

Spiritual Commissary

Acts 28:30-31 KJV “And Paul dwelt two whole years in his hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.”

Hello brothers in Christ, PRAY and grab your Bible.

This week we are going to look at God’s way of doing time. Before we get started here I wanted to share that we are mailing out a POWERFUL book on prayer this week. It is titled, “The Hidden Life of Prayer” by David McIntyre (1859-1938) a Scottish pastor. READ IT, and APPLY IT! Prayer is our most powerful weapon, yet the one many Christians use the least sadly. If you ain’t praying, you’re playing! After our latest studies through the verses in 2 Timothy on how serious we should be training, I believe we are going to head into some study on prayer with that seriousness in mind. Thanks be unto Jesus Christ we truly born again believers have access directly to Almighty God The Father. We don’t have great faith in prayer, because we haven’t been praying as we should. We are going to learn how to have mountains moved!

All Right now let’s focus on how children of God do time. These last two verses in Acts here I could spend the rest of my day’s mining for God’s wisdom and truths and never get to a point where the mine needs abandoning. Paul was under house arrest in Rome. As we see from vs 30 it says “hired house” which means Paul or someone on his behalf was paying the rent. Some think possibly Philemon who was very well to do, and a faithful brother in Christ who had been led to Christ by Paul probably in Ephesus. Regardless he had a soldier guarding him at all times for this two-year period. We know Luke was with him. Aristarchus and others stayed with him. Luke being the known author of Acts so this was probably toward the end of Paul’s two-year sentence.

Now we know Paul was incarcerated this time and many others for his faith in Christ and preaching the Gospel. While none of us can say the same if you have truly repented of your sins and laid your heart and soul out bare to the mercy of God in the name of Jesus Christ. Then you are now a child of God, born again and have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you. If you have sincerely confessed your sins to God and repented of them, truly turning from your wicked ways, then we are forgiven. Judges, courts, people, and the whole world may never forgive us, what’s more important He who Created the world and everything known and unknown, or other sinful

men? Exactly, **John 8:36 KJV** *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”* Also remember what The LORD told us in **James 4:14 KJV** *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”* A vapor, like when hot food comes out of the microwave and you watch the steam rising, or a hot cup of coffee, or a foggy morning. The haze, or fog, or vapor doesn't last long or rise very far before it's gone. So is our life brothers CHOOSE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE! I gain absolutely NOTHING if you go ALL IN for Christ except the immense joy in my heart and soul knowing you are training fiercely like our past lessons and walking close with God that He may use you for His will and reach family members, friends, other inmates, even guards if He wills. Loving God and making disciples, The Great Commission.

So put the past behind you even where you sit right now and live every minute for God. I'm not talking perfection, we ALL fall short and are unworthy, only made worthy by and through Jesus Christ. Also, let us consider just because Paul was incarcerated for preaching the Gospel and us for our sins what else God said. **Genesis 50:20 KJV** *“But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”* God never causes men to sin or tempts us with it, but God can turn what men meant for evil into good for His will and purpose. That is why each one of us and every other born-again believer can be used mightily by God no matter what we did in the past or used to be. Remember Saul was persecuting Christians even ordering them killed before meeting Christ on that road to Damascus and becoming a new creature in Christ, Paul. Quite often God can use us to reach others without us even doing a lot of preaching especially when we are babes in the faith. Sometimes our most powerful witness is the change others see in us, the way we walk, talk, treat others, even when it is tough. The way we trust God even in the toughest of times knowing He loves us and has a purpose for good that may require we suffer some now sometimes.

Don't think because maybe you have just been saved, or decided to start REALLY living for God now that you can't be used by Him. The Gospel doesn't only have to come into those walls to you, but by the power of God and the Holy Spirit the Gospel can go forth from you to family, friends, cellmates, other inmates, guards, there is no limit with God all things are possible. Paul wrote Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon from prison. In fact, that brings us along in this study back to our verses. O.k. so Paul was in this hired house doing time. Then next it says in vs 30 “and received all that came in to him”. Now, do you think it was just because the Romans liked Paul and were cutting him some slack? Or he was getting some privileges for his good behavior, maybe like the honor dorm or something? ABSOLUTELY NOT, this was NOTHING other than the sovereign hand of God making things happen so Paul could fulfill God's purpose for Him. We are all guilty of it, thinking that men or situations are “in control” or the biggest mistake we make is thinking we ourselves are in control of anything. When in all reality it truly boils down to what God allows or want's. If we aren't in alignment with His will

or we stray off the path of righteousness that does not mean we have messed God's plans up, ha-ha. He will just accomplish it through another person or by some other means. Yet we must not forget His ways are higher than our ways. Our plans, or what we think should happen might not be what God has already planned for us. We have to trust Him completely even when things look bad, and remain faithful knowing He has a bigger plan and purpose than we can see right now. We walk by faith, not sight.

And remember, ***Romans 8:28 KJV*** ***“And we know all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to his purpose.”*** What a POWERFUL reminder(I highly suggest memorizing this verse if you haven't already). This verse begins, set in the stone of God-given faith, “And we know ”. It doesn't say we hope, we guess, we suppose, or we even pray, it BOLDLY says “we know ”. Satan will never rest in trying to get you to forget or doubt these TRUTHS. Memorize it, and when you are doubting or feeling weak quote it, pray over it. Then immediately we proceed to what? What do we know? “All things ”, not a few things, not some things, but all things. This destroys the old saying, “you win some you lose some ”. How so? Because of what we must know about God, that His ways are higher than our ways. We are His, not our own, Created by Him for His glory and purpose. So that means we MUST also embrace the fact that this life here is temporary. What may seem to be a loss here, is always going to be a win if we are living obedient and faithful lives. Many things will happen in our lifetimes here that we can't explain or even begin to understand, horrible things. This by no means gives us any reason to doubt God, His faithfulness to His promises, or the fact He loves us with a greater love than we can understand fully.

So “we know”, and “all things” what next? “Work together for good” this is where we must rely on faith to be able to face a fiery furnace like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego without fear or worry knowing He is always in control and with us. “And we know all things work together for good” wow that could be the entire verse right there packed with power from on high. Wait for it, just who is God talking to here? I'm glad you asked, and He knew we would. “To them that love God” Do you love God? “Lovest thou me”, he asked Peter three times in John 21:15-17. Sure we love God when things are going great and we are doing well and having a great time, it's praise the Lord all day then. What about when life seems to be beating the brakes off of us, or we are headed right straight into a “fiery furnace” and see no possible way any good could come from this? That circles right back to these first three TRUTHS this verse began with. Except can you imagine not being a child of God, not walking close with Him? Not being born-again and having the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide you and remind you of these truths? You can never understand the absolute magnificence of these truths until you get on the path with God and stop turning to the left or right, and stop giving up before you get to see Him manifest these truths in your lives.

We did not have these promises before Christ when we were lost and dead in our sins. Most people sadly don't have these promises to navigate life with, people just like we were before we stopped playing around and gave our entire lives to Him in faith. These are not things God has promised to every human being, these are ABSOLUTE TRUTHS specifically given to children of God who love Him. Lovest thou He? Lovest thou He? Lovest thou He? **James 1:8 KJV** "*A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*" It doesn't get any clearer than that! We either get in the car with Christ and ride this short life out with these TRUTHS to carry us, or we keep playing around jumping in and out of the car like it's Uber. This results in one thing, James 1:8 instability in ALL our ways. Quit playing around and live for Christ EVERY MOMENT not just when things are going well. You are not fighting life and all the problems of the world your fighting God, how insanely foolish is that? This is either the Word of God and ABSOLUTE TRUTH or it's not. I'm here to tell you it is, and there is only one way to realize this beyond a doubt. Get on the path with Him and stop taking detours.

Finally "to them that are called according to his purpose". If you are being drawn to Jesus Christ by God, or have already accepted that call upon your life and repented of your sins and accepted Him THEN YOU ARE CALLED. So we can continue focusing on our problems and things we have no control over, or we can from this very moment on start responding to His calling on our lives and seeing these TRUTHS start manifesting in our lives. There is no reason to delay in this, what does God have planned for you? Or, what can God do with me here in this situation? Well, who knows the mind of God? What we do KNOW are these promises listed above, and many more throughout Scripture and the lives of countless others who have answered His call. Start spending this time you have training, praying, studying, letting God transform and use you in ways you never imagined. Like Paul, start doing time God's Way! You will have good days and bad days, weak days and strong days. Do NOT let this affect your walk with God, get on the path, and KEEP GOING no matter what. I pray He sends strength and comfort and protection to you all through the Holy Spirit and gives you hunger and focus to make fellowship with Him in prayer and His Word your number one desire. Second to nothing else, I am not asking you to trust me or these pathetic words I write. I am asking you to grab ahold of these Biblical truths from God. Start doing time God's Way, TODAY!

Much love my brothers in Christ, you all STAY in my prayers,
Brian B.

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