Philippians

Find Your Joy in Living Worthy of the Gospel

Marshall University

Southern Airways Flight 932 was a chartered Southern Airways Douglas . . . domestic . . . commercial jet flight from Stallings Field (ISO) in Kinston, North Carolina, to Huntington Tri-State Airport . . . , West Virginia. At 7:36 pm on November 14, 1970, the aircraft crashed into a hill just short of the Tri-State Airport, killing all 75 people on board. (wikipedia.org, "Southern Airways Flight 932")

Marshall University

The plane was carrying 36 members of the Marshall University Thundering Herd football team, nine members of the coaching staff, 25 boosters, and 5 flight crew members. The team was returning home after a 17–14 loss to the East Carolina Pirates at Ficklen Stadium in Greenville, North Carolina. (wikipedia.org, “Southern Airways Flight 932”)

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At the time, Marshall's athletic teams rarely traveled by plane, since most away games were within easy driving distance of the campus. The team originally planned to cancel the flight but changed plans and chartered the Southern Airways DC-9. The accident is the deadliest tragedy affecting any sports team in U.S. history. (wikipedia.org, “Southern Airways Flight 932”)

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- 2006 Movie, "We Are Marshall," slogan

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- The tragedy deeply impacted the community.
- It created a very somber state of mind for many.
- Some were bewildered, asking how and why.
- Few had courage to start the program over.

Philippians 1:12-18a

Chronology

- 49-50 AD, Claudius exiled Jews from Rome
- 50-70 AD, Zealots anti-Semitism and anti-Christian
- 50-52 AD, Philippian church started, and Paul jailed
- 61-63 AD, Paul jailed again, and Philippians written
- 64 AD, 1 Peter written, and fire in Rome
- 64-68 AD, Nero blames Christians and persecutes
- 64-65 AD, Paul and James executed
- 66-68 AD, 2 Peter written, and Peter crucified
- 70 AD, Jerusalem sacked, and Jews expelled

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Circumstances

- Paul went to Jerusalem, Acts 21:11-14
- Paul arrested in the temple, Acts 21:27-31
- Paul gave his testimony, Acts 21:39
- Paul readied for torture, Acts 22:24-25
- Paul brought to council, Acts 22:30
- Jews plotted to kill Paul, Acts 23:12-15
- Paul sent to Gov. Felix, Acts 23:31-33
- Paul kept in custody, Acts 24:26-27

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Popular Prisoners

- Mohandas Karamchand Ghandi, 1908-1942 (several)
- Al Capone, 1934-1939 (Alcatraz)
- Martin Luther King, 1962-1965 (several)
- Nelson Mandela, 1964-1990

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- Their times in jail incited **publicity**.

- Edward Snowden, ?

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- Has this happened before, persecution that led to preaching?

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Persecution that led to preaching

- Apostles jailed, Acts 5:17-18
- More preaching, Acts 5:19-20
- Gamaliel's insight, Acts 5:34-39
- Stephen seized, Acts 6:8-12
- Stephen stoned, Acts 7:54-58
- More preaching, Acts 8:1-4

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Envy and Strife

- out of selfish ambition
  - promoted themselves to the elevated position that Paul had
- cause me distress in my imprisonment
  - to make him think he was not doing his job or going to lose his position

Good Will

- out of love
  - so supportive to Paul that they stepped up to help him
- defense of the gospel
  - to proclaim the gospel of Christ

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When Proclaiming
the Gospel

- Intention
  - Right
  - Wrong
- Doctrine
  - Sound
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Colossians 4:3

- Pray at the same time for us as well that God will open up to us a door for the word so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ for which I have also been imprisoned.

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Acts 18:26

- He began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

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Matthew 18:15-17

- "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private . . . But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you . . . If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

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Titus 3:10-11

- Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

- But also . . .

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Exhortation

- evangelistic, teacher of evangelism, evangelist
- Phil 1:14—courage to speak the [gospel] without fear
- Eph 6:15—shod your feet with the gospel
- Phil 4:9—what you have learned, practice these things
- Phil 1:18—in every way, Christ is proclaimed
- 2 Ti 3:12—all who live godly will be persecuted
- Phil 1:18—in this you will find your joy