THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

Acts 16: 25-34 Salvation of the Philippian Jailor

We know it is important for us to hear the gospel preached in order to be saved. How likely is it that a hardened soldier guarding a prison cell would hear the gospel especially in Philippi, around A. D. 60? It is not very likely. God intended for this certain jail keeper to have the opportunity to be saved. In order for him to hear the gospel, God kept Paul from going into Asia (Acts 16:6), and stopped him and Silas when they would have gone into Bithynia (Acts 16:7). Then the Lord had them come down to Troas where God caused a man to appear unto Paul in a vision praying that he would come over into Macedonia and help them. Macedonia was a large place but they made a straight course unto Samothracia and Neapolis and then to Philippi. Paul then preached to some women and cast a devil out of a young girl. This last act led to Paul and Silas being imprisoned, thus the scene in Acts 16:25-34. The jailor heard the gospel and was saved (verses 31 and 32).

Will God really go to such lengths for someone to hear the gospel? Yes. The providence of God is absolutely amazing. Consider the story of Onesimus in the Book of Philemon. We probably do not know the half of the story. What we do know is that Onesimus was a bond servant to Philemon. Onesimus ran away from Philemon, whose home was in Colosse, while he was still indebted to him. God’s providence led him far away from Philemon but into the company of Paul, in Rome, who led him to the Lord.

We should consider our own experience. The people his providence has placed in our lives; our school, our job, or the church in our community may all be used as tools in the hand of God to bring us under the sound of the gospel of Jesus Christ. God loves us and will go to the extreme to save us.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram