

AND THE GOD OF PEACE WILL BE WITH YOU

Text: Phil. 4:9

INTRO: In our text, Paul tells the brethren in Philippi that when they meet certain conditions, God will be with them. To find out what they had learned & received & heard & seen in Paul, let us turn to Acts 16 & read Luke's account of what Paul did while he was in Philippi.

I. HE TAUGHT THE GOSPEL TO THOSE WHO WERE ALREADY RELIGIOUS, vs. 12-15.

- A. Why on Sabbath? That's when he had an audience, vs 13.
- B. How did God open Lydia's heart? By the preaching, vs. 14. Acts 2:36-38.
- C. Note that even those who are already religious & prayerful need to hear & obey the gospel.

II. HE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN THE FACE OF PERSECUTION AND DANGER, vs. 16-24.

- A. Paul did not want the advertisement of the devil, vs. 16-18. LK 6:26, woe when all speak well...
- B. Paul's enemies brot false accusation against him, vs 19-21. Matt. 5:10-12.
 - 1. The falsity of the accusation becomes even more evident when we consider that Paul himself was a Roman citizen, vs. 36-40.
 - 2. Such false accusations & persecution will come to all who stand for truth, 2 Tim 3:12.

III. HE TAUGHT THE GOSPEL TO THOSE WHO WERE NOT RELIGIOUS, vs. 25-33.

- A. What a place to conduct a gospel meeting!
- B. "What must I do to be saved?" vs. 30-32.
 - 1. Illustrate: "I will give you \$5 if you will believe in

Carroll Formby."

2. You would probably rightly proclaim: "How can I believe in someone of whom I have not heard?" See Romans 10:13-17.
3. When was the jailer referred to as a believer? vs 34. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works. (James 2:18).

CONCLUSION: It took the same thing to save religious Lydia that it took to save the irreligious jailer: hearing, believing & obeying the gospel. In order that God may be with us, we need to follow Paul's example in teaching the gospel as we have opportunity, both to those who are already religious & to those who are not, and we need to continue to do right even, when persecution is certain.

La Porte, TX, January 23, 1977

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