

NSD Notes

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (1 Cor. 9:19)

Volume 1 No. 8

February 22, 2009

Services

- Bible Study 10 a.m.
- Morning Service.....11 a.m.
- Evening Service.....6 p.m.
- Wednesday Meeting.....7 p.m.

News @ NSD

WELCOME VISITORS!

This morning's sermon is presented by Aaron Gibson from the church in Santee. Our thanks to Aaron.

Tonight is our monthly Singing Night!

Prayer List

- **Dema Franklin** –neck surgery scheduled for early next month.
- **Ernest Peeples** – in Texas awaiting deployment to Kuwait.
- **Jason Henderson** – travelling.
- **Martha Holloway** – recurring heart problem.
- **Chuck Holloway** (Ken's brother) and **Benjamin Hoskins** (Daniel's Dad).
- **Jeanne Lynne** - undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

Reminder: The memory verse for Wednesday class is Joshua 1:8.

HIDE IT UNDER A BUSHEL?

Bubba Garner

The book of Acts is a book of conversions. It is the historical record of the apostles fulfilling the Great Commission of Christ, "go into all the world and preach the gospel" (**Mark 16:15**). They did so in Jerusalem, Samaria, Caesarea, and in the uttermost parts of the world. They did so with great success.

In **Acts 16**, Paul and Silas were on the Second Missionary Journey and came to Troas. There, Paul received a vision in the night, of a man who said, "Come over to Macedonia and help us" (**Acts 16:9**). They set course immediately. While in Philippi, a leading city of Macedonia, they taught and baptized Lydia and her household. This initial success was quickly countered with an altercation with the local law enforcement. Though Paul and Silas were put in jail, they were not set free from their responsibility to preach the gospel of Christ.

Jesus said to "let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (**Matt. 5:16**). Everyone has a light, one that is not meant for hiding but shining. Never is this more clearly seen than through Paul and Silas' behavior in their dark prison cell.

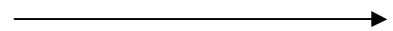
What can we learn from their shining example?

You will face many temptations to turn off your light. Paul and Silas had every right to be discouraged. Their robes torn off of them, they were beaten with rods with "many blows," thrown into the inner prison, the most secure cell, and their feet fastened in stocks (**Acts 16:22-24**). This was a device used to spread the legs as far apart as possible, to ensure cramps and discomfort. What was their reaction in all of this? Did they grumble and complain? Did they threaten to quit or surrender? "But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God" (**Acts 16:25**). Their candles were literally burning the midnight oil.

The darkest times are when you must shine even brighter. Your attitude reveals a great deal about your character. Christians ought to be people who respond differently to tragedy and calamity than the rest of the world. We see the bigger picture. We know God is still in control. We believe He has the power to work everything together for good.

Paul and Silas were singing "hymns of praise" in prison. It's as if they were thanking God for the privilege of persecution. When disaster strikes, don't look for the "off" switch. Press "on."

You never know who can see your light. The Lord was not the only one hearing their prayers and songs. "And the prisoners were listening to them" (**Acts 16:25**).



North San Diego church of Christ

7090 Miramar Road #102
San Diego, CA 92121

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 721513
San Diego, CA 92172

Phone: 858-578-0734

<http://www.nsdca.com>

All are welcome to our worship
and study meetings!

... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with
thankfulness in your hearts to God. **Col 3:16**

Oh, give thanks to the LORD,
for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so--
Whom He has redeemed
from the hand of the enemy,
and gathered out of the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Psalm 107:1-3

To Love the Lord
with heart and soul
To love him with my mind
Fulfills the first and great command
In him true peace I find

To love my neighbor
and my Lord
With all my heart and soul
Fulfills the prophet and the law
And makes my spirit whole

I love the Lord with heart and souls
I love him with my mind
In Him I'll live while ages roll
In him true peace I'll find

R. J. Stevens

[Hide it Under a Bushel]

The sounds in their cell were as important as the words of their sermons on the streets. Remember, Paul and Silas had received a vision to go to Macedonia, concluding that God had called them to go preach the gospel there. And they were not about to quit preaching. Even in jail, they saw an opportunity to turn these prisoners into bondservants of Jesus Christ.

People are watching you, too. In your neighborhood, in your classes, on your team, at your work. They notice that you are different. They don't hear the same words coming out of your mouth that they hear from other people. They don't see you going the same places and participating in the same activities as those in the world.

Or do they...?

God has called all of us to preach. Not just with our words but with our example, how we live our lives. The purpose of letting your light shine is so men will "see your good works and glorify your Father" (**Matt. 5:16**). They've already seen plenty of bad ones. Give them something good to watch. Let them see Him who is source of light.

You can't be a light without sending the light. Souls were saved the night Paul and Silas shone. After the earthquake that shook the foundations of the prison, the jailer awoke to find all the doors opened. When he learned that none of the prisoners had escaped, he ran and fell before the feet of Paul and Silas and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved" (**Acts 16:30**)? The jailer must have been listening to their songs and prayers along with the prisoners. He went to them with a question he knew they could answer. He could see that they were living the kind of life they were preaching about.

You have souls to rescue, souls to save. Make sure that people know where to find you. If they can make no distinction between you and the rest of the world enslaved to sin, what reason would they have to ask you about salvation (cf. **1 Pet. 3:15**)? And make certain you're prepared for the opportunity. Paul and Silas "spoke the word of the Lord to him" that night (**Acts 16:32**). How much would their flame had been extinguished had they not been able to answer his question of eternal life?

There are some people whom you alone can reach. Be sure to leave the light on for them.

The same jailer who had fastened the feet of Paul and Silas in the stocks was baptized and set free from the bondage of sin. Think about him the next time you are tempted to hide your light under a bushel.

from *Gospel Power*, December 2008

ELDERS: Dan Austin, Robyn E. Hamilton

DEACON: Matt Wells

MINISTER: Dan Austin