



## Lesson 41 – Caesar’s Household

1) What observation did Paul give us?

**1 Corinthians 1:26-27** For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath \_\_\_\_\_ the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the \_\_\_\_\_ things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

It could not be expected that Paul, a poor and friendless prisoner, would be able to gain the attention of the wealthy and titled classes of Roman citizens. To them vice presented all its glittering allurements and held them willing captives. But from among the toilworn, want-stricken victims of their oppression, even from among the poor slaves, many gladly listened to the words of Paul and in the faith of Christ found a hope and peace that cheered them under the hardships of their lot.

2) What did Paul tell Timothy about the power of God?

**2 Timothy 2:9** Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto \_\_\_\_\_; but the word of God is not bound.

3) What was happening even in the Palace?

**Philippians 4:22** All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of \_\_\_\_\_ household.

Rome was at this time the metropolis of the world. The haughty Caesars were giving laws to nearly every nation upon the earth. King and courtier were either ignorant of the humble Nazarene or regarded Him with hatred and derision. And yet in less than two years the gospel found its way from the prisoner’s lowly home into the imperial halls.

4) How powerful is the Word?

**2 Corinthians 10:4** For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but \_\_\_\_\_ through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Nowhere could there exist an atmosphere more uncongenial to Christianity than in the Roman court. Nero seemed to have obliterated from his soul the last trace of the divine, and even of the human, and to bear the impress of Satan. His attendants and courtiers were in general of the same character as himself, fierce, debased, and corrupt. To all appearance it would be impossible for Christianity to gain a foothold in the court and palace of Nero.

Even in Nero’s household, trophies of the cross were won. From the vile attendants of a viler king were gained converts who became sons of God. These were not Christians secretly, but openly. They were not ashamed of their faith.

5) What does God do with the impossible?

**Philippians 1:12** But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel;

When the Christian churches first learned that Paul was to visit Rome, they looked forward to a signal triumph of the gospel in that city. Paul had borne the truth to many lands; he had proclaimed it in great cities. Might not this champion of the faith succeed in winning souls to Christ even in the metropolis of the world? But their hopes were crushed by the tidings that Paul had gone to Rome as a prisoner. They had confidently hoped to see the gospel, once



established at this great center, extend rapidly to all nations and become a prevailing power in the earth. How great their disappointment! Human expectations had failed, but not the purpose of God.

6) How did Paul's incarceration affect those who knew him?

**Philippians 1:14** And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing \_\_\_\_\_ by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

It was as a captive that he broke from so many souls the bonds that held them in the slavery of sin.

Paul's patience and cheerfulness during his long and unjust imprisonment, his courage and faith, were a continual sermon. His spirit, so unlike the spirit of the world, bore witness that a power higher than that of earth was abiding with him. And by his example, Christians were impelled to greater energy as advocates of the cause from the public labors of which Paul had been withdrawn.

7) After two years imprisonment what was Paul able to say?

**Philippians 1:13** So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all \_\_\_\_\_ places;

**Philippians 4:22** All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's \_\_\_\_\_.

Patience as well as courage has its victories. By meekness under trial, no less than by boldness in enterprise, souls may be won to Christ. The Christian who manifests patience and cheerfulness under bereavement and suffering, who meets even death itself with the peace and calmness of an unwavering faith, may accomplish for the gospel more than he could have effected by a long life of faithful labor. Often when the servant of God is withdrawn from active duty, the mysterious providence which our shortsighted vision would lament is designed by God to accomplish a work that otherwise would never have been done.

The apostle and his associate workers might have argued that it would be vain to call to repentance and faith in Christ the servants of Nero, subjected, as they were, to fierce temptations, surrounded by formidable hindrances, and exposed to bitter opposition. Even should they be convinced of the truth, how could they render obedience? But Paul did not reason; thus, in faith he presented the gospel to these souls, and among those who heard were some who decided to obey at any cost.

8) What Psalm had Paul memorized?

**Psalms 56:3-4** What time I am afraid, I will \_\_\_\_\_ in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not \_\_\_\_\_ what flesh can do unto me.

Not in freedom from trial, but in the midst of it, is Christian character developed. Exposure to rebuffs and opposition leads the follower of Christ to greater watchfulness and more earnest prayer to the mighty Helper. Severe trial endured by the grace of God develops patience, vigilance, fortitude, and a deep and abiding trust in God. It is the triumph of the Christian faith that it enables its followers to suffer and be strong; to submit, and thus to conquer; to be killed all the day long, and yet to live; to bear the cross, and thus to win the crown of glory.

Can you see that God's plans supersede the evil Satan is doing?

Would you like to serve God no matter what?

When is the time to not worry?