



Heartbeats along the way: The God-Guarded Heart

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7

Paul and Silas planned another missionary journey to Turkey, but... Can you believe it? The Holy Spirit FORBADE Paul and Silas from preaching the Gospel there this time, so they went to Europe. Philippi became the first church in Europe. It began by a river bank when, on a Sabbath day, Paul and Silas talked with some women who were worshiping and doing laundry. Acts 16 tells the full story: preaching, beatings, jailing, praying, singing, release, and Gospel victory!

I imagine Paul was thinking about his days in Philippi when he wrote this inspiring message to the house churches there.

"Surpasses all understanding" - what does this mean? Who could understand how forbidding Paul to preach in one place would lead to a greater opportunity to announce the Gospel elsewhere; how a cruel beating and imprisonment would lead to establishing the Gospel in Europe.

It's a lesson to Paul and us, that in everything God will guard us - hearts, minds and souls - if we follow where God leads in proclaiming the Gospel. We don't need to explain or solve some equation about God's peace. We just need to accept the promise that God guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

There's a lot we can't explain as we journey to the Spring Garden Campus. But we can experience God's peace because God guards our hearts and minds every step of the way.

"Gracious God, fulfill Your promise to guard our hearts and minds as we make our way to the place You have called us to build to offer the Gospel and to serve Your children everywhere. Amen."

~ cl reynolds