

## “...walk worthily...” from the Book of Philippians

<b>Scripture Block:</b>	n/a
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Introductory Material</b>
<b>Life verse:</b>	n/a
<b>Today's passage:</b>	<b>Acts 16:30-32</b>

### Notes

### Comments

As we have seen, in Acts 16:30-31 we have one of the greatest “snapshots” of the Gospel in the pages of Scripture.<sup>1</sup> We have seen that salvation is apart from any type of doing, or works, on the part of man. Instead, it is by faith, and not just faith in the idea of God, but in a specific object—the person and work of Jesus Christ!

From the basis of two specific household's—Lydia's and the jailor's, we now have the start of a church in Philippi. Paul's relationship with this Church, through his Epistle to them, continues to bless us today. Now I want you to think for minute about the situation, just before this passage with which we are so familiar. Paul and Silas have been brutally beaten, and are chained in the dank dark of the innermost cell of the jail. Think about how you would feel were you in their situation. As the moment of the great earthquake that would rock the jail drew closer, do you think these to missionaries knew the jailor was about to rush in and ask what was necessary in order to be saved? Do you think they know that a whole family was about to be saved, or that their conversation was about to be preserved forever in the pages of Scripture? You know the old saying—hindsight is always 20/20, and in hindsight Paul and Silas suffered for the advance of the Gospel and they would most certainly say it was worth it. But did they know things were going to turn out the way they did?

### Application

Two things for you to think about:

1. Paul and Silas had no way of knowing the momentous events that God was about to initiate. We can't either. Our job is to be faithful in “growing in grace and knowledge” and following our Savior in sacrificial service (the very topic of the book of Philippians). God will take care of producing the result. This is something to which we must hold fast in faith, even when our circumstances have “beaten” us up and “imprisoned” us!

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<sup>1</sup> Let's not forget that Acts 16:32 makes it very clear that Paul and Silas provided supporting information to their summary statement in vs. 31. First the summary statement, and then the supporting truth from the Word, led to a decision for Christ—not only on the part of the jailor, but on the part of his family! God's Word does not return empty and void from his purposes for it.

2. If you are like me, the mental battle is the key. Difficult circumstances or setbacks are a challenge to being ready to be used by God. Had I received the treatment Paul had, I doubt I could have been ready to so succinctly and with obvious sincerity share the Gospel with a lost individual—even if he or she should be on their knees asking for it. But one thing you and I can do, we can follow the example of Paul and Silas after being beaten up by this world, and that is to pray and sing hymns to God. Settle the matter in your own mind, with the Word of God as truth to which you anchor your soul, and you never know when an earthquake of God's making will be right around the corner!