold that he was bound by the Spirit.

2. **Bound.** Paul declared that he was bound by the Spirit. Paul meant that the Spirit had taken hold of him and directed him to Jerusalem.

3. **Spirit.** The Holy Spirit had guided and protected Paul through many travels and labors and continued to provide direction.

4. **Way.** Paul was on his way to Jerusalem, bound by the Holy Spirit.

5. **Jerusalem.** Paul wanted to be in Jerusalem for Pentecost, but his timetable was very tight. Even so, he made time to see the Ephesian elders.

6. **Happen.** Living holy in the family of God means that although Paul received direct revelations from God, he did not know what would happen in Jerusalem. Paul trusted God with his future, even when he knew the Holy Spirit had bound him and was carrying him to Jerusalem.

7. **There.** We rejoice today because Paul was faithful to go to Jerusalem, even though he did not know what was going to happen there.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by following the leading of God even when we do not know what will happen when we get to our new destination sent from God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God with all things, even the things we do not know.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that God tells us what we need to know, but not everything we want to know.**

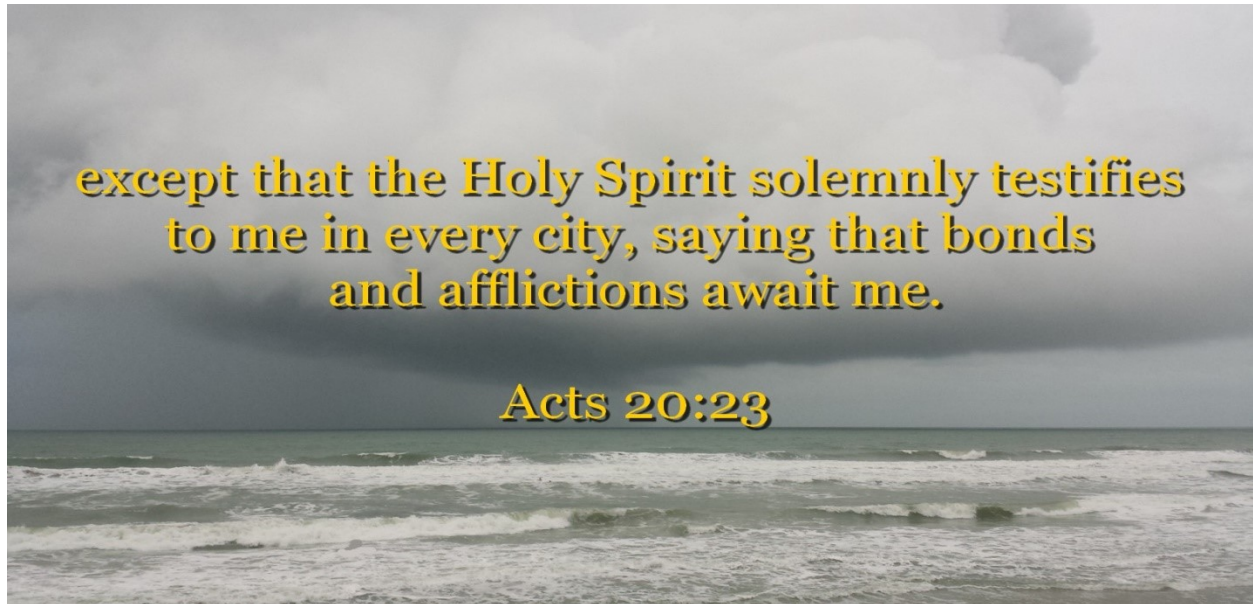
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God meaning we trust God to help use and direct us, even when we do not know the whole plan. Will you live holy in the family of God today by going where God sends you, even if you do not know what will happen when you get there?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 726

## Bonds Today



What was the Holy Spirit solemnly testifying to Paul? The Holy Spirit testified that bonds and afflictions awaited Paul.

Paul had called the elders from Ephesus to Miletus to meet with him. As he met with them, he explained that he was hurrying towards Jerusalem. Paul wanted to be in Jerusalem at Pentecost and so his time with the Ephesian elders must be short.

Paul also had a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. At the moment of salvation, Jesus baptizes the new believer with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit then takes up permanent residence in that believer's life. The believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise for the day of redemption. Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit will never leave you or forsake you as a believer.

One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to provide guidance to the believer. Paul had a keen sense of the Holy Spirit testifying to him that bonds and afflictions awaited him in Jerusalem. Even so, Paul was eager to go there. How many of us would be willing and eager to go to a place where we knew

that bonds and afflictions awaited us? Paul had great courage and absolute determination to follow the will of God. Bonds and afflictions were nothing new to Paul. As an experienced missionary in enemy territory, Paul understood that the ruler of this world vigorously opposed his work for the Lord Jesus Christ and spreading the Gospel.

## *Afflictions*

1. **Except.** What was the Holy Spirit's testimony to Paul? Bonds and afflictions awaited him.

2. **Spirit.** The Holy Spirit testified to Paul repeatedly about the events in the future.

3. **Testifies.** As God, the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirits and searches the deep things of God to reveal them to us.

4. **City.** The Holy Spirit testified to Paul in every city.

5. **Bonds.** The Holy Spirit told Paul that bonds and afflictions were in his future.

6. **Afflictions.** Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit guides us and provides insight into the will of God for our lives, even when it means that bonds and afflictions may await us too, as they did for Paul.

7. **Await.** We rejoice today because Paul journeyed on to Jerusalem and bonds and affliction awaited Paul when he arrived there. Paul did not shrink back from going to Jerusalem, just the like the Lord Jesus knew what awaited Him in Jerusalem when He went there to be crucified and resurrected.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the ministry of the Holy Spirit in Paul's life.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the Holy Spirit told Paul about bonds and afflictions that awaited him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that the Holy Spirit may tell us things we do not want to know, but God wants us to know them beforehand.**

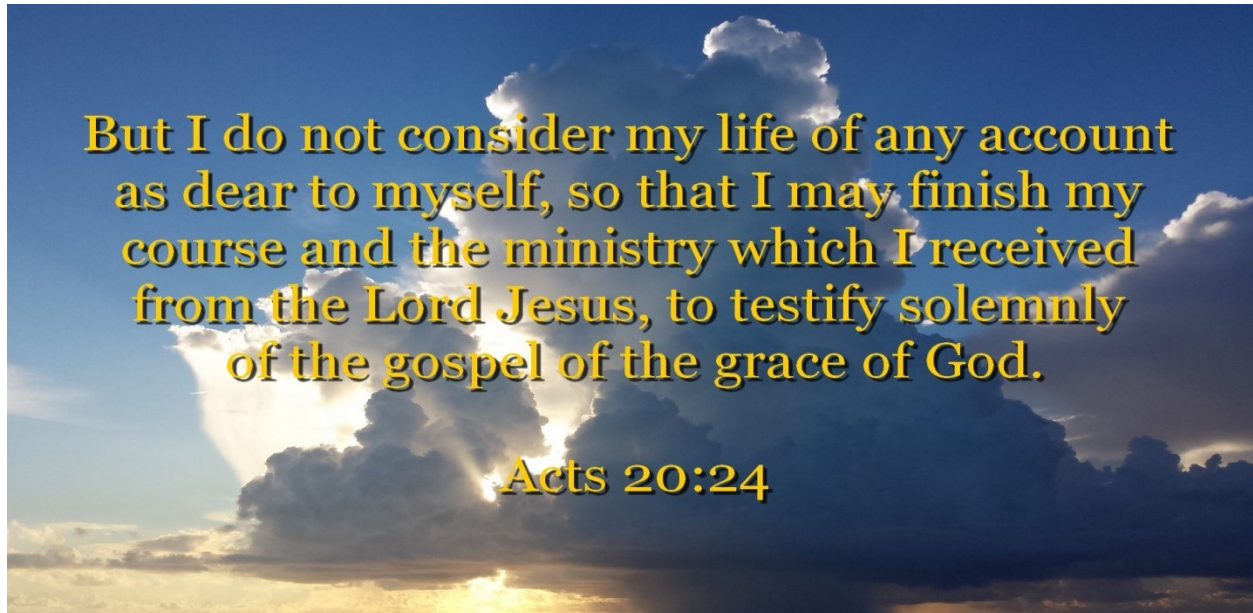
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by listening to the solemn testimony of the Holy Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by listening to the testimony of the Holy Spirit in your life?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 727

## Finish Today



Why was Paul content to go to Jerusalem? Paul was content because he did not consider his life of any account as dear to himself.

Paul focused upon finishing the course in the ministry which he received from the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul found motivation in finishing what God had begun in him. Jesus met Paul on the Damascus Road and called him into service. The Lord showed him that he must suffer many things for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even so, Paul went right ahead ministering for the Lord Jesus, even after suffering bonds and afflictions more than once.

The goal of that ministry was to testify solemnly of the Gospel of the grace of God. Paul knew that only the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ brought eternal life. There was no other name given among men under heaven which would bring salvation to anyone. Certainly, keeping the Law of Moses was impossible for anyone but the Lord Jesus Christ. The Law of Moses was never designed to bring salvation, but knowledge of sin leading to repentance and turning to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.



## *Ministry*

1. **Do**. What did Paul think about his own life? Paul did not consider his own life to be something he held dear.
2. **Consider**. Paul did not consider the bonds and afflictions that awaited him as something contrary to the will of God.
3. **Life**. In fact, Paul considered his own life as not dear to himself.
4. **Dear**. Paul did not consider his life dear to himself because he was fastened upon completing the course that God had set before him.
5. **Course**. The Lord Jesus had set a course for Paul that directed him all over the Mediterranean world and then on to Jerusalem.
6. **Ministry**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Paul wanted to finish the course and ministry which he received from the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. **Gospel**. We rejoice today because Paul understood that his ministry was to testify solemnly of the Gospel of the grace of God.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by valuing the ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ as more valuable than our lives.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by being determined in the Holy Spirit to fulfill the ministry and course the Lord has set for our lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by focusing upon the finish of our ministry according to the will of God.**

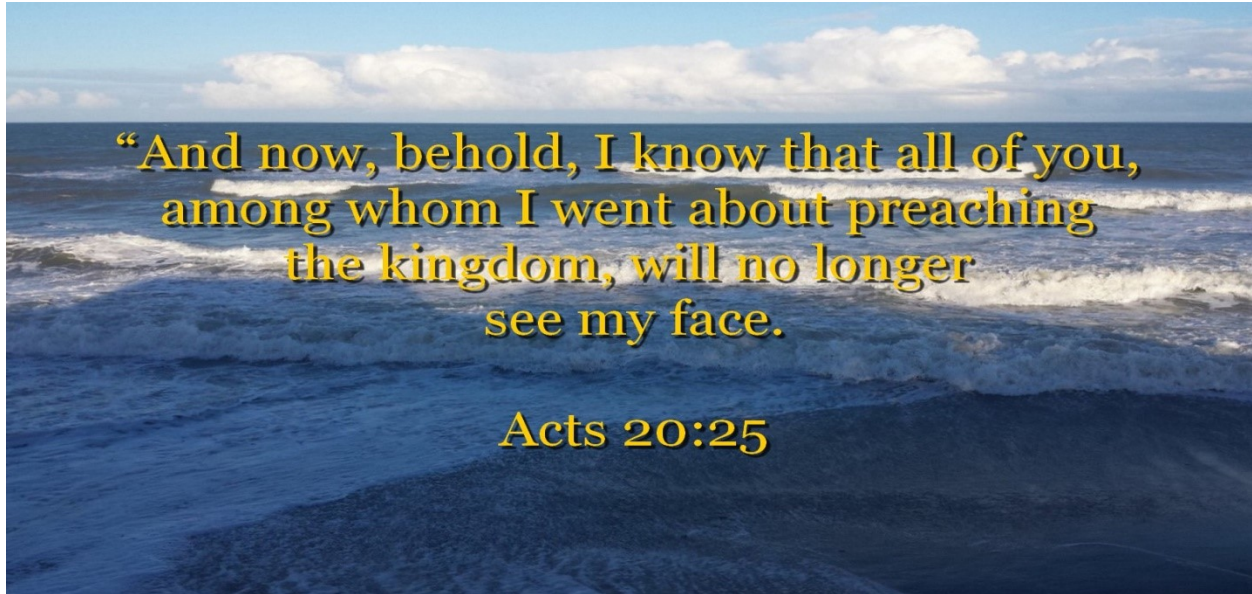
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the ministry the Lord Jesus has given to us to proclaim the Gospel of the grace of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by finishing the course in the ministry the Lord has laid before you?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 728

## Know Today



What news did Paul bring to the Ephesians? Paul told them they will no longer see his face.

Paul also understood from the Holy Spirit that the Ephesians would no longer see his face. Paul reminded them that they all know that he went about preaching the kingdom of God to them. Paul had met the 12 disciples at Ephesus, then through their ministry and others all of Asia was exposed to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul experienced persecution before. At Ephesus the businessmen created a mob and dragged Aristarchus and Gaius into the theater. Eventually, the town clerk calmed the mob and told the people to bring their cases in civil court. The businessmen were very angry because Paul had persuaded so many people in Asia that gods made with hands were no gods at all. When people all over Asia turned to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, they no longer had need for their magic books or any other idols. Paul knew about the wrath of people affected by the Gospel of the Jesus Christ. For those who believed, the Lord Jesus Christ became the power of God and the

wisdom of God. For those who did not believe, but rejected the Lord Jesus, He became a stumbling block to them and they considered Him an enemy.

## ***Preaching***

1. **Behold**. What heavy news did Paul bring to the Ephesian elders? Paul said, Behold, you will not see my face again.

2. **Know**. Paul said to the Ephesian elders; “I know that all of you will not see my face again.”

3. **You**. The Ephesian elders knew that Paul was among them preaching the kingdom of God.

4. **Preaching**. Paul went through the Mediterranean area preaching the Lord Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

5. **Kingdom**. At Ephesus Paul proclaimed the kingdom to them.

6. **See**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit moves us to disclose that people will not our face again.

7. **Face**. We rejoice today because the Ephesian elders would not see Paul’s face again on earth, the Lord Jesus would see the face of all of them in His kingdom on earth when they come back to reign with Him.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the kingdom.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by letting people know what God has told us about our future.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in our eternal life knowing that our life on earth will end at the moment God has chosen.**

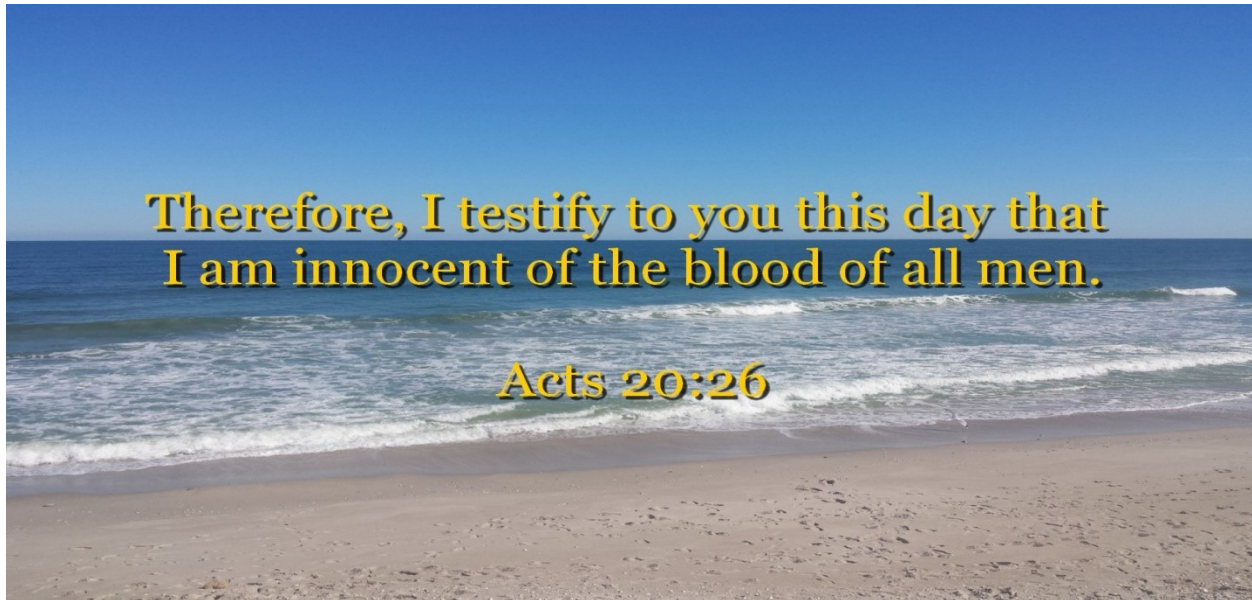
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul proclaiming the kingdom as a faithful steward of the mysteries of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for every day we see the face of people we love in Christ?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 729

## Innocent Today



Why did Paul say he was innocent of the blood of all men? Familiar with the Old Testament, Paul had declared the gospel to all men in Asia and their decision to accept or reject the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ lay with them.

Paul was innocent of the blood of all men because he had declared the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to them. If Paul had neglected that duty, or failed to warn them of the judgment to come, then Paul would have been guilty of the blood of those men for failure to speak to them about the Lord Jesus Christ. The same biblical principles apply today.

As stewards of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have an obligation to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with everyone. When we neglect that duty, then we are guilty of the blood of people we have never warned about the judgment or shared the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them. The decision to believe or reject the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ lies squarely with them, but our blood guiltiness has been relieved by warning them and sharing the Gospel with them.

## ***Blood***

1. **Therefore**. What conclusion did Paul draw about his preaching of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Ephesians? Paul said he was innocent of the blood of all men.

2. **I**. in the Old Testament, God told He would require the blood from Ezekiel of the people that Ezekiel failed to warn about the consequences of their unrighteous acts. So when Paul said, “I am innocent,” he meant that he had fulfilled his obligation to warn people and proclaim the grace of God to them.

3. **Am**. Paul had completed his work at Ephesus in proclaiming the gospel, so that he could say, “I am now innocent.”

4. **Innocent**. Innocent meant for Paul that God was not going to require his blood because he had not warned sinners to depart from the error of their ways and did not warn the righteous to repent of their sins. Paul had fulfilled his duty on all accounts.

5. **Blood**. Paul reminded us that God holds us accountable when we neglect to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with people so that He will require blood from us if we neglect His word.

6. **All**. Living holy in the family of God means that we want to be free from the blood of all men falling upon us because we did not open our mouths and share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with people.

7. **Men**. We rejoice today because God has entrusted to us the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that we would share it with all men and so avoid blood guiltiness.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to everyone.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by fulfilling our obligation to God to proclaim the gospel to everyone so that we are not guilty of their blood by our neglect.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by joining ministry teams so that we can share the Gospel together.**

## **Application for Today**

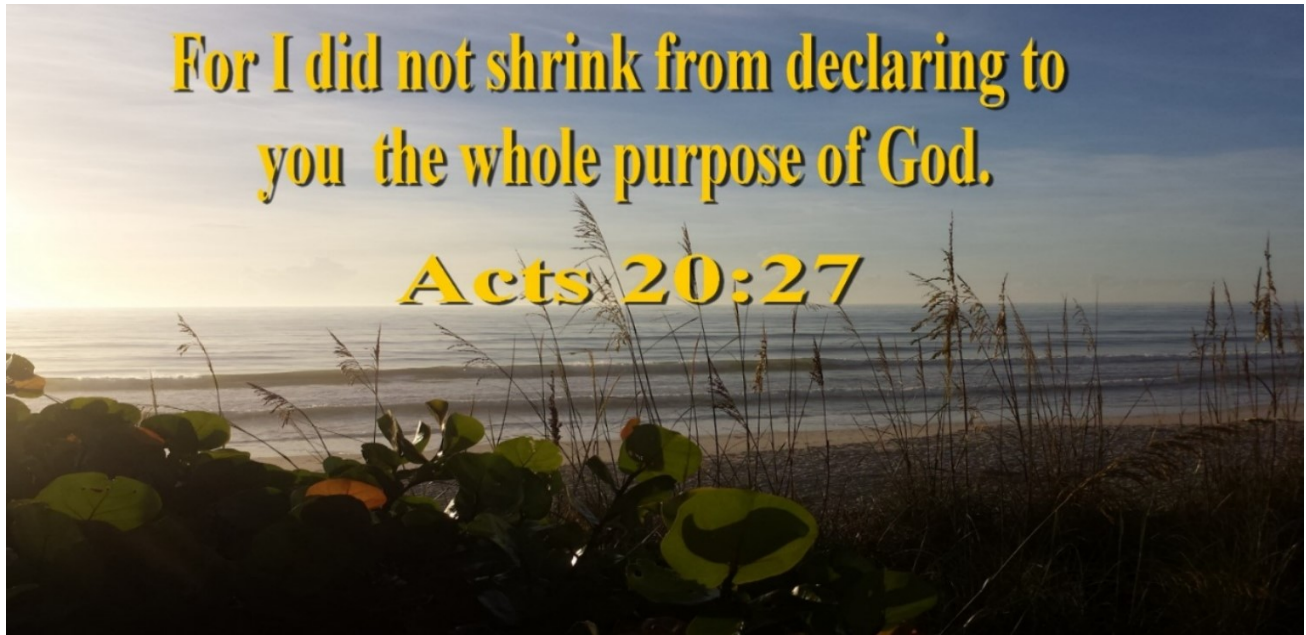
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul said that he was innocent of all blood because he had fulfilled his duty to God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by warning the righteous of their errors and sinners of the judgment if they do not repent and accept the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 730

## Declaring Today



Did Paul shrink back? Paul never shrank back from declaring to the Ephesians the whole purpose of God.

Paul was innocent of the blood of all men. He had declared the whole purpose of God to the Ephesians without shrinking back. Paul had been among them preaching the kingdom of God and fulfilled his duty. Paul had told them the good things that happened and he also shared with them that they would not see his face again.

Paul had a reputation among the Ephesians for telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, by the power of God. Paul had been with them for more than a year. During that time, he shared the gospel first at the synagogue and then left because the Jews were blaspheming and rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul took the disciples out of the synagogue to the school of Tyrannus. From his beginning with 12 disciples familiar only with the baptism of John, Paul proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ among the Ephesians

and the Gospel spread so that everyone in Asia heard about the Lord Jesus Christ. The opposition grew rapidly because of Paul's impact in proclaiming Jesus.

## ***Purpose***

1. **I.** Why was Paul confident that he was innocent of the blood of all men? Paul was confident because he did not shrink back from declaring the whole purpose of God to the Ephesians.

2. **Shrink.** Paul explained that he would be guilty of their blood if he had shrunk back.

3. **Declaring.** Paul made it plain that by declaring the whole purpose of God to the Ephesians he had freed himself from the guiltiness of blood.

4. **You.** Paul made it plain to the Ephesians that he had accomplished his task by describing them as the "you" who received his ministry.

5. **Whole.** He also emphasized that he did not pick and choose what part of the purpose of God to fulfill. He fulfilled the whole purpose of God.

6. **Purpose.** Living holy in the family of God means that Paul knew the purpose of God and shared it fully with the Ephesians.

7. **God.** We rejoice today because God has perfect purposes and plans for our lives and we can share His whole purpose with others.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by not shrinking back from declaring the whole purpose of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul said he met that standard.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He chose us to declare the whole purpose of God.**

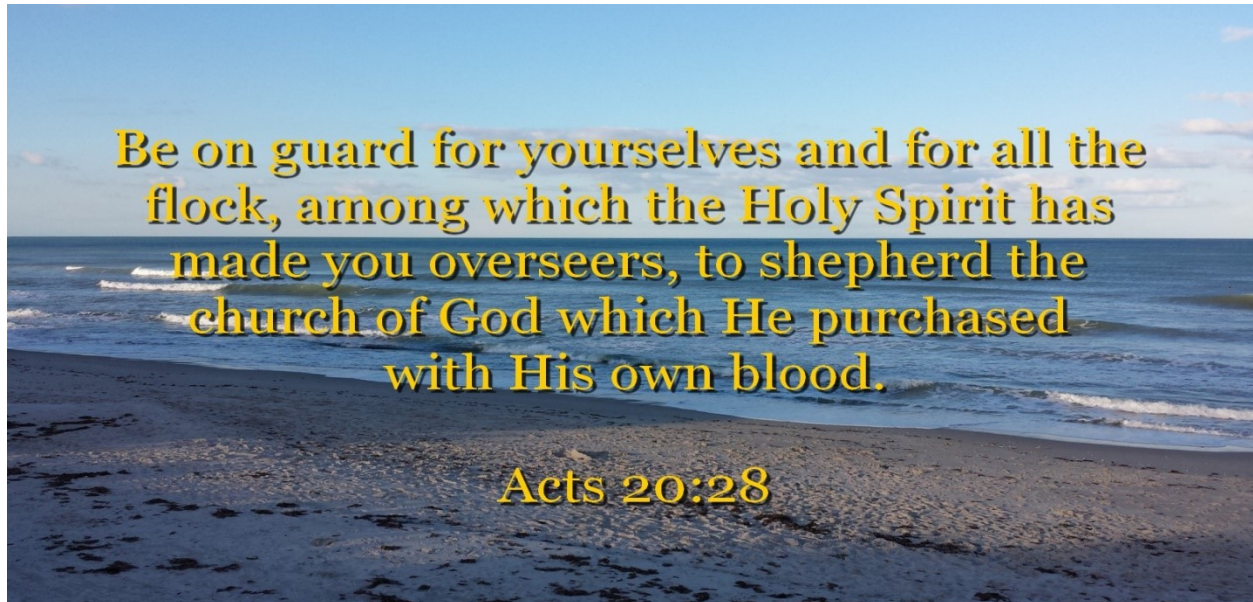
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by declaring the whole purpose of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God has entrusted us with the ministry of declaring the whole purpose of God to people?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 731

## Guard Today



What commandments did Paul leave with the elders of Ephesus? Paul commanded them to be on guard.

God had set down some elders at Ephesus to hold the Church Office of Overseer. The term elder and overseer are not interchangeable. Likewise, the term pastor is not interchangeable with the word elder or overseer. The New Testament knows nothing of any office of elder or pastor. People have grown confused that those three terms all mean the same thing because of their poor interpretation of Acts 20:28.

Paul did not equate elders and overseers. He carefully distinguished them. Some elders God set down to become overseers. In the Old Testament the office of overseer was well known, just like the elders were well known in the Old Testament. There was no office of elder in the Old Testament or New Testament. The elders set down as overseers were to do the work of shepherding the flock. The Spiritual Gift of the Shepherd should be distinguished from the Church Office of Overseer. Of course, elders, Church Overseers, and saints with The Spiritual Gift of Shepherd should all shepherd

the sheep. They all performed different functions, however and should not be confused with one another.

## *Shepherd*

1. **Guard**. What command did Paul give to the Ephesian elders? Paul commanded them to be on guard.

2. **Yourself**. Paul commanded to guard themselves as the first priority. If the overseers fail, then the flock becomes at greater risk.

3. **Flock**. He also commanded them to guard the flock.

4. **Spirit**. The Holy Spirit had taken some elders and set them into the Church Office of Overseers at Ephesus. Elders and Church Overseers are different things.

5. **Overseers**. The Church Overseers had two duties (1) guard themselves; and (2) guard the flock.

6. **Shepherd**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit set some elders into the Church Office of Overseer to shepherd the flock. They did the work of shepherding.

7. **Church**. We rejoice today because the Church Overseers were to shepherd the church, which Jesus purchased with His precious blood.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Church Overseers in our prayers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for Church Overseers who shepherd the flock.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praying the Church Overseers would guard themselves and the flock.**

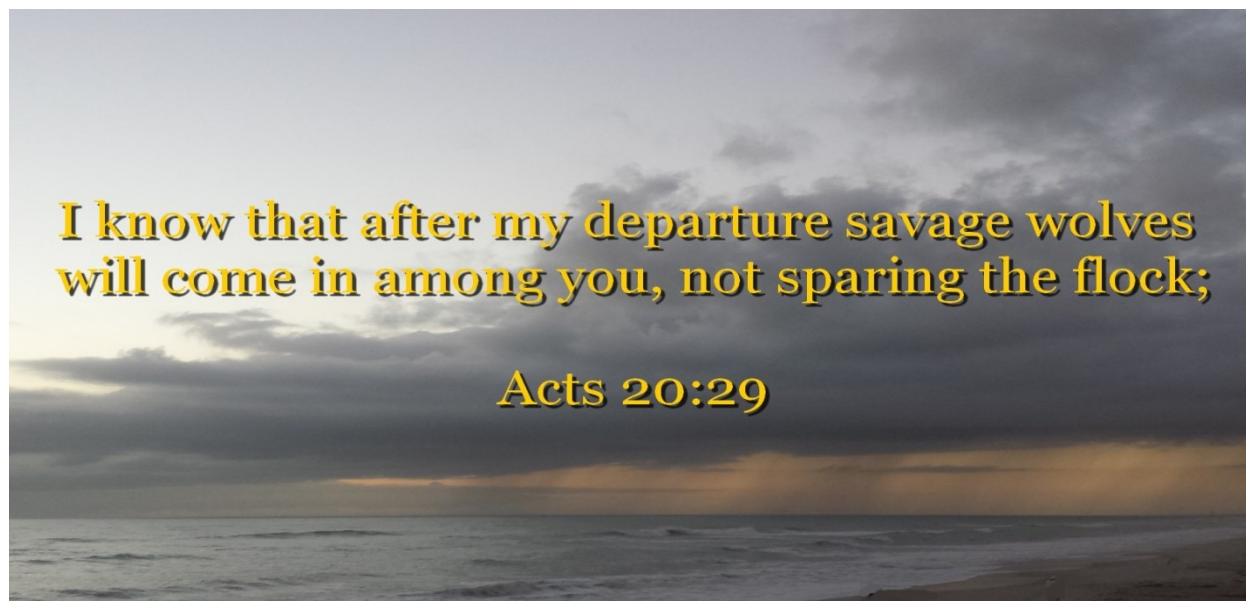
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for giving the Church Overseers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the Church Overseers who protect the flock by the power of God?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 732

## Wolves Today



What did Paul know would happen after he left? He knew that savage wolves would come in among the flock.

Paul had a deep spiritual concern for the Ephesians. He had become quite close with them spiritually. Paul understood the hostility from the idolaters towards the saints.

Paul also understood that other enemies would infiltrate the flock of believers. They would come in from outside. They would attack like savage wolves. They would not spare the flock.

As overseers they must shepherd the flock among them. The Holy Spirit had appointed some elders at Ephesus to serve in the Church Office of Overseer. The overseers did the work of shepherds, but they did not have The Spiritual Gift of The Shepherds. God distributed the spiritual gifts as He saw fit, not at the whim of saints. Therefore, we must distinguish elders, overseers and shepherds. Those terms were not used interchangeably, because not all elders were overseers and not everyone was given The Spiritual Gift of The Shepherds.

## ***Flock***

1. **Know**. What did Paul know? Paul said I know after I leave, you will be attacked.
2. **Departure**. Paul knew his time was short with the Ephesians and his departure was near.
3. **Savage**. Paul described the intruders from outside the flock as savage wolves who would not spare the flock. Jesus said that the Good Shepherd would not flee before the wolf.
4. **Wolves**. The savage wolves would come into the flock from the outside and attack it.
5. **Come**. The savage wolves would attack the flock, coming in from the outside.
6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Church Overseer must guard against the savage wolves coming in among the flock.
7. **Sparing**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit had set Church Overseers who would guard against the savage wolves who would come in among the church, not sparing the flock.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for Church Overseers who guard themselves and the flock.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by watching out for savage wolves.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His plans to protect the flock through Church overseers.**

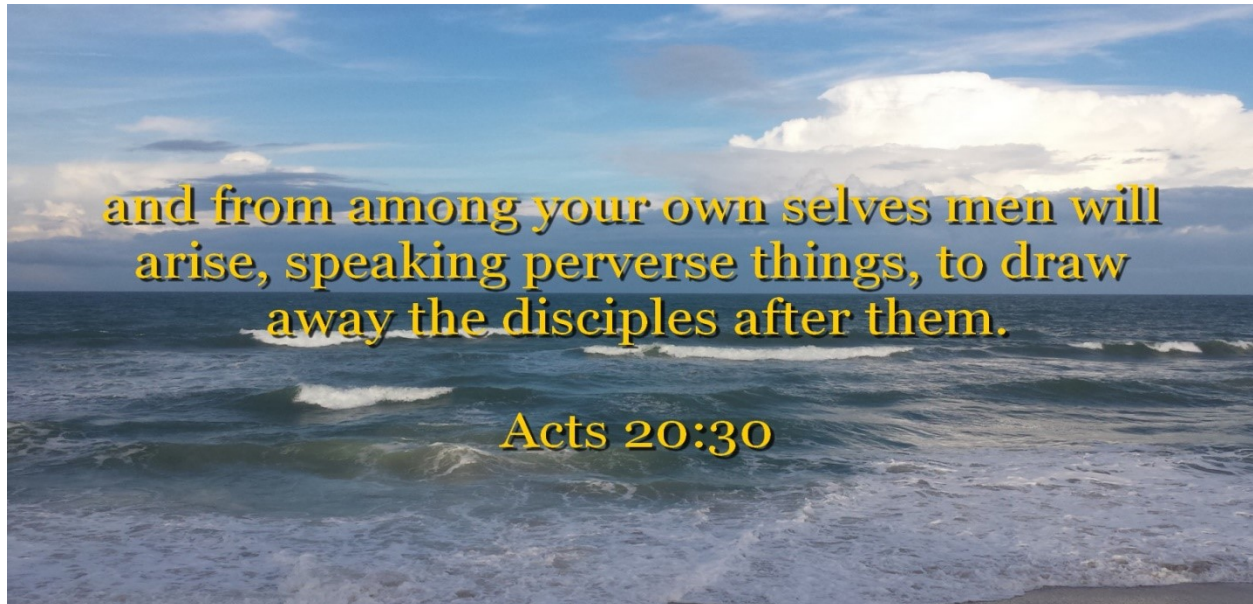
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God who knows the dangers facing each flock and setting saints into office with the duty to protect the flock. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking the Lord Jesus for His loving power protecting us from savage wolves?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 733

## Perverse Today



What were the aims of the perverse men? They spoke perverse things from within the congregation, intending to draw away the disciples after them.

In contrast to the savage wolves who attacked from without, the perverted men arose from within the congregation and sought to draw people out of the congregation. The devil used polar opposite attacks, but with the same goal in mind of destroying the fellowship of the saints.

They twist things, including the Scriptures, to their own destruction. The perverted men say things that are not true, but appeal to many people inside the flock.

Paul understood very well that attacks would come from wolves on the outside and perverted men on the inside. The Ephesian elders must be on guard for themselves first, and then for the flock of God. Simultaneous attacks from inside and out would keep their hands full as they shepherded the flock. Those attacks would be persistent and pervasive, but not

overwhelming because the power of the Lord Jesus Christ would sustain the brethren who remained faithful to His word.

## ***Draw Away***

1. **From**. Paul also warned against attack from inside the flock.
2. **Selves**. He warned that from among themselves evil men would arise.
3. **Arise**. The evil men would not come in from outside the flock, but arise from within the flock.
4. **Speaking**. Those evil men would be speaking words designed to attack the flock.
5. **Perverted**. The evil men spoke perverted things.
6. **Draw**. Living holy in the family of God means that the perverted men used their words to draw away disciples from the flock.
7. **Disciples**. We rejoice today because the Church Overseers were to protect the flock from perverse men within the flock seeking to draw disciples away from the flock.

### **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for preventing perverse men from drawing disciples away from the flock.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that perverse men will try to draw disciples away to follow them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to expose the attacks upon the flock from within and without.**

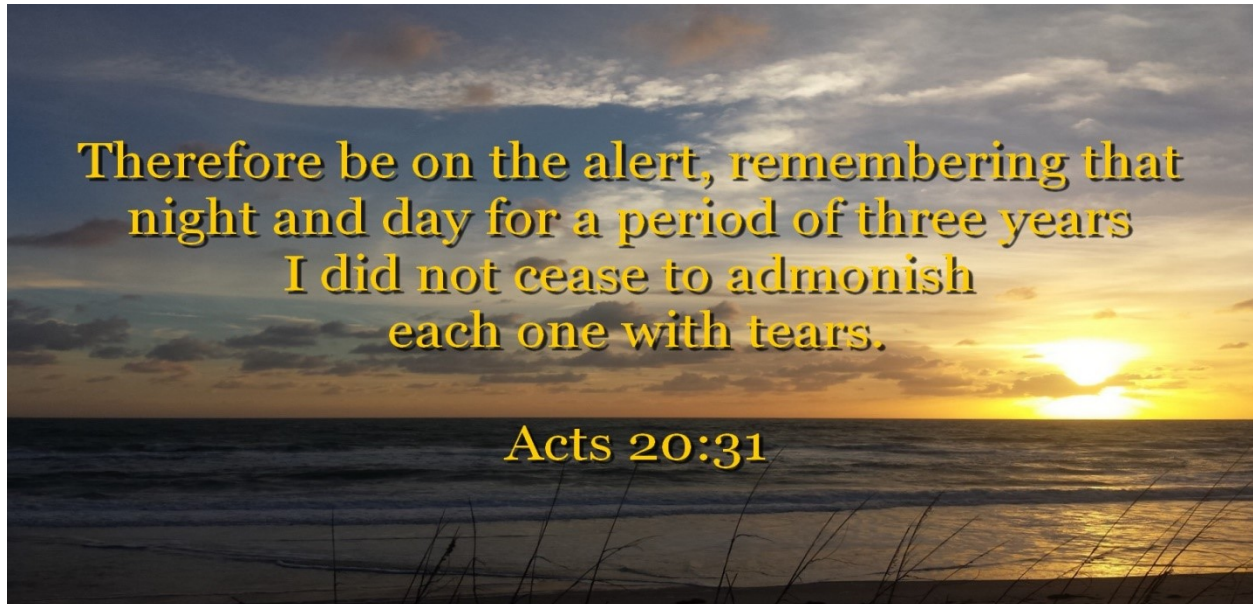
### **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for protecting the flock from men speaking perverse things and leading disciples after them. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being on your guard against perverse men trying to draw you after them?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 734

## Alert Today



What conclusion did Paul draw? Paul drew the conclusion that he did not cease to admonish them.

Paul admonished each one with tears. His ministry consumed him night and day for three years. He never ceased admonishing each one with tears.

Paul used a term meaning to confront, exhort and admonish. Paul did all three of those things regularly. Rather than define the term here, Paul counted upon the Ephesians remembering exactly what he had done for all of them.

Paul labored among them night and day. He did so for three years. Paul counted the saints at Ephesus as his faithful witnesses of his labor among them. Paul left an excellent example to the flock.

Paul spent his time in Ephesus with the saints. He admonished them regularly, not forsaking his duty to each member of the flock. God never plays favorites because His Son died for the sins of the whole world.

## *Admonish*

1. **Therefore**. Why did Paul tell them to be on the alert? He told them to be on the alert because he set the example of being alert night and day.
2. **Alert**. Paul commanded the Church Overseers to be on the alert because of the vicious attacks coming from inside and outside the church.
3. **Remembering**. Paul was confident that they could look back at his example of laboring among them for Christ both night and day.
4. **Years**. For a period of three years, Paul admonished the Ephesians.
5. **Cease**. He did not cease to admonish them for three years.
6. **Admonish**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul admonished the Ephesians to walk with Jesus Christ and forsake their old way of life in idolatry.
7. **Tears**. We rejoice today because Paul admonished them with tears.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the night and day work of Paul at Ephesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for men like Paul who devote their lives to God's service.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for brothers in Christ who admonish us with tears.**

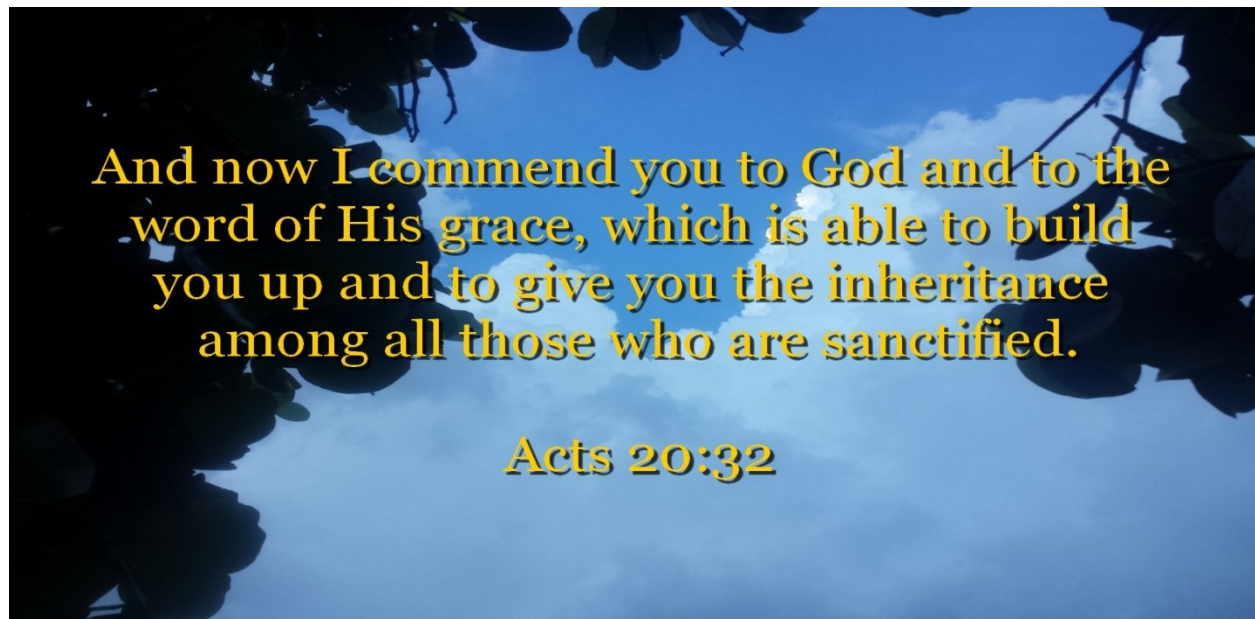
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by serving God night and day, admonishing the saints with tears. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the saints who work among us faithfully night and day for years?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 735

## Commend Today



What did Paul do for the Ephesian elders? Paul commended them to God and the word of His grace.

Paul spoke to the Ephesian elders in spiritual terms and with spiritual symbols. Yet, they were not dark things hidden, but revelations from God about the duties of the overseer.

Having commended the elders to God and the word of His grace, Paul then reminded them about the power and love of God. He reminded the Ephesian elders that God is able to build them up and give them an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Paul talked a lot about an inheritance. He spoke about being fellow heirs with Christ and how all the blessings in the heavenlies were bestowed upon the believer at salvation. He also explained that every saint has inherited eternal life at the moment of salvation which no one can take away, and the saint cannot lose for any reason or by any action or lack of action. Paul also described the sanctified. Paul meant that at the moment of



salvation by faith alone, Jesus baptized a new creation with the Holy Spirit and they became sanctified new creatures, holy and set apart for God's use.

## *Sanctified*

1. **Now.** What did Paul do now? Paul commended the Church Overseers to the grace of God.

2. **Commend.** Paul commended the Church Overseers so that they would stand strong in the grace of God.

3. **God.** Paul commended the Church Overseers to God and to the word of His grace.

4. **Build.** Paul knew that God and the word of His grace would build up the Ephesian believers, even without his physical presence.

5. **Word.** Paul drew attention to the word of God's grace. Paul spread that word, but he also emphasized that the word of God's grace had continuing effects for good in the life of the saints.

6. **Grace.** Living holy in the family of God means that Paul knew that the grace of God gave saints an inheritance.

7. **Sanctified.** We rejoice today because God has given us an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by commending Church Overseers and others to the grace of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by relying upon the grace of God for our inheritance among all those who are sanctified.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He sanctifies us through the word of His grace.**

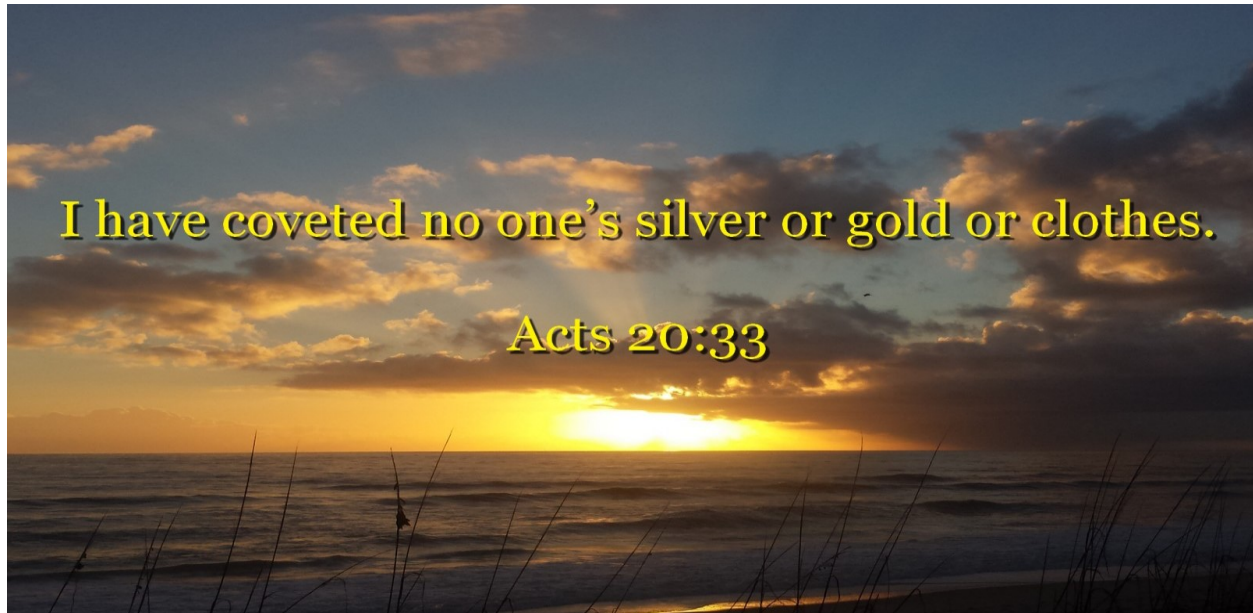
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His marvelous grace. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to build you up in the grace of God as you remember your inheritance among those who are sanctified?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 736

## Coveted Today



What did Paul say about coveting? Paul said that he coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes.

Paul called the Ephesian elders to meet him at Miletus. He was heading to Jerusalem quickly to be there in time for Pentecost. Paul had told them that they would no longer see his face.

Paul explained that he never shrunk back from proclaiming to them the whole purpose of God. Paul exhorted the elders to stay alert and on guard because enemies were going to attack the flock from outside and inside. Paul's great pastoral care for the Ephesian church highlighted his message to them. Paul described the Church Overseers as men who must shepherd the church.

Paul also described how for three years, day and night, he had admonished each one with tears. Paul then commended them to the word of God's grace, which is able to build them up and give them the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

When Paul said that he coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes, his audience knew that he was telling the truth. He had labored long and hard at Ephesus and his work was above reproach with the brethren.

## *No One's Silver*

1. **I.** What did Paul say about silver and gold and clothes? Paul said he coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes.

2. **Coveted.** Paul knew about the commandment not to covet and he coveted no one's riches. In the ancient world riches were often measured by gold, silver, and the quality and color of your clothes.

3. **No.** When Paul testified that he coveted not, everyone listening knew he was telling the truth because he lived with them for about three years.

4. **One's.** Paul made his statement as broad as possible when he said "no one's".

5. **Silver.** People in Ephesus had gold and silver and used it for their idolatry.

6. **Gold.** Living holy in the family of God means that Paul did not covet anyone's gold.

7. **Clothes.** We rejoice today because Paul did not covet anyone's clothes, but certainly talked about putting on the new garments of salvation.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by not coveting anyone's silver or gold or clothes.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by letting people know we were never in it for the money or wealth or treasure of any kind.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by avoiding all appearance of coveting other people's stuff.**

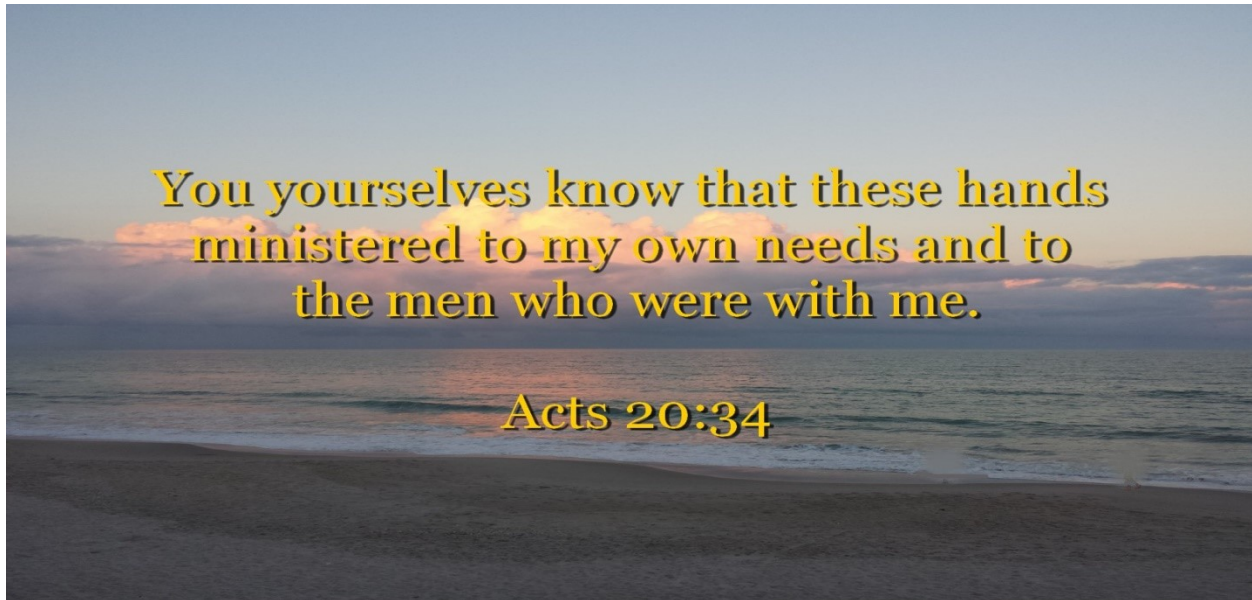
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by never coveting anything that anyone else has for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by being above reproach in all things so that no one will think that you are coveting anything?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 737

## Hands Today



Who met the needs of Paul? God used Paul's own hands to minister to his own needs and to the needs of the men who were with him.

Paul frequently worked with his own hands. At Corinth he worked with his hands with Priscilla and Aquila making tents. By trade Paul was a tentmaker, and apparently very successful at it because he made enough money to support not only himself, but also the needs of the men who were with him. Paul started with 12 disciples when he came to Ephesus, but he also traveled with Silas and Timothy and Luke.

Paul made it a priority not to be a burden upon the churches. He avoided all sordid gain and, by his own unrebutted testimony, he never coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothes. Paul sought first the kingdom of God and God supplied all of his needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus.

The elders and the Church Overseers knew about Paul's model for ministry. He was not in it for the money, fame, or personal glory. Paul suffered for the ministry he did in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, but persisted in the ministry nevertheless.

## *Ministered*

1. **You**. How did Paul support himself? Everyone knew that Paul supported himself.
2. **Yourselves**. Paul told the Ephesian elders that they themselves knew about his means of self-support.
3. **Know**. He said they know that he worked hard, earning his own way.
4. **Hands**. Paul used his own hands to meet his own needs.
5. **Needs**. In fact, Paul not only met his own needs, but the needs of others too.
6. **My**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul declared about himself, “I meet my own needs”, and no one contradicted him in any way.
7. **Men**. We rejoice today because Paul not only supported himself, but he also supported the men who were with him.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by working with our own hands to support ourselves and others.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the example of Paul working with his own hands to provide support.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by not only supporting ourselves, but being ready to support others who cannot support themselves.**

## **Application for Today**

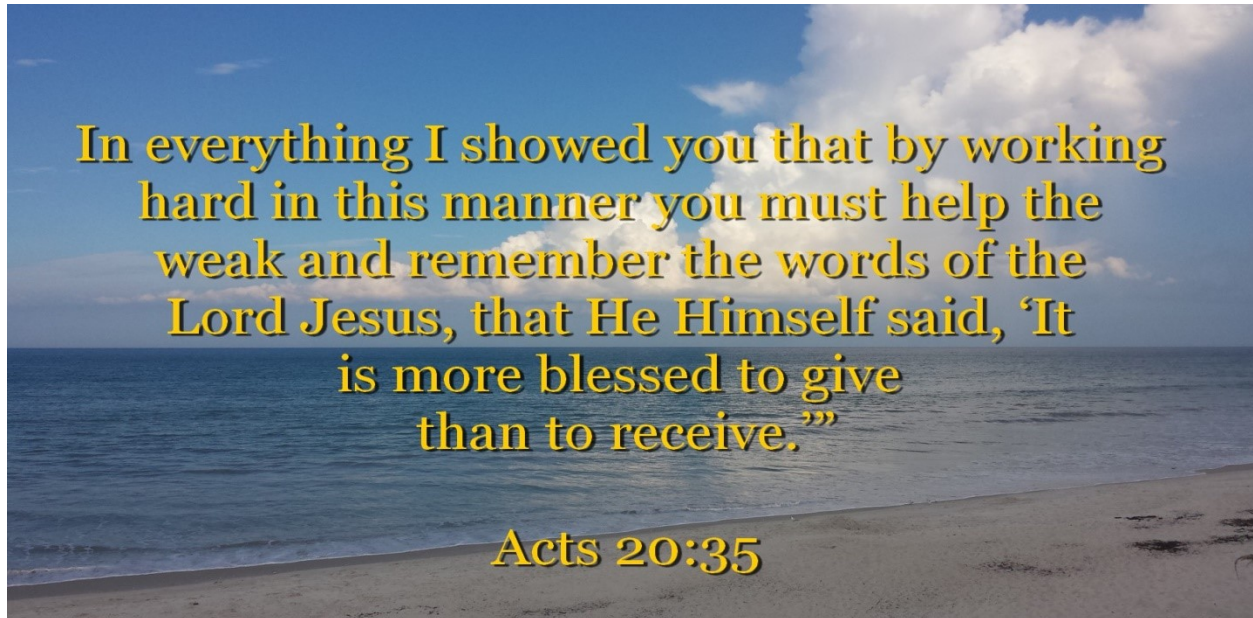
Today, we may live holy in the family of God by using our own hands to support our own needs. Will you live holy in the family of God today by working with your own hands so that you are not a burden to any other saints?

**HALLELUJAH!**



# Day 738

## Showed Today



What did Paul show the Ephesians? Paul showed them that by working hard with his own hands, he could help the weak.

Paul practiced the truth: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Paul lived by that statement. Not only did Paul labor night and day among the Ephesians, he also labored to provide financial support for the entire ministry team and others. Paul gave and gave and gave.

Paul liked to quote the words of the Lord Jesus. One way or another Paul was quite familiar with the words of the Lord Jesus. Paul had received the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as a direct revelation from God and not from men. Paul had perfect clarity from God that the gospel consisted of receiving the free gift of eternal life without works of any kind to earn it.

Paul consistently helped the weak and the suffering. He spent time proclaiming the gospel to the poor, just like the Lord Jesus. The Jerusalem elders asked that they remember the poor, and Paul said that that is the very thing they already did. Ministry to the poor was part of the backbone of Paul's service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

## *Working Hard*

1. **Everything**. What did Paul show? Paul showed his devotion to Jesus Christ by working hard with his own hands.
2. **Showed**. Paul showed that he implemented what Jesus practiced.
3. **Working**. By working with his own hands, he could help others, particularly the weak.
4. **Hard**. The Ephesian elders knew that Paul worked hard with his hands because he set an example that everyone must help the weak.
5. **Weak**. Paul had a particular concern for the weak and their needs, and worked hard to meet those needs with his own hands.
6. **Remember**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the words of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself who said that it is more blessed to give than to receive.
7. **Give**. We rejoice today because Paul practiced what the Lord Jesus preached and everyone in Ephesus knew it.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by working hard with our hands so that we can help the weak.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by providing a great example of working hard with our own hands to encourage the brethren to do likewise.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the words of the Lord Jesus Christ who said it is more blessed to give than to receive.**

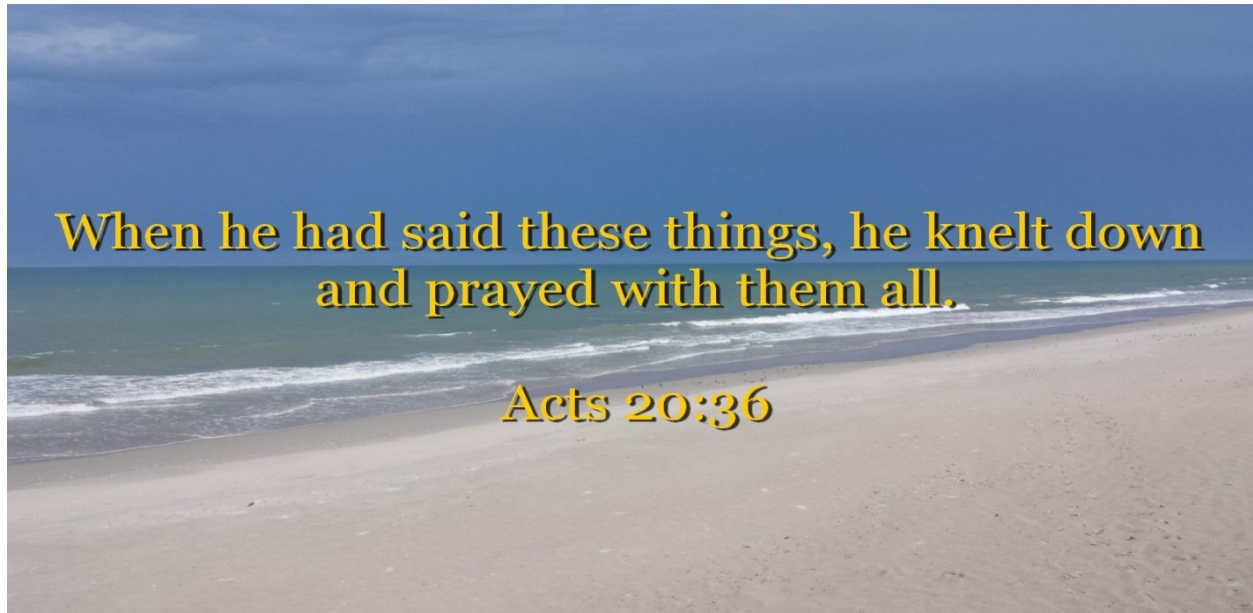
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by working hard with our hands so that we can help the weak. Will you live holy in the family of God today by practicing the words of the Lord Jesus Himself when He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive”?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 739

## Knelt Today



What did Paul do after he finished talking? He knelt down and prayed with all of them.

As Paul knelt down to pray with all of them, he once again displayed his humility for all to see. Yet, Paul did not kneel down to glorify himself. Paul knelt down because he bowed before the Lord God his Maker.

Paul had traveled far and wide proclaiming the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. He had suffered many things in many places from many people, and yet the Lord and delivered them out of all of them.

Paul also had made dear friends in many places. Paul had people like Aristarchus and Gaius and Timothy join the ministry team, as well as the physician Luke. Paul sang hymns at midnight in the jail at Philippi, and had to be held back from the theater at Ephesus when he wanted to run in to help his friends facing an angry mob. At another place Paul had been stoned by the Jews and dragged outside the city and dropped off as dead. With the disciples standing around him, he got up and went back into the same city.

Paul prayed with the Ephesian elders as he knelt down. Paul provided many beautiful prayers in his epistles. He prayed for the people he loved and for their steadfastness in Christ.

## *Prayed*

1. **When**. What did Paul do with the Church Overseers? Paul prayed with them just before he left.
2. **Said**. Paul had said that it was more blessed to give than to receive, quoting the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.
3. **Things**. Paul had recounted his time in Ephesus, with a warning and exhortation about enemies attacking the church.
4. **He**. After Paul said all those things, he wanted to pray with the Ephesian Church Overseers one more time.
5. **Knelt**. Paul knelt down on his knees before all of them.
6. **Prayed**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul prayed on his knees with the Ephesian Church Overseers, leaving them a beautiful image of devotion and humility.
7. **All**. We rejoice today because Paul prayed with all of them before he left because he loved all of them.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking time to pray with our friends before we leave them, never knowing if it is the last time we will see them face-to-face on earth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praying with all of our friends so that all of them know we love them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by kneeling down together for prayer.**

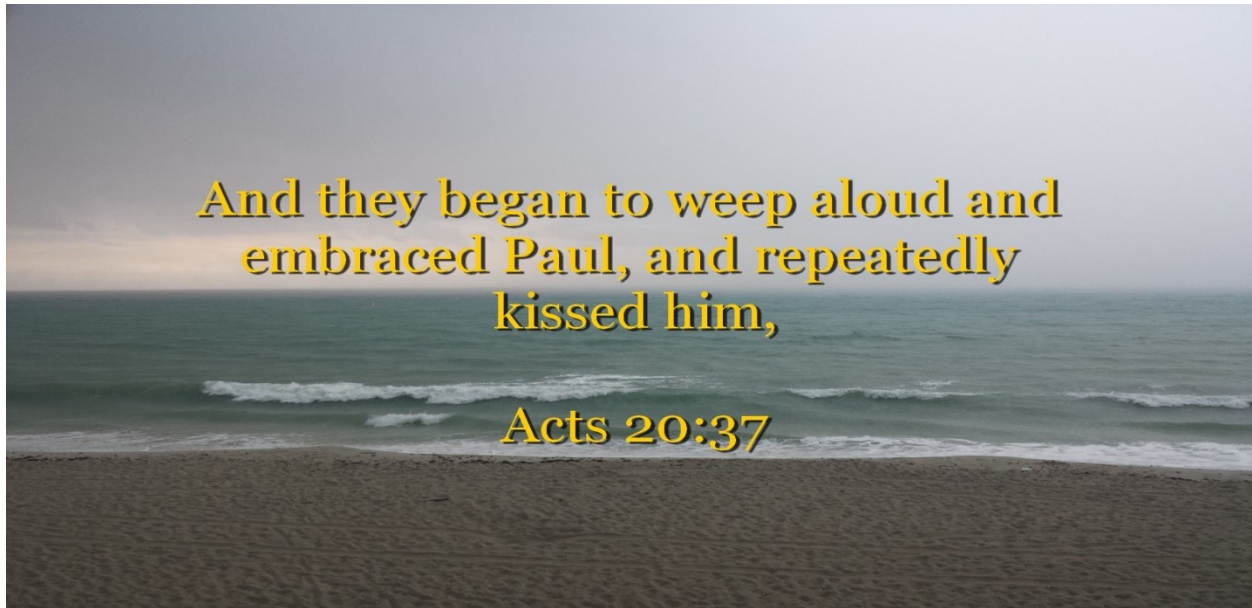
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by kneeling down with other saints as we prepare to leave them. Will you live holy in the family of God today by spending time in prayer with people you love?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 740

## Weep Today



What happened after Paul prayed? The people began to weep aloud and embrace Paul and repeatedly kissed him.

The emotion of the Ephesian elders was running high. Paul had told them he would not see them face to face again. Moved with tears and emotion, they embraced Paul. They obviously saw Paul as one of them and did not hold back their physical affection for him. With their repeated kisses, they let him know that they loved him and would miss him.

At times in our Christian life we know we are saying goodbye to people for the last time, until we see them again in the afterlife. Paul had just talked about the inheritance among all the saints. He had often talked about having eternal life and the promise of the kingdom of God coming to earth. Paul was saying goodbye on a human earthly level, but on the eternal level Paul was just saying, “See you later”.

Paul set a great example in everything. He loved to pray. He loved to spend time with people talking about Jesus. He loved the Ephesians and they loved him, all because Christ loved us first.

## *Embraced*

1. **They**. How did the Ephesians respond to Paul's last words to them? They began weeping aloud.
2. **Weep**. As the Ephesians prayed with Paul, they began to weep aloud because they knew they would not see his face again.
3. **Aloud**. Their weeping aloud also signaled that all of them would be missing Paul.
4. **Embraced**. They also embraced Paul, because they knew he was totally approachable.
5. **Paul**. Just as Paul love the Ephesians, so also they loved him and made a very public display of their affection for him.
6. **Repeatedly**. Living holy in the family of God means that some saints weep aloud, and embrace their beloved friends in Christ.
7. **Kissed**. We rejoice today because the Ephesians kissed Paul as he prepared to leave them.



## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by weeping with those who weep.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by knowing there is a time to weep aloud and embrace and kiss other beloved saints.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by expressing our emotions with holy actions.**

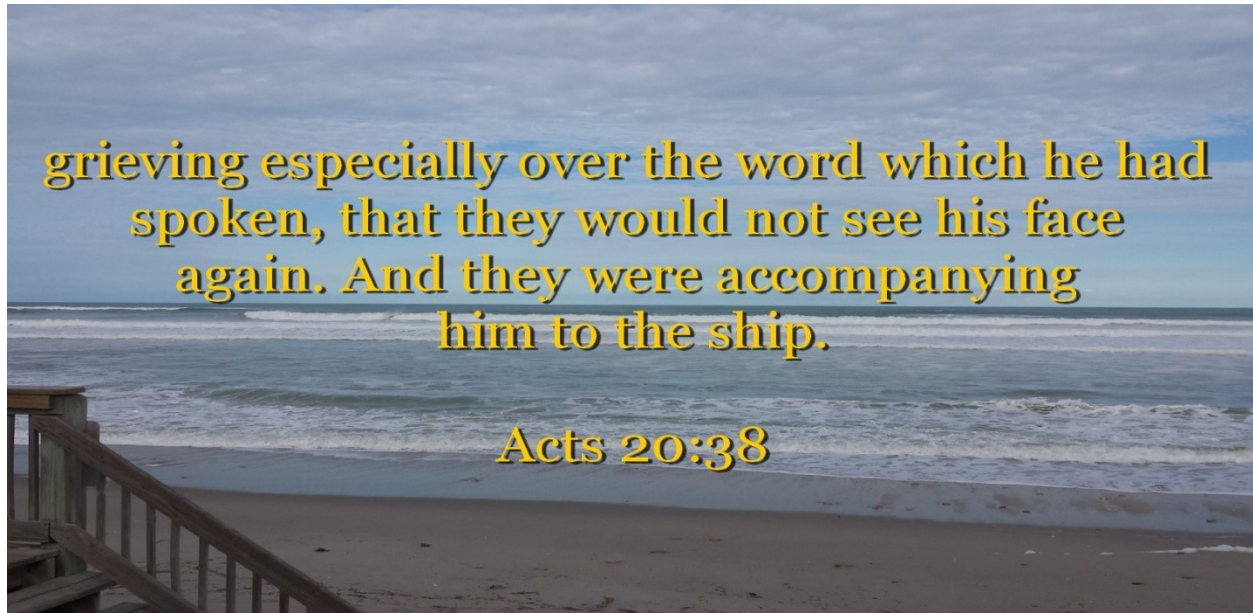
## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by weeping, embracing and kissing other believers as we see them leaving our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the power of touching another believer in love?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Day 741

## Grieving Today



How did Paul leave things with the Ephesians? Paul left the Ephesians as they grieved over this statement that they would not see his face again.

Paul loved the Ephesians and they loved him. Paul started with 12 disciples at Ephesus and he watched Jesus baptize them in the Holy Spirit. Over time the ministry there grew as Paul spent about three years at Ephesus. He labored publicly and from house to house admonishing them in the Lord Jesus Christ. He coveted no one's silver, gold or clothes. He supported himself and the ministry team. No one could accuse them of sordid gain.

Paul left the Ephesian church in the hands of Jesus. Church Overseers had been set in place and they understood their duty to shepherd the flock from attacks from without and within. Paul knew that trouble was coming.

As Paul prepared to leave, he knelt down and prayed with them all. They were grieving and weeping. They embraced Paul and repeatedly kissed him. The outpouring of love only bound them tighter together. The time had come for Paul to move on to Jerusalem, knowing that bonds and afflictions

awaited him there. Even so he was hurrying towards Jerusalem to fulfill the word and plan of God.

## ***Accompanying***

1. **Grieving**. How did the Ephesians feel about Paul leaving? They were grieving and kissing Paul.

2. **Word**. Paul had given them the word that he was not going to see their face again.

3. **Spoken**. Paul had told them that the Holy Spirit had spoken to him, signifying in every city that bonds and afflictions awaited him in Jerusalem.

4. **Face**. When Paul said they would not see his face again, he meant that they would not see him in the flesh again.

5. **Again**. Paul knew that although they would not see him in the flesh again, they would be together in the kingdom of God in the future.

6. **Accompanying**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Ephesian Church Overseers were accompanying Paul as he went to the ship to leave.

7. **Ship**. We rejoice today because Paul had boarded many ships in his travels through the Mediterranean world sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the ship he was boarding at Miletus was taking him one step closer to Jerusalem.

## **Summary for Today**

- **We live holy in the family of God by pouring out affection on people we love while they are still with us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon the Lord Jesus to help us leave beloved friends on the best possible terms.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the Ephesian Church Overseers grieving, but accompanying him to the ship.**

## **Application for Today**

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by sharing our plans with our friends, even when we know they may grieve over them. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sending your friends off to do God's will with your love and tears?

**HALLELUJAH!**

# Conclusion

Paul traveled extensively in the eastern Mediterranean area, planting churches and visiting established churches. He spent considerable time at Corinth and Ephesus, with very fruitful ministry in those places. Even so, Jews plotted against him constantly and persecuted him from place to place. Finally, Paul determined to return to Jerusalem and celebrate Passover there. The Holy Spirit testified to him in every city that bonds and afflictions awaited him in Jerusalem. Willing to lay down his own life for the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul headed on to Jerusalem, intent upon fulfilling the ministry that the Lord Jesus Christ had delivered to him.

**HALLELUJAH!**