

“Learning from Phillipi”

Acts 16:16-24

Introduction

- I. The church in the first century had many obstacles to overcome.
- II. We are blessed to have records that demonstrate how the church endured.
- III. Let us examine some things that the early church had to manage in the city of Phillipi.

Discussion

- I. Not all messengers are welcomed (Acts 16:16-18).
 - A. Jesus had a similar encounter (Luke 4:33-34).
 - B. Some are not really on the side of the Lord (Phil. 1:15-18).
 - C. As Christians, we represent Christ, and therefore we should be living accordingly (Rev. 3:15-16; Matt. 7:21-23).
- II. The authority of Jesus is universal (Acts 16:18).
 - A. To do by Jesus' name is to do by His authority (Col. 3:17).
 - B. No one is outside of His “jurisdiction” (Matt. 28:18).
 - C. Safety is found in obeying Jesus (Heb. 5:9).
- III. Some people will use other people for their own benefit (Acts 16:19).
 - A. Some are wolves in sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15; 2 Cor. 11:12-15).
 - B. Flattery is a weapon that is often used (Jude 15-16).
 - C. There will be times that some will feign godliness, but really are only out for themselves (1 Tim. 6:5-6).
- IV. Faithful brethren will suffer for doing what is right (Acts 16:20-24).
 - A. It is a fact that Christians will endure hardships (2 Tim. 3:12; cf. 2 Tim. 2:12).
 - B. Jesus was hated, and we will be as well (John 15:18-19).
 - C. We we suffer, we should rejoice that we can suffer for Christ (1 Pet. 4:12-16; Matt. 5:10-12).

Conclusion

- I. Sometimes we might feel that no one has ever had to handle things like we have to handle.
- II. The Bible allows us to learn lessons from others that will aid and equip us in faithful service.