

NSD Notes

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (1 Cor. 9:19)

Volume 1 No. 3

January 18, 2009

Services

- Bible Study 10 a.m.
- Morning Service.....11 a.m.
- Evening Service.....6 p.m.
- Wednesday Meeting.....7 p.m.

News @ NSD

WELCOME VISITORS!

The topic of our Sunday morning Bible study is "Great Speeches in Acts."

Please keep in your prayers:

- **Ernest Peeples** – being deployed to Kuwait;
- **Ken Holloway** - recovering from cataract surgery;
- **Martha Holloway** - has recurring heart problems;
- Jeanne Lynne – recovering from cancer surgery;
- Benjamin Hoskins and Chuck Holloway – recurring ailments.

Sally Harper and Alana are visiting relatives in South Carolina.

Our Wednesday Bible study continues with "Compass: A Thematic Trek Through The Word of God."

WHATEVER HAPPENS, LIVE WORTHY

By Don Hooton

When Paul wrote the church in Philippi, he said that, along with Timothy, he was a "bond-servant of Christ Jesus" (1:1). Imprisoned in Rome early in the 60s and circulating letters by the Holy Spirit, he reminds Christians that there are things that happen to all of us. However, he says that "whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27, NIV).

He goes on to say, "Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you." (1:27-28).

**Whatever Happens, conduct yourself
in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ**

The first lesson we can make from this reading, that we need to learn as Christians, is that things may simply "happen" to us. Not all things are consequences of Divine fiat. When God said to Abram after his unprecedented act of faith "for now I know that you fear God (Genesis 22:12)," [it indicated that] there must be some things that God chooses not to know and allows humans free will. As a result, things sometimes just happen.

Second, Paul says that Christians need to do the worthy thing when "whatever happens" happens. While Paul was inspired (1Corinthians 2:10-13), he did not know how everything would go, even in his imprisonment. Still, he knew that he and all other Christians needed to conduct themselves "in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." This phrase "conduct yourselves" (NASU) or "let your conversation be" (KJV) is translated from the Greek verb *politeuomai*, which has the basic meaning, "to be a citizen, have one's citizenship," from *polis*, "city." Here it can be extended to the idea that we should "discharge our obligations" →

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All are welcome to our worship
and study meetings!

*... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with
thankfulness in your hearts to God. Col 3:16*

The LORD reigns, He is clothed with
majesty; The LORD is clothed, He has
girded Himself with strength.

Surely the world is established, so that it
cannot be moved.

Your throne is established from of old;
You are from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the
floods have lifted up their voice; the
floods lift up their waves.

The LORD on high is mightier than the
noise of many waters, than the mighty
waves of the sea.

Your testimonies are very sure; holiness
adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.

Psalm 93

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

Cecil Alexander

[Whatever Happens...]

as citizens," namely, "to conduct one's life, live, lead one's life."

Even in the "whatevers" of life, Christians must live "worthy of the gospel of Christ," or "worthily, in a manner worthy of, suitably." When people look at our lives, our way of life either brings credit to and adds value to the message of the Gospel or makes people inclined to disregard it. We are books read by all (see Titus 2:1-11).

Stand fast in one spirit

Third, Paul says there are three things on which we need to focus. Do we manifest a "unity of spirit" (1:27). In chapter 2, Paul will go on to say that attitudes precedes unity; the attitudes of humility, compassion and affection for souls. Truth is the platform of unity (John 17:17; Ephesians 4:4-6) but our heart's attitude is the shoes that we wear on that platform. People need to see the right spirit in my efforts to keep the unity of the spirit. The attitude is the worthy thing.

Striving together for the faith of the gospel

Do people see that we are "striving together for the faith of the good news of Christ" (1:27, NASU). The word is translated "contending" (NIV) or "striving" (KJV, NASU). The Greek word, *sunathleō*, "contend or struggle along with someone." It is used in 4:3, where Paul says, "Euodia and Syntyche have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel". Alongside Paul, they worked hard at fighting the good fight. Even for Paul, it was not a man's world to defend the gospel. The lesson for us is that "whatever happens" we cannot stop the struggle to make the gospel clear to our family, our neighbors, and our community.

from epoints, Jan 9, 2009

ELDERS: Dan Austin, Robyn E. Hamilton

DEACON: Matt Wells

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