HOPE SABBATH SCHOOL

Inspired Letters from Prison:
Philippians and Colossians

Part #1 PERSECUTED BUT NOT FORSAKEN

Scripture Song: Rejoice always – 1 Thess. 5:16-18, Phil. 4:6

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are beginning a new series on Inspired Letters from Prison: Philippians and Colossians. Today's topic: PERSECUTED BUT NOT FORSAKEN.

1) Paul, a prisoner in Rome

a. Acts 28:16,30 How long was the Apostle Paul held under house arrest in Rome?
b. What inspired letters did Paul write while imprisoned in Rome? Philippians 1:1-7, Colossians 1:1-2,4:2-3 (these two inspired letters will be the focus of our study in this series)
c. What other inspired letters did Paul write during his first imprisonment in Rome? (Ephesians, Philemon)
d. Why did Paul identify himself as "a prisoner of Jesus Christ" rather than "a prisoner of Rome"? Ephesians 3:1, Philemon v.1
e. How did Paul use his time in prison as "ambassador in chains"? Ephesians 6:20, Philippians 1:12-13
f. What other hardships had Paul experienced that prepared him for this time of imprisonment in Rome? 2 Corinthians 4:7-12
g. What can we learn from Paul about how to face hardship and persecution? 2 Corinthians 6:3-7
h. Why is the promise of the LORD recorded in Hebrews 13:5 meaningful for your life today?

2) Paul's first visit to Philippi

a. What miraculous intervention on Paul's second missionary journey led to his first visit to Philippi? Acts 16:6-12
b. What was special about the city of Philippi?
c. Who did Paul meet shortly after his arrival in Philippi? Acts 16:13-15
d. What suffering did Paul and his companion Silas experience in Philippi? Acts 16:22-23 (see Acts 9:16)

3) Paul and the city of Colossae

a. When did the Apostle Paul visit Colossae?
b. Where was Colossae located?
c. Who first shared the Gospel message with the citizens of Colossae? Colossians 1:1-8, 4:12-13
d. Where did Epaphras learn about Jesus? Acts 19:1,8-10 (possibly while visiting Ephesus)

4) Inspired letters from prison

a. What does the word "inspired" mean? 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21, 3:14-15
b. Who delivered Paul's letter to believers in Philippi? Philippians 2:25, 4:18
c. What do we know about Paul's two companions who delivered his letter to the believers in Colossae?
d. What are your thoughts about the way Paul begins these letters? Philippians 1:1-3, Colossians 1:1-2