



# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## New Testament 5

### Law/Gospel

The world hates Christ and His followers and rejects me because of Him. In my sin, I dislike and would avoid this persecution.

**The Spirit pours the peace of Christ into me, forgiving, strengthening, and sustaining me in Christ.**

### Bible Words

[God] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:4

### The Big Picture

A Roman civil war erupted after the assassination of Julius Caesar. It ended with the battle of Philippi, where Mark Antony and Octavian defeated assassins Marcus and Gaius in October 42 BC. The victors released Roman officers and soldiers from duty and encouraged them to colonize Philippi. Octavian directed other soldiers to retire there as well. Philippi became filled with retired soldiers, Roman citizens, and Roman pride. Nearby gold mines and the seaport of Neapolis made the city an important stop on the Via Egnatia, the famous Roman road that crosses modern-day Albania, Greece, Macedonia, and western Turkey.

## Paul and Silas in Prison

Acts 16:16–40

**M**issionaries Paul and Silas enjoyed many rights as Roman citizens. For example, citizens had the right to a legal trial, to defend themselves against accusers, and to appeal lower court decisions, even to Caesar. No one could imprison or punish them without a legal hearing.

Their citizenship came into play in Philippi, a Roman colony, where Paul and Silas met a slave girl possessed by a future-predicting demon. The girl followed them for many days, shouting and vexing them. Annoyed, Paul turned and commanded the spirit to come out of her in Jesus' name. It did, losing her owners' lucrative income.

Her owners angrily seized Paul and Silas and dragged them to magistrates in the busy marketplace. The crowd attacked them. The magistrates had them beaten with rods, jailed, and locked in stocks.

All these actions violated the rights of Roman citizens, yet Paul and Silas did not reveal their status. Instead, they endured the abuse, sang hymns to God, and prayed as the other prisoners listened. Around midnight, a great earthquake struck, damaging the jail foundation. All the doors opened and all the bonds released.

Seeing this, the jailer thought the prisoners had escaped and drew his sword to kill himself, the punishment he'd receive for losing the prisoners. Paul called out and assured the jailer that no one left.

Trembling, the jailer rushed in and took Paul and Silas to his house. He asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." The missionaries spoke God's Word and baptized the whole household.

In the morning, when the magistrates tried to release Paul and Silas, they refused. They listed violations of their citizenship and asked the magistrates to release them personally. The judges fearfully apologized, released the men, and kindly asked them to leave the city.

### Prayer

*Lord Jesus, give us courage to follow wherever You lead.*

*In Your name we pray. Amen.*

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