

Pastor Notes:

November 10, 2024

It is both a surprising and odd scene. Maybe it was so out of the ordinary that the usual, “Shut the #&\$%# up, we’re trying to get some @#^\$% sleep,” didn’t find a voice. But let me back up. Paul and Silas had caused a ruckus in Philippi, they had liberated a psychic slave girl from an evil spirit, which made her unprofitable to her owners. This promptly got them dragged before the authorities, who ordered them to be severely beaten and locked up in jail. I am sure the Philippi Times reporter assigned to the crime beat thought he already had himself a very good story, but it only got better (find Acts 16:11-40 in a Bible and read it).

Paul and Silas hadn’t just been flogged, they were also thrown into the maximum security cell and had their feet clamped into stocks. Sitting there beaten, bloody, hurting, and deprived of their rights, those two Christian men were **“praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them”** Acts 16:25 (NASB). Now that is odd, and it seems it surprised both the other inmates as well as the jailors. They weren’t on their cell phones posting their gripes on Facebook or Instagram, they weren’t googling “Lawyers, Philippi, Macedonia,” they didn’t go into their contacts to find the phone numbers for the ACLU or Liberty Council, and they didn’t start or join a jailhouse conversation bemoaning the corrupt Phillipian court system or the terrible conditions of the prison. Instead, they prayed out loud and sang hymns of praise.

Years later, Paul wrote to the Philippian church and encouraged them to, **“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you” Philippians 4:4-9 (NASB).

I wonder, what do the people around you and me learn, receive, hear, and see? Especially in the tough, rough, unfair, painful, undeserved, worried, and stressful situations and circumstances of our lives? When do our rejoicing, gentleness, praying, giving thanks, praising, hopefulness, and good attitude go out the window, and are replaced with negativity, complaining, sour attitude, ungratefulness, and an eye for an eye thinking? I wonder, when they read Paul’s letter, did those Philippian Christians immediately think back to when Paul and Silas came to town and the jailhouse example they set?

The other prisoners and the guards were listening and observing. That happens outside of jail as well, someone hears and sees us. What they heard and saw changed their lives (if you haven’t done so yet, read the whole story, Acts 16:11-40). **“Give thanks in everything, in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”** 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (HCSB, italics mine).

Prayer, praise, and thanksgiving hold hands, they are a great-sounding trio, they sure were that night Paul and Silas were forced to spend in the Phillipian jail. I don’t think those two started doing this that night, this was their practice, their habit, their normal. They had learned to view life through a different lens, they had learned to let the Spirit of God control their hearts and minds, to **“be filled by the Spirit: speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music from your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for every-thing to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”** Ephesians 5:18-20 (HCSB).

So how do you become part of this awesome prayer-praise-thanksgiving band? You have to choose, sign up, show up, learn, and practice. You have to resign from the choir of the angry, ditch the ensemble of the complainers, and turn in your season tickets to the orchestra of negativity. You have to let the Holy Spirit be your manager, band leader, and drummer, which means he gets to direct, is in charge of the timing, and sets the itinerary, which might among other things include a jail cell or two. Then all that’s left to do is for us to pray, sing, praise, and give thanks to God with all our might. It also will make us a little odd in the best and God-honoring way.

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



Lord Hear Our Prayers

PRAYER REQUEST

Bob Clayton, Philip Law, Karen, Beverly (heart stent surgery),
Deanna (recovering from a stroke), Claire Wendel (pneumonia),
Jerry Criswell's son John passed away (praying God's mercy on
his soul and comfort for the family)
and those dealing with addiction.

SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray,
Farney, Peter, Jimmy, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Noah Martin,
John Michael Chavez, Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker,
Brian Sula, Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,
Christopher Sula, Dylan Briggs

CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us
know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862 and/or
e-mail **Judy Mahar** at ldpbcprayer@gmail.com with your
prayer requests.

Church Board Members:

Hans Frei - Pastor , Richard Mayes - Head Deacon ,
Sue Kluding, Gabi Cox, Chuck Arndt, Barb Deibler

November Announcements

Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesday @ 6:00 P.M.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages @ 7:00 P.M.
- Food Ministry - 1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday 9-11 AM
- Women's Ministry - Wednesday @10:00AM

Fellowship Refreshments were provided by:
"Hans' Class"

Thank you

Next week "Bart's Class" is up!!

Annual Church Business Meeting

Dec. 1st

(After the service)

It's Important that All Church Members attend
as we will discuss
New Church Board members, Deacon positions,
2025 Church Budget and so much more.

Fall is here

Giving

November 3, 2024

Offering:
\$2,868.00

Facilities:
\$80.00

Food:
\$80.00

Missions:
\$.00

World Hunger:
\$15.00

Attendance:
68

Weekly Events

Sunday School/Small Groups:

9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service:

10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship Service:

6:00 PM

Tuesday: Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday

Food Ministry:

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Wednesday:

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM

GriefShare - 6:30 PM (On Hiatus)

Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM

Thursday: Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

Saturday: Youth Hang-Out 6-9 PM

Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church

4175 Abeto Street

La Grange California 95329

209-852-2029

ldpbaptistchurch@gmail.com

www.ldpbaptistchurch.com

LAKE DON PEDRO
BAPTIST CHURCH

Be Saved

Acts 4:12

Sunday Services 10:30am & 6:00pm
LDPbaptistchurch.com

Yearly Bible Reading Plan - 2024

November 11th - November 17th



DAY 1 - Isa. 61-62
(Psalms 132)

DAY 2 - Isa. 63-64
(Psalms 133)

DAY 3 - Isa. 65-66
(Psalms 134)

DAY 4 - Micah 1-2
(Psalms 135)

DAY 5 - Micah 3-4
(Psalms 136)

DAY 6 - (Psalms 137)

DAY 7 - (Psalms 138)

Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.