

Acts # 92

“Take Courage”

*Acts 22:23-23:11; Romans 8:28-35*

**The Bible says Satan is the god of this world and the ruler**

**of this this world and as such he ever lives to deceive all who inhabit this world with his enticing lies.**

Sin and spiritual death which followed man’s fall are the basis of Satan’s rule over this world but God so loved

the world, that He gave us a Savior!

*World control by Satan will continue until the Second Advent of Jesus Christ but Church Age believers will continue forever; satanic rule comes to an end but we do not!*

And until we leave this life, we will face many challenges; all of which can be handled magnificently through the plan of God as Jesus Himself demonstrated in the pioneer plan of God that He lived for us.

**The principle is that the plan of God is greater than any problem or adversity we face including all opposition.**

No one is God’s equal; no one has more power, ability and resources than God.

*And if the justice of Almighty God has provided the greater at salvation in giving us the free gift of His righteousness, it stands to reason that the justice of God will not withhold the lesser blessings to sustain us in this life.*

We must never forget that we have a piece of God’s integrity, His righteousness in us and therefore we’ll always have a place in God’s love.

Just as God the Son cannot reject His own integrity, the believer in Christ cannot be separated from the love of God.

**What separated the Roman Tribune from the Jewish mob was that he wanted to know the facts; the mob didn’t want facts, they just wanted to know if Paul conformed to their religion or not and if not, they wanted this ever-growing threat to be neutralized ASAP.**

Although it was lawful to examine a non-Roman citizen by scourging, it was not lawful in the case of a Roman citizen and this garrison commander could lose his commission in a heartbeat for such conduct.

*In other words, they withdrew with a respectful apology so in Paul’s case, there’d be no examination by scourging on this day!*

The Tribune had inadvertently overstepped the bounds of his authority because such treatment of Roman citizens was never tolerated, so he recognizes quickly that this part of his decision was a mistake and he’s determined to make it right.

**Paul is among Satan's primary targets at the beginning of the Church Age along with Peter, James and John and Paul is also the target of all the leading religious organizations and since religion is sponsored by Satan, this isn't at all surprising.**

Paul looked them right in the eyes with a very clear conscience and a clearly defined argument in his favor, so he was fearless.

*When Paul stood before the Sanhedrin, he intended to defend himself using Jewish law but he can't because he immediately discovers that the court is prejudiced against him.*

**Ironically, Paul is before the very same court that tried Stephen, a court that he helped preside over! Jewish law was predicated on the assumption that a person was innocent until proven guilty.**

**But remember there's a new Sheriff in town and he's religion which has now infiltrated Jewish law and disgusting religion always assumes a man is guilty until proven innocent.**

**A believer who learns biblical truth and applies it is going to operate at the maximum capacity of his IQ.**

Most people cannot think under pressure because they cannot think when there is no pressure.

*The reason Paul could think under pressure was not because of his genius, it was because he had biblical truth in his soul; the same thing that is available to us but whether we use it or not is another issue.*

**Because Paul has maximum biblical truth in his soul, he's completely relaxed under intense pressure.**

He has tremendous poise because he's focused on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit's part in witnessing for Him.

*Paul knows it's not up to him to convince anyone to believe the truth about Jesus Christ; it's his job like ours to simply provide accurate Gospel information on which an unbeliever can make a decision for himself.*

It's not our job to persuade people to be saved; we just give them the Gospel clearly and get out of the way and let God the Holy Spirit work on them and if they reject the Gospel then, it doesn't mean they are rejecting us, so we must not take it personally.