

## LESSON NO. 12 - Please read Acts 16:1-34

**Editor's Summary:** In these verses we read the magistrates stirred up the multitude against Paul and Silas, beat and imprisoned them. Amazingly these two men were praying and singing at midnight with the other prisoners listening. An incredible earthquake shook up the place to the extent that chains were loosed and doors opened. A prison guard would be put to death if any prisoner escaped and thus was about to kill himself. Paul intervened. The guard so shaken with fear was prepared by God for his salvation along with his family. How great the details of every individual's encounter with God.

Review Lesson No. 10

1. Question: What would compel a man “stoned, thought to be dead” ( Acts 14:19-20) to return to the city where the people had resolutely attempted to kill him?

2. Answer: Paul's eternal worldview and perspective which is the foundation upon which each of us builds all of our decisions.

3. Theme: Sometimes it is better to start at the **end and work back to the beginning** to get the clearest understanding of why a wise man does the things he does. Paul's end to his earthly race was the reason why he was able to “throw his entire life” into the Lord's work and in the declaration of Jesus' love for mankind.

### **This was the end of Paul's life:**

- 2 Timothy 4:8 **Finally**, there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, **will give to me on that Day**, and not to me only but also to **all who have loved His appearing**.

This principle is so important that we thought it would be valuable to tie this Lesson No. 12 back to Lesson No. 10 as it adds depth and richness to Paul's consecrated life in a similar way.

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**Lesson No. 12 Principle:** The value of one single eternal life is immeasurable and beyond all earthly treasure both to the individual and to God.

Question: Do you comprehend the true value of your life? Do we truly comprehend what one single consecrated life is worth to his Creator and to mankind? What is the value of the individual to his family, neighbors, friends and co-workers? What impact can one single life have to a man's generation and the entire universe?

The above questions might be explained with one simple act of looking at the immensity and power of the sun or by gazing at the limitless number of stars visible in the clear night sky.

This act will surely lead the humble, contrite heart into a state of awesome wonder and worship as we attempt to define the word "infinite" within our feeble, finite human minds. A man's life has infinite value.

Jesus, as all-knowing, all-powerful God and Creator, explained the value of life by using a contrasting comparison explanation.

- Mark 8:36-37 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it**. For **what will it profit a man if he gains**

**the whole world, and loses his own soul?** Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Jesus, the Creator, declared to all people of every generation that the TRUE value of an eternal soul far exceeds the inestimable wealth of all the earth! Understanding this truth will help us fix the value of the worth of ONE SINGLE SOLITARY life.

**Truth:** Do we comprehend the following? IF the one single Man, Jesus Christ, did NOT COME TO EARTH to die for our sins, what would the eternal destiny of ALL humanity be? **Answer:** Hell, forever!

[Any words or concepts **repeated** in the Scripture demands our utmost settled, unshakeable belief and commitment.]

- Mark 9:43-48 If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands ... And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet... And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, **to be cast into hell fire— where ‘Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’**
- Matthew 13:40-43 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them **into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.** Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!
- Matthew 22:12-14 So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast **him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**’ “For many are called, but few are chosen.”
- Matthew 24:51 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. **There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**
- Revelation 20:14-15 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And **anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**
- Revelation 21:7-8 He who overcomes [all those who believe and trust in Jesus Christ] **shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.** But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars **shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**”

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*Aren't these passages overwhelmingly serious and frightening? NO ONE in their right mind would choose this END for their Eternal Destiny!*

But, tragically, billions upon billions of eternal souls face this eternally tragic end which has been clearly described by Jesus in His oft-repeated warnings.

Why is this so? NO ONE SEEKS AFTER GOD. All people have been tainted by sin having come from Adam and then we add our own sins on top of the inconceivable, insurmountable sin-pile.

Because NO ONE SEEKS AFTER GOD, **someone needs to tell them the Truth.**

- Romans 3:10-12, 17-18 “There is **none righteous, no, not one**; There is **none** who understands; There is **none** who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is **none** who does good, no, not one.” [v 17-18] And the way of peace they have not known.” “**There is no fear of God before their eyes.**”

*What can be done?*

- Romans 10:14-15 **How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?** And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And **how shall they preach unless they are sent?**

Paul was willing to be sent and proclaim Jesus Christ. *Will we also go and be like Paul, proclaiming Jesus Christ, the One who can save to the uttermost, to all the world?*

- Acts 16:29-31 “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

**Question:** *Whose life is the most valuable in all of the universe?* **Answer:** Jesus Christ is the One! If it were not for His life, every human being would be forever imprisoned in Hell forever!

*What questions should arise in our minds after reading the above truth?*

1. Can Jesus Christ save me?    2. If He can save me, will He do so?

- Hebrews 7:24-27 But He, **because He continues forever**, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore **He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him**, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, **for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.**
- John 6:37-38 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the **one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.** For I have come down from heaven, **not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**
- John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and **I will raise him up at the last day.**

Two of our favorite compelling illustrations of Jesus saving to the uttermost would be the criminal dying next to Jesus at Calvary and Paul the Apostle:

- Luke 23:40-43 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said to Jesus, “**Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**” And Jesus said to him, “**Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.**”

- Acts 16:23-25 . . the magistrates **tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods...put them into the inner prison ...But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God**, and the prisoners were listening to them.
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**Summary:** Jesus Christ is the most valuable individual who has or ever will live.

We can also lead eternally valuable lives. How so? Like Paul, declaring to anyone we can, in all circumstances, the truth about **Jesus, the One who saves to the uttermost**.

- Acts 16:29-31 **“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”** So they said, **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”** Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

May we like Jesus and like Paul, give witness to the Grace and Mercy of Jesus Christ. Jesus' all-sufficient, perfect life and death as our substitute provides all the grace to keep us to the very last inch of the very last yard of the very last mile; to the very last minute of the very hour of the very last day BECAUSE HE IS ABLE!

- Hebrews 7:25 **He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him,** , since He always lives to make intercession for them.
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We recognize persecution will also come to us as it did to Paul when we proclaim our love for Jesus Christ who died and took our place in death. Are we so overwhelmed by the love of Jesus Christ that we cannot help but Tell Somebody about Him today?

One way we can tell others the incredible sure hope we have in Jesus Christ is to write down the day and events of our salvation just as Paul recorded his own “new-birth” in Acts 9. Please send your Story to us so we may rejoice with you and glorify God’s great work!

We love to receive your questions. Your questions can be sent to [write2stm@gmail.com](mailto:write2stm@gmail.com) or [WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com](mailto:WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com). All our love to you in Christ - Jon + Philis