

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for January 24, 2016**

**The Conviction of the Jailer**  
**Acts 16:25-34**

Acts 15:36-18:23 records Paul's second missionary journey to Greece and the first city Paul visited was Philippi (Acts 16:11-40).

Paul upset the economic profit that certain people gain from a slave girl by casting out an evil spirit, which landed him in a prison in the hands of a jailer.

**1. Paul's faith (16:25)**

Regardless of our circumstances, we can pray and praise the Lord as an outflow of being filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-19; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17).

When we respond in a godly manner in the midst of difficulties in our life, people notice.

**2. Paul freed (16:26)**

Earthquakes are fairly common in this region of the world.

The earthquake broke the chains free from the wall and opened the doors of the prison and the deliverance was for all.

**3. Paul found (16:27-29)**

According to Roman law, a guard who allowed his prisoner to escape was liable to suffer the same penalty as the prisoner, which provides us an indication of Paul's sentence.

The expectation of the guard was for the prisoners to escape. Paul's escape would have made him a fugitive, and his love for the jailer led him to remain.

**4. Paul's fruitfulness (16:30-34)**

The jailer's concept of being "saved" was undoubtedly no where near a full understanding of what salvation meant, but it was more than simply a physical deliverance.

When anyone comes to faith they only know a part of what salvation really means. True faith involves giving all of what you know of yourself to all of what you know of Christ.

Our perspective of our need for God is far short of what our need truly is. Each one of us must grow in the understanding of our need of salvation.

The gospel is not complicated and is something we can communicate (16:31).

The essence of the gospel is the Lord Jesus. There is no other name that is able to convey salvation (cf. Acts 4:12), and there is no other name that is able to convey the title of Lord.

Regeneration follows belief. Belief is not simply an intellectual agreement, for there is no belief apart from following Christ, and there is no following Christ apart from learning.

The significance of baptism is seen in the timing of it. While baptism did not bring salvation (cf. Acts 10:44-48), it was important. The only prerequisite for salvation is belief, and according to Acts 16:34 those baptized had the ability to believe.

The jailer cared for the wounds that he was at least an indirect part of creating. One evidence of true faith is a desire to fix what we have broken.

May we respond to Jesus with the same eagerness of the jailer, through baptism, learning and service with joy.