

THE STERLING HERALD

Sterling Avenue Church of Christ | 816-356-3096 | sterlingavechurchofchrist.org | June 28th, 2020

I CONSIDER MYSELF FORTUNATE

By: Justin Berss

There are times in life when things don't go as planned or expected. I'm sure all of us have been in those situations from time to time. You may have had high hopes to enter a particular college but didn't get accepted. You may have been on track for a promotion, but it was given to someone else. Those kinds of situations abound in life. It is easy to allow those situations to discourage us. However, there may be a "silver lining" we have not yet seen or discovered.

The Apostle Paul finds himself in this kind of situation in Acts 26. Paul has made a defense of his apostleship before the Jews in Acts 22 which prompted an uproar among the Jews who wanted to kill him. Paul was taken in by the Romans and was sent to Felix, the governor to stand trial but Felix wishing to do the Jews a favor kept Paul in prison. In Acts 25, Paul makes his case before Festus, the new governor, and has an opportunity to speak to King Agrippa as well. In Acts 26, Paul begins to make his defense before King Agrippa and says this:

"In regard to all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, I consider myself fortunate, King Agrippa, that I am about to make my defense before you today; especially because you are an expert in all customs and questions among the Jews; therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently." (Acts 26:2-3)

Paul's attitude is incredible to me. He has been falsely accused by the Jews and now stands trial before King Agrippa and can say, "I consider myself fortunate." How is that Paul? How could you consider yourself fortunate after everything you have been through? Paul considered himself fortunate because everything in his past led him to this point in time where he has an opportunity to preach the good news of Jesus Christ to King Agrippa who was an expert in Jewish customs.

I wonder if we would see it that way? Would we see the "silver lining" as Paul did? Would we consider ourselves fortunate that despite all that has happened, it has brought us to an opportunity to tell someone about the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Sometimes the bad things that happen in life can turn out to be opportunities to help bring lost people to Jesus. Paul elaborated on this in Philippians 1 as he sat in prison and wrote to the Philippians.

"Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else." (Philippians 1:12-13)

FAMILY MATTERS

Once again, Paul sees obstacles, challenges, and what would otherwise be negative situations in a positive light as they provide an opportunity to advance the gospel.

This is such a needed reminder in our lives especially in the times in which we live. Think about what this might look like in our lives to have the same mindset as Paul?

- I may not have been accepted to the college of my choice, but I consider myself fortunate that I can at least receive an education.
- I may not have received the promotion at work I had hoped for, but I consider myself fortunate that I have a job.
- I may not be able to go out and do all that I want during this pandemic, but I consider myself fortunate to be healthy and virus free.
- I may not have the luxuries that so many people in this life have, but I consider myself fortunate that I have a roof over my head, clothing on my back, and food on the table.
- I may be discouraged and disheartened with what is happening in our society today, but I consider myself fortunate to serve the true and living God who is in control, sits upon His throne, and will bring me home to be with Him one day.

I needed Paul's words in Acts 26:2 this week and I hope you will take them with you too as you navigate the ups and downs of life. In all things, we ought to consider ourselves fortunate to have heard, received, and obeyed the gospel and to be fortunate enough to share it with those around us.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please keep **Linda Tarvin** in your prayers. Linda is the mother of Amber Vick, the wife of Nathan and daughter in law of Jerry and Ann. Linda is currently in the hospital battling a fever. Please keep Linda in your prayers as she battles this illness.
- Please be praying for **Linda Adams** who is mourning the loss of her sister Wilma. Let's reach out to our sister to encourage her as now she not only mourns the loss of her husband but her sister as well.
- Please keep **Gene McClung** in your prayers as he continues to battle ongoing health issues.
- We will be studying **Psalm 57** on Wednesday night (7/1/20) and keep an eye out for the Sunday night link for How to Study the Bible.

STERLING AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Norman Fultz: 816-554-0836

Jerry Vick: 816-734-8879

Deacons:

John Frazier: 816-510-7979

Gene McClung: 816-737-0181

Evangelist:

Justin Berss

270-320-6157