

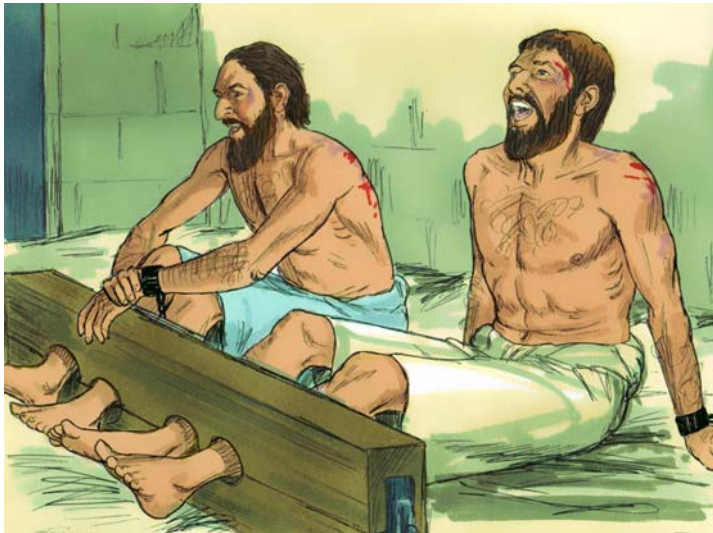
3. All servants of the Lord need _____,
Acts 15:36, 40-41, 16:5-10



Off to Egypt

4. All those who suffer need _____,
Acts 16:13-16, 25-34

(Philippians 4:11-13) "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: {12} I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. {13} I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



Central Mountains Baptist Church

AUGUST 27, 2017

The Gloom Index

At midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God. –Acts 16:25

Gray skies and blue moods—the two seem to go together. In fact, some weather forecasters describe the amount of cloudy days a region can expect during its winter season as "the gloom index."

Other factors might be figured into a gloom index. Think, for instance, of what Paul and Silas, those two first-century co-workers for Christ, endured (Acts 16). Any one of their troubles was enough to ruin the sunniest day.

Try to imagine the frustration of dealing with greedy profiteers who had turned a demon-possessed girl into a sideshow (vv.16-17). Think about the pain of confronting an angry mob and furious judges (v.22), of receiving a whipping and imprisonment (v.23), and of having your feet locked in stocks (v.24). How's that for a gloomy atmosphere?

Paul and Silas were able, though, to rise above their circumstances (v.25) because they were motivated by a desire to obey God and spread the message of Christ.

We too can rise above the gray skies of discouraging circumstances by relying on the Holy Spirit. We can find encouragement and hope in God's Son, our Lord and Savior,

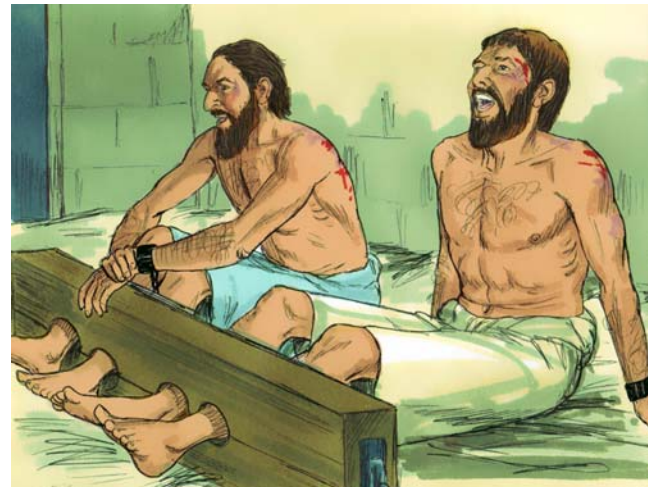
Jesus Christ. We can overcome the gloom index. –MRD II

God, give us wings to rise above

*The clouds of trial that block the sun,
To soar above gray skies and see*

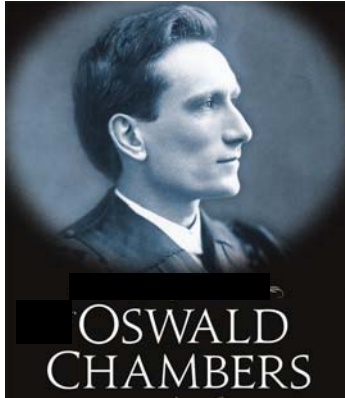
The love and goodness of Your Son. –Sper

No day is dark when you live in the light of God's Son.



Insights for Living

Follow Me



(Philippians 3:17) "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern."

The record that we have of the life of Paul, in the book of Acts, highlights 4 needs in our lives:

1. All people need _____,
Acts 7:58, 8:3, 9:3-6, 9, 17-21, 26

(Acts 22:3) "'I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.

(Acts 22:4) "I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women,"

(Acts 26:10) "'.. and when they were put to death, I cast my

vote against them."

(Romans 10:9) "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."



(2 Corinthians 5:15) "and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."

(Revelation 3:20) "'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

2. All teachers of the Word need _____, Acts 13:1-3

(Galatians 1:15-18) "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, {16} .. I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, {17} nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. {18} Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days."

(Galatians 2:1) "Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me."

(Acts 22:14-15) "'.. 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. {15} 'For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard."

(Acts 22:18) "'.. 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.'" (Acts 22:21) "'.. 'Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.'"

(Galatians 2:8) "(for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles),"

(Romans 11:13) "'.. I magnify my ministry,"

(1 Timothy 1:12) "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,"

(1 Timothy 3:2-7) "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; {3} not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; {4} one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence {5} (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); {6} not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. {7} Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

