

*Monday, 28 August 2017 Acts 16:33-34*

*And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. (34) Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.*

“He set food before them.” Middle of the night, a Roman official brought despised Christians into his home, washed their wounds and fed them. This is transformation, on the spot transformation. Suddenly he was serving two men, who refused to honor Caesar, with love and kindness. Not only was this a complete change of character, it was probably dangerous that he, a Roman official, had ministered to Christians.

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*Tuesday, 29 August 2017 Acts 17:10-12*

*The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.*

A guiding Scripture for us today. Do we examine the Scriptures daily to seek guidance from the Word of God? Yes, we need to examine the Word for guidance in dealing with all the isms and doctrinal interpretations that bombard us each day, but also for continual leading as we seek to live as disciples in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now. How do I order my life continually to bring the Word to bear on every aspect of my life?

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*Wednesday, 30 August 2017 Acts 17:30-34*

*The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” So Paul went out from their midst. (34) But some men*

*joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.*

Interesting that Paul preached a sermon the cited the Athenian's poets, referred to inscriptions on local altars and in many ways is a model used today in bringing the Gospel to a hostile audience. All went well until he had the temerity to mention the resurrection of the Christ. This, the LORD, God the Almighty's stamp of authenticity was too much for the audience, and many reacted with derision.

The lesson for today is that when I preach the Gospel, I must emphasize that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the proof positive that God's Word is the yea and amen.

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*Thursday, 31 August 2017 Acts 18:4-8*

*And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.*

So interesting that Crispus believed after the Corinthian church moved out of the synagogue and next door. Was there a fear of rejection by his own synagogue if he confessed Jesus as the Christ there? Is this an acknowledgment of the difficulty I have in confessing Jesus as the Christ in my own family?

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*Friday, 1 September 2017 Acts 18:27-28*

*And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.*

Another part of the Church that has disappeared in our

modern notion of how to worship God. Where are the traveling ministers who came to visit and encourage local churches? How often do we take it upon ourselves to visit one of our sister congregations in our town or the village up the road? And visit another denomination?

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Saturday, 2 September 2017 Acts 19:1-6

*And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.*

No matter what my position is on issues such as the gift of tongues or cessationism or ... This passage is proof positive that the Holy Spirit accompanies belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. The delivery of my Lord's promises in John 14:16-17, 26, 16:7-15

What a gift! And the transformation began and continues to this day.

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Lord's Day, 3 September 2017 Psalm 119:136

*My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.*

*Lord, I am setting as a goal today to pray for two classes of people: 1) those who claim to be followers of You but ignore Your precious and holy Law, and 2) those who do not claim You but desperately need You. My heart breaks for those who name themselves as Christians but live according to the Kingdom of Man. How sad, how awful! Lord, put the power within me to carry the message of the Kingdom of God to them.*

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*August 28-September 3, 2017*

*Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 2 Thessalonians 3:2-5*  
*And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.*

Lord, we pray for our [Congregation], that we may be wise and discerning. There are many who among those we are called to minister to, who profess the faith but do not walk it when out in the world. Guide us as we seek to lead our flocks into lives that honor and glorify You in all aspects.

We pray for each other that we will be led into the fullness of Your love and filled with Your perseverance. *Amen*

*Creational Theology hint for the week*—Consider the mushroom, ranging from very poisonous to the treasured ingredient of gourmet feasts. However, we rarely consider the mushroom's essential role in the LORD's economy. It, and related fungi, provide a quiet service in their task of converting dead vegetable matter into valuable nutrients. The Creation is an intricate dance of interwoven dependencies.

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