



Daily Reflections

May 19, 2018

Scripture

Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31

When he entered Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.

Three days later he called together the leaders of the Jews.

When they had gathered he said to them, "My brothers, although I had done nothing against our people or our ancestral customs,

I was handed over to the Romans as a prisoner from Jerusalem.

After trying my case the Romans wanted to release me,

because they found nothing against me deserving the death penalty.

But when the Jews objected, I was obliged to appeal to Caesar, even though I had no accusation to make against my own nation.

This is the reason, then, I have requested to see you

and to speak with you, for it is on account of the hope of Israel that I wear these chains."

He remained for two full years in his lodgings.

He received all who came to him, and with complete assurance and without hindrance he proclaimed the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Scripture Reflection

Today's Scripture text is a testament to the wonderful Truth: "The Lord keeps His promises." He said in Acts 1:8 that the disciples were to be His witnesses

“to the ends of the earth” and Paul in time would be the one who got there first. He arrived in chains and shackles, the former murderer turned great missionary and as soon as he arrives he wastes no time spreading the Gospel in the streets of Rome. He would do this right up to the moment that he willingly died on the cross in witness to the Lord. What an amazing story of faith, courage, irony and sacrificial love.

Food for your Journey

The longer I live, the more faith I have in Providence, and the less faith in my interpretation of Providence.

—Jeremiah Day.

If you are suffering without succeeding, then someone will succeed after you; if you are succeeding without suffering, then someone suffered before you.

A century ago, Jessie Penn-Lewis observed how God intends to refine believers, conforming them to the moral likeness of Christ: “There are as many grades of suffering among souls as grades of living among men. Suffering may be spiritual, mental or physical, or all of these blended into different forms and degrees. When a soul abandons itself entirely to God, with a perfect intention to be conformed to Jesus, the Holy Spirit in a particular way establishes a disciplinary government over it, and takes charge of every form of suffering such a one has, whether outward or inward, and so saturates every incident, trial and grief with the providence and purposes of God as to make it work for good.”

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious God, You said through the Prophet Isaiah, “My ways are not your ways, My thoughts are not your thoughts.” So often I get upset and frustrated because You do not respond to my pleas as I expect You to. Help me, Lord, to trust, to spend more time becoming humble and seeking Your desires for me and those I love so dearly. May Thy, rather than my will be done. Amen