

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Does God work in similar ways in our lives as He did with Paul? Explain.
2. Will God always deliver us from danger?
3. Can God deliver us from danger through others (perhaps our brother or sister) and how?

### SUMMARY:

How wonderfully God can and does deliver his children from harm and evil. If we were to stand on our own strength, we would not be able to defeat Satan in our lives. We can all testify of times when circumstances suddenly changed in a miraculous way, so that we could avoid a disastrous event.

Elisha told the young man who was with him in the heat of a battle, "*Fear not: For they that be with us are more than they that be with them.*" (2 Kings 6:16)

While Paul was helpless, God worked a way for his escape. We can trust in this same power to deliver us.

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #6

February 9, 2020

First Quarter

### PAUL ESCAPES A PLOT

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**LESSON TEXT:** *Acts 23:11-35*

**LESSON SETTING:** Paul brought into the castle after making his defense.

**TIME:** Approximately 58 A.D.

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**I. THE PLOT CONCEIVED.** Acts 23:11-15

- A. Paul Reassured. (vs. 11) 1 Samuel 23:4; Jeremiah 39:15-16
- B. Man's Device for Power. (vs. 12) 1 Samuel 23:7-8; Esther 3:9

**II. THE PLOT REVEALED.** Acts 23:16-22

- A. The Plot Discovered. (vs. 16) Esther 3:15
- B. Action Taken. (vs. 17-19)
- C. The Plot. (vs. 20-21)

**III. THE PLOT FOILED.** Acts 23:22-35

- A. Defense Planned. (vs. 22-24)
- B. Plot Revealed. (vs. 25-30) Esther 7:1-6
- C. A Way of Escape. (vs. 31-35) 2 Timothy 4:18

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**GOLDEN TEXT: . . . THE LORD IS MY ROCK, AND MY FORTRESS,  
AND MY DELIVERER;** 2 Samuel 22:2

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Acts 24:1-27

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Daniel 3:1-30

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Life and Writings of Paul

**TOPIC:** PAUL'S DEFENSE BEFORE FELIX

**INTRODUCTION:**

Paul seemingly felt it a privilege to witness before Felix. He probably knew Felix's wife was a Jewess and Paul would have been joyous to bring the precious gospel to her also.

He plainly stated that the accusations brought against him were false, but his real defense was his experience with Christ. The Bible does not tell us all he said, but he said enough to make Felix desirous to hear more and to make him tremble. Again and again he communed with Felix, but his heart was too hard to accept Christ and repent. God had used Paul's trial to show Felix the truth. In like manner, we must take every opportunity God offers to show people the way of the cross. Whether they believe or not, it is still our duty to witness to them.

We serve a risen Christ and our walk in life must be such that we glorify Him in bringing Him to others.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Though people may not always accept our witness, it is our constant responsibility to tell others of Christ.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** . . . *AND BE READY ALWAYS TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERY MAN THAT ASKETH YOU A REASON OF THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU, WITH MEEKNESS AND FEAR:* 1 Peter 3:15

Paul was glad to testify of God's grace toward all men and of the hope of the resurrection that he cherished. Before Felix he answered "cheerfully" and before Agrippa he was "happy" to answer for himself.

Peter tells us we should explain our hope "*with meekness and fear.*"

If the hope of the resurrection has been planted in our hearts through the new birth, we also can testify of it cheerfully, thankfully, in meekness and fear. "The fear of God is that reverence for God, which leads to obedience because of one's realization of His power, as well as His love to man."

Hope gives love the bravery  
Every ill and need to conquer;  
And upon life's stormy sea  
Proves a true and steadfast anchor.  
Though our hearts be tempest-beaten  
Hope all suffering doth sweeten. Z.H. 78:4

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 10-16**

- M. Decree. Daniel 3:1-7
- T. Denunciation. Daniel 3:8-12
- W. Devotion. Daniel 3:13-25
- T. Deliverance. Daniel 3:26-30
- F. \*Defamation. Acts 24:1-9
- S. \*Defense. Acts 24:10-21
- S. \*Deferral. Acts 24:22-27

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