

SPEAK GOD'S WORD

Acts 16:32 "And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house."

The Philippian Jailer was beside himself. He thought all of his prisoners had escaped. Either he took his own life or the Roman authorities would put him to death. His answer for his dilemma was suicide.

The Jailer was without hope. He saw no way out of his predicament. As he was about to take his own life, at that darkest moment, St. Paul shouted out to the Jailer, "we are all here." Can you imagine the Jailer's emotions? In a split second he went from despair to elation. God used Paul to take the Jailer from his utter hopelessness to a whole new life and purpose. He "fell down before Paul and Silas . . . and said, 'Sirs what must I do to be saved?'" Their answer to Him was the Good News, the Gospel's answer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. . ." (Acts 16:29-31)

Are you struggling with what is happening in your life? Do you feel helpless and your future looks hopeless? If this is not true for you, do you know someone who is, in this moment, living such a life? Where is help to be found? Will the governments stimulus check be the answer? If so, for how long will that answer offer them hope? You can try to share your personal wisdom and guidance with them. That, too, may benefit them for the moment but will it provide a lasting answer?

Paul and Silas ". . . spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. . . he was baptized at once, he and all his family. . . he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God." (Acts 16:32-34)

This sounds so simple, yet what God did for the Jailer through Paul and Silas has been repeated time and again in the lives of countless people. God rescues, redeems, forgives, loves, and gives good gifts through the power of His word. God meets us personally to minister to us through His word, baptism (as was true for the Jailer and his family) and The Lord's Supper. Paul and Silas were God's instruments to bring to the Jailer God's gift of forgiveness, hope and help in his most hopeless and helpless life moment. God did this by these two believers

speaking the word of the Lord to him and his family. That same word is for you and for you to speak to those you know who are in need of it.

Prayer: O LORD, let the words of my mouth be acceptable to You. Help me to speak Your word to those around me who are in need of it and grant Your blessing upon it that it accomplishes the purpose for which You have given it. In Jesus' name. Amen.

From God the Father, virgin-born To us the only Son came down;
By death the font to consecrate, The faithful to regenerate.

Beginning from His home on high, In human flesh He came to die;
Creation by His death restored, And shed new joys of life abroad.

Glide on, O glorious Sun, and bring The gift of healing on Your wing;
To ev'ry dull and clouded sense The clearness of Your light dispense.

Abide with us, O LORD, we pray; The gloom of darkness chase away;
Your work of healing, LORD begin, And take away the stain of sin.

LORD, once You came to earth's domain And, we believe, shall come again;
Be with us on the battlefield, From ev'ry harm Your people shield.

To You, O LORD all glory be For this Your blest epiphany;
To God, whom all His hosts adore, And Holy Spirit evermore.
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