

**Church – The Beginnings, Part 47**  
**Using our Rights as Citizens for the Sake of the Gospel**  
Acts 16:35-40 | 09/24/2017  
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP  
<https://NLFJI.org/ACTS>

For Today's Teaching, please go to: <https://wp1.NLFJI.org/314> (will be uploaded later)

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After spending some time in Philippi with Lydia and her household who were just saved in Christ, in the Messiah of Israel (all Jewish believers in their Messiah) ... Paul and Silas set out to go to the place of Prayer and then the team encounters the spirit of Python in a slave girl – eventually Paul casts out the demon – which led to Paul and Silas being dragged off to Prison, with all of their Roman Citizen Rights Violated. Then there was an Earthquake, an averted Suicide which led to a whole family becoming born-again in Christ – and a church was planted in Philippi, Macedonia (a Roman Colony).

1. When Paul and Silas were offered a “free ride out of town” what was Paul’s reaction? (see verses 35-37) – **Oh no you don’t – we are Citizens of Rome, beaten publicly, with a legal trial – no due process of law – all of our rights were violated, publicly. Uh uh, no you don’t!!! You come over here and tell us to our faces, and escort us out of Prison.**
2. What happened to “we just need to forgive people?”  
Why didn’t Paul & Silas just forgive them? (see Luke 17:3-4)  
**Forgiveness is a transaction per Jesus own words in Luke 17:3-4**
3. Why were the Magistrates (the chief political rulers) of Philippi so afraid after Paul responded? (verses 37-38) **Roman Citizens beaten in public without a legal trail – oh oh ... If Rome heard about that, it would be the end of their terms in office, etc.**
4. When and why is it a good thing, sometimes, to demand your rights?  
[ref. 1 Cor. 9:19-23] – **Paul did everything for the GOSPEL’s sake**  
**Paul is an example for us. We can use our civil rights, civilly in such a way that it be an advantage to us in spreading the Gospel or in protecting the church, etc. We know that after that, the church in Philippi did not have many problems with the civil authorities for quite a while.**
5. Contrast that with what Jesus commands of His followers: “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” [Luke 9:23] – how does that square with “demanding our rights”?  
**As individuals, we, each, are to deny our “old self” , our old sinful nature from ruling in our lives, and we are to surrender ourselves the rulership of Christ in our lives, daily. We are to live for Christ and for Christ’s Cause of the Spread of the Gospel. To live for Christ’s sake, for the Gospel’s sake. We can use, our civil rights, to our advantage for the Gospel’s sake, when appropriate and applicable.**
6. What were Paul & Silas’ main concerns as they were leaving town?  
Who did they go to and check on, on their way out of town?  
[ref. 2 Corinthians 11:22-28 – especially vs. 28]  
“besides the other things, **what comes upon me**  
(i.e.: what weighs upon me – or - what burdens me) daily:  
**my deep concern for all the churches”**

**Our main concern should be for the Gospel going forward and for the church (the people in those churches) to be healthy in Christ should → those should be our main concerns and it should shape our decisions with our use of our Time, Talents, and Treasure.**