**The Same Hour of the Night**

*Acts 16:33*

**Introduction**

1. On Paul’s 2nd missionary journey, they came to Troas where Paul had a vision indicating the Lord’s desire for them to preach the gospel in Macedonia – **Acts 16:9-10**
2. After converting a woman named Lydia with her household in Philippi, Paul and Silas were wrongfully imprisoned – **Acts 16:20-24**
3. These events led to the famous, moving account of a gentile jailor who would transition from suicidal hopelessness to the joyful hope of eternal life – **Acts 16:25-34**
   1. Supernatural activity, and an assumption of the worst-case scenario by the jailor – **(vv. 25-28)**
   2. The combination of knowledge concerning the activity of Paul and Silas in the city with their prison-bound worship, and the supernatural activity led the jailor to conclude their faith was substantiated, and their God was the true God – **(vv. 29-30)**
   3. Paul preached the gospel to him, and the jailor responded – **(vv. 31-34)**
      1. **(vv. 31-32)** – belief is based on the word of the Lord – He could not believe without being preached to **(cf. Romans 10:13-14).**
      2. **(v. 33)** – His actions corresponded directly to the message he heard – Time: same hour, immediately; Activity: repentance, baptism.
      3. **(v. 34)** – His obedient faith produced the joy that accompanies salvation by God’s grace. (***“having believed”*** – same belief required in **verse 31** – after noting his repentance and baptism in **verse 33**)
4. The Holy Spirit preserves important details for us, including the urgency of the matter:
   1. **(v. 30)** – the matter is the man’s salvation – what must he do?
   2. **(v. 33)** – the matter concerns what he had to do (**cf. Acts 2:38; 3:15** – repent and be baptized, converted).
   3. How urgent were these things for a man who truly comprehended what Paul preached, and believed it? – ***“same hour of the night,” “immediately”***
      1. ***“immediately”*** – *parachrēma* – “lit., “with the matter (or business) itself” (*para*, “with,” *chrema*, “a business,” or “event”), and so, “immediately,”” (VINE)
      2. What matter? – Baptism – when he was told the necessity of baptism, and believed, he was with the matter in action.
5. While many delay obedience, or schedule baptisms, consider the urgency of obedience to the gospel.
6. The Urgency of the Command of Baptism
7. The Place of the Blood
   1. Baptism is urgent because until one is scripturally baptized, they are not washed in the blood of Christ.
   2. **Hebrews 9:13-14; 10:22** – the purification of the conscience from sin by the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus is connected to our bodies being washed with pure water.
   3. **1 Peter 3:21** – baptism is an appeal for a clear conscience – explained to not be physical cleansing due to the physical act of being submerged in water.
8. The Place of the Birth
   1. Baptism is urgent because until one is scripturally baptized, they remain a child of wrath instead of a child of God.
   2. **Ephesians 2:1-7, 19; Romans 6:1-4** – we were children of wrath, but when God raised us up (in baptism) we were made His children and walk in newness of life. (New birth – **John 3:3, 5**)
9. The Place of the Blessings
   1. Baptism is urgent because until one is scripturally baptized, they remain outside of Christ and separated from the spiritual blessings in Him.
   2. **Ephesians 1:3; Galatians 3:26-27** – all spiritual blessings are in Christ, and baptism puts one into Christ.
   3. **1 Peter 1:3** – the living hope is possessed by those who are ***“begotten again”*** – baptism.
10. The Urgency of the Sinful Condition
11. The Separation from God
    1. We understand the urgency of physical disease and injury – these things need attention and care, and delays can be life-threatening.
    2. **Psalm 36:7-9** – God is the source of life. (**cf. John 5:26**)
    3. **Isaiah 59:1-2; Habakkuk 1:13** – sins separate us from God and therefore kill our soul. (**cf. Romans 6:23**)
    4. Jesus is the panacea, the cure-all that we need – **1 Timothy 2:5-6; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21** – Jesus is the only way we can be reconciled to God, and it is through His word that this is accomplished.
       1. If we had a physically life-threatening diagnosis, and were told there was an absolute cure, we would go to tremendous lengths to get a hold of it and with the greatest sense of urgency.
12. The Eternal Penalty
    1. Separation from God in this moment of time is spiritual death, but we struggle to comprehend the severity of it, and thus the urgency of being reconciled.
    2. We are told this will be made an eternal condition if we fail to get right with God – **James 1:14-15** (full grown); **Romans 6:23** (antithesis of eternal life)
    3. The Bible depicts hell for us to help us realize the urgency of avoiding this place of eternal penalty – **Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 21:8**
13. The Urgency of the Mortal Life
14. **Ecclesiastes 9:11-12** – mortal life is precarious for two reasons – time and chance.
15. The Uncertainty of Time
    1. **Psalm 39:4-6** – we must realize our days are numbered, few, and frail.
    2. **James 4:13-17** – we have no control over the time we have but are but a vapor – the passage emphasizes the need to realize lack of control, God’s control, and the urgency of prioritizing His will because of this.
16. The Uncertainty of Chance
    1. The time is not simply limited by the relatively short time span of a man’s life, but due to the ***“chance”*** involved in this physical existence.
       1. ***“chance”*** – *p̱eg̱a‘* – “occurrence, happening, chance” (BDB)
       2. ***“But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor evil occurrence.”*** (**1 Kings 5:4** – Solomon to Hiram, king of Tyre)
    2. The fact is, things just happen, and we don’t have near as much control over whether they do as we think we do.
    3. When the ark of God was captured by the Philistines, God struck their false God, and afflicted them with tumors, and they decided to send the ark back. However, in doing so, they administered a test – **1 Samuel 6:8-9**
       1. ***“chance”* (10x)** – *miqreh* – “what happens to someone not through their own will or actions and without any known instigator…(1.) incident, chance” (HALOT)
       2. 7/10 occurrences in Ecclesiastes – **Ecclesiastes 2:14, 15 (16); 3:19; 9:2, 3** – death, but in context of lacking a decision in the matter, by incident, chance, or accident.
       3. The most healthy and vigorous among us can perish in an instant, and none of us knows whether it will happen – hence, the urgency of obeying the gospel.
17. The Urgency of the Lord’s Coming
18. The Certainty and Uncertainty of the Promise
    1. Jesus clearly revealed a time of His second coming for final judgment – **John 5:28-29; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10** – judgment, punishment and reward.
    2. There is both a certainty, and uncertainty concerning this promise, and these must not be confused – **2 Peter 3:3-12**
       1. **(vv. 3-4)** – a false certainty about the Lord not coming in judgment.
       2. **(vv. 5-7)** – certainty the Lord is coming in judgment based on prior judgments.
       3. **(vv. 8-9)** – certainty the Lord is coming in judgment based on His character.
       4. **(v. 10)** – uncertainty concerning the exact timing of the Lord’s coming.
       5. **(vv. 11-12)** – the correct mindset to have based on the certainty and uncertainty of the promise – urgency and preparation.
    3. One thing we can be certain of is that HE IS COMING, but we are uncertain about WHEN – obeying the gospel is urgent for this very reason.
19. The Finality of that Day
    1. There are doctrines of demons which give the false security of second chances after death, or after the Lord’s coming. These are complete contradictions to the clear revelation of scripture.
    2. The urgency of obeying the gospel is exponentially increased when we realize that the end of our time, or the end of time in general seals the spiritual state of each individual.
    3. The finality expressed by the Lord – **Matthew 25:10-13** (foolish virgins); **Luke 13:22-30** (when the Master shuts the door)

**Conclusion**

1. We learn from the conversion account of the Philippian jailor about the urgency of obeying the gospel – **Acts 16:33**
2. When one comes to a knowledge of their sin, and of what they must do to have those sins taken away, ANY delay is a foolish gamble.