

PAUL AND THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD
PHIL. 1:12-14

Introduction:

- A. Most of the time we do not know what is happening to us.
 - 1. We usually see things after the fact.
 - 2. Some things we have considered the bitterest of all have lead to the sweetest.

- B. Joseph seems to have said it best.
 - 1. Gen. 45: Now therefore be not grieved, not angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither for God did send me before you to preserve life.
 - 2. Joseph was sold into slavery.
 - 3. He suffered many temptations.
 - 4. He remained true to God.

I. WHAT WERE THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO PAUL? U12

- A. Paul left Philippi to go to Jerusalem. Acts 20:6.
 - 1. Acts 20:16 "for he hasted, were it possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost."
 - 2. Paul believed it to be God's will.
 - 3. Acts 20:22-24, "And now, behold I go bound in the Spirit to Jerusalem."
 - 4. Paul had probably decided he would die there.

- B. Paul was warned by others, that he should not go.
 - 1. He landed at Tyre.
 - a. Acts 21:4 "And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem."
 - b. The prophet Agabus warned him.
 - c. Acts 21:10-15. [Read this.]

- C. Paul went to the Temple, the Jews saw him and sought to kill him. Acts 21:27.

1. Soldiers rescued him.
 2. He addressed the crowd.
 3. They cried out for his death.
 4. The chief captain wanted to scourge him.
 5. Paul used his Roman citizenship. Acts 22:25-30.
"Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman? And uncondemned."
- D. Paul set the Jewish council in an uproar.
1. Pharisees = Resurrection.
 2. Sadducees = No resurrection.
- E. God reveals His will to Paul. "Be of good cheer Paul thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome."
1. God wanted Paul in Rome, so He let him go to Jerusalem so he would be sent to Rome.
- F. The Devil didn't want Paul in Rome!
1. Forty Jews swore to kill him. Acts 23:12-13.
 2. Paul's nephew overheard. Why? God knows!
- G. Paul goes to Caesarea.
1. He preached to Felix. Acts 24:
 - a. Felix trembled, and spoke of a more convenient season.
 - b. He preached to Agrippa. Acts 26:
 - (a) Agrippa said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."
- H. Paul appealed to Caesar.
1. Acts 25:11 "I appeal to Caesar."
 2. The die was cast, Paul was going to Rome!
- I. Did the devil quit? Acts 27:10 Paul said, "Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage."

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1. Shipwrecked at Malta. Acts 28:

J. God's purpose was realized.

1. Acts 28:16 "And when we came to Rome."

2. Paul preached to the Jews. v23.

3. He did not quit! vs 30-31. He hired a house.

II. PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT WAS WELL KNOWN.

A. they knew it in the palace. v13

1. The residence of the governor, Caesar's court.

2. Soldiers guarding him were converted, spread Christianity to England.

B. They knew it everywhere.

1. "in all other places."

C. What did they know?

1. "For everyone around here, including all the soldiers over at the barracks, know my chains are simply because I am a Christian."

D. There was no misunderstanding the reason for Paul's imprisonment.

1. They knew because of what he did.

2. They knew because of what he said.

III. PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT HELPED OTHERS. V14

A. "And beside this, most of our brothers here gained confidence in the Word through my chains."

1. Paul was a demonstration of God's power.

B. "and now venture with far greater freedom to speak God's message fearlessly."

IV. THINGS TO REMEMBER.

- A. We should be faithful, for we can inspire others.
 - 1. What we are when times are good.
 - 2. What we are when times are bad.

- B. We should look to others for inspiration.
 - 1. Don't be afraid to lean on honest brethren.

- C. We are here today by God's providence!