

IGNITE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

Overwhelmed

Acts 16:12-40

October 22, 2023

Have you ever felt overwhelmed? Most often when the word overwhelmed is used, it is not in a positive sense. However, there are times when being overwhelmed is good. “I was overwhelmed by the generosity of my neighbors.” “I was overwhelmed by my surprise birthday party at work.” “Our defensive line overwhelmed their offense!”

As I was reading the record in Acts 16 of Paul’s ministry in Philippi, I was overwhelmed by four truths:

1. The grace of God: the gospel is powerful to save.

Philippians 1:3–6 (NASB95) ³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, ⁵ in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

- God initiates
- God enables

John 6:44; 2 Thessalonians 2:13–14

- The guilty responds (vs. 15, 33)

2. The Cost many have paid to proclaim the gospel. (vs. 16-24)

The gospel was spread on the broken, bruised, beaten, bloody backs of persecuted saints.

- The physical cost – they were beaten and thrown into jail
- The social cost – they were treated as outcasts and troublemakers
- The financial cost
- The emotional cost
- The spiritual cost

3. The gifts of prayer and praise.

Warren Wiersbe – “When God permits His children to go through the furnace, He keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat. His loving heart knows how much and how long. (1 Peter 1:6-7)”

- Prayer

Acts 4:21-31 (the disciples prayed)

- Praise - Singing

Spurgeon – “It is easy to sing when we can read the notes by daylight; but the skillful singer is he who can sing when there is not a ray of light to be read by... Songs in the night come only from God; they are not in the power of man.”

2 Chronicles 20:21-22; Job 35:10; Psalm 42:8

4. The simplicity of Salvation. (vs. 30-33)

- Believe in who Jesus is
- Believe in what Jesus did on the cross and His resurrection

John 20:31 But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Romans 10:9–10 ⁹ That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

John Phillips – “Do? Why all the doing has been done. Done by Jesus in His immaculate life and atoning death. “Believe” that was the word now. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.” It is as simple as that. This is the gospel reduced to its most elementary terms. Believe, not in a creed but in Christ, not in a statement of faith, not in baptism, not in good works, not in rite or ritual – but in the Lord Jesus Christ, in that glorious living, dynamic person who is alive for evermore and is might to save. In a Master – the Lord; in a Man – Jesus; in a Messiah - Christ, Lord.”

Today, let us respond with:

- Gratitude
- Humility
- Motivation

This week, take some time to sit down and write out beside each of these three responses how you are grateful, humbled, and motivated by what we have learned from Paul’s ministry in Philippi.