

Dual Citizenship to the Glory of King Jesus

1. The Crowd Came Unhinged in Their Hatred of Paul (22-24).

2. Paul Claimed His Rights as a Roman Citizen (25-29).

3. God Had Perfectly Prepared Paul for His Calling.

4. He Has Likewise Prepared Us for Ours.

CONCLUSION: This is the second time Paul has offered his Roman citizenship to protest his treatment by government authorities. How would Christ have us use our blessings, status, privilege, etc. to honor His name? When is self-preservation warranted? When is it not? How do you tell the difference? How does Paul's situation remind us of God's faithfulness? Why can we trust Him with our lives?

Acts 16:35-40

But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace." But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out." The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

Ephesians 2:13-22

But now in Christ Jesus *you who once were far off* have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Hebrews 11:13-16

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

I am grateful to the Lord for what He has given me, I just wish He had also given me _____. Have you ever thought that? I confess that I have far too many times. But the second part of the statement negates the first part. Biblical gratitude expresses faith in Christ who has given us all that we have and has also decreed what we don't have. Let's look to Him in faith this week.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 2:39; 16:35-40; 22:22-30; Ephesians 2:13-22; Hebrews 11:13-16; Jeremiah 29:10-14.** DISCUSS How had God prepared Paul before he was even born? How does God's provision for Paul encourage us now? PRAY "Lord Christ, teach us to trust You with all of our lives. Holy Spirit, open our eyes to Your purposes."

Sunday Evening

Come join the *Young Adults' Fellowship* tonight at 6pm. Pray for them!

Monday

READ **Acts 22:22-30; Isaiah 66:18-19a; Ephesians 2:13-22.** DISCUSS How was God's plan for gathering the nations aided by Paul's citizenship? How is He gathering those who were far off? MEDITATE on **Acts 2:39.** PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You for Your faithfulness. By Your Holy Spirit help us to rest in Your faithfulness as You make us faithful too."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 22:22-30; 16:35-40; 23:26-30.** DISCUSS What is recorded about Paul's Roman citizenship? How does God use it to facilitate Paul's witness to Christ's resurrection? How are you trusting Christ's preparations in your life to step out in faith and do what He commands? MEDITATE on **Acts 2:39.** PRAY, "Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness in giving us all we need. Guide us, Holy Spirit. "

Wednesday

READ **Acts 22:22-30; Hebrews 11:13-16; Ephesians 2:13-22**. DISCUSS, What did the saints in Hebrews have? What were they lacking? Why? MEDITATE on **Acts 2:39**. PRAY, “Lord, thank You for providing us all that we need. Make our hearts truly grateful. Teach us joy that springs from trusting You with our whole lives.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 22:22-30; Jeremiah 29:10-14**. DISCUSS, What are the plans that God has for us? How can we trust Him with them? MEDITATE on **Acts 2:39**. PRAY, Lord You alone are Wise. Teach us to trust Your wisdom and rejoice in what You have planned for us.”

Friday

READ **Acts 22:22-30; 16:35-40; Ephesians 2:13-22; Hebrews 11:13-16; Jeremiah 29:10-14**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if Christ has given you the honor to be identified among His people! MEDITATE on **Acts 2:39**. PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *There will be both the in-person and live-stream services available.* READ **Acts 23:1-35**. Invite others to join you for either *the in-person or live-stream service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to make us pure as doves and shrewd as serpents.

Acts 2:39

*“For the promise is for you and for your children
and for all who are far off,
everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”*