

When the applause eventually stopped, he nodded at the conductor to begin the encore. The violinist smiled at the audience and shouted, "Paganini . . . and one string!" Placing his instrument under his chin, he played again with that one string.

With that in mind, one commentator writes, "The longer I live, the more convinced I become that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it." Supporting his conviction with Scripture, he reviewed the response of Paul and Silas as they sat in stocks in prison. Instead of bemoaning their lot, they made use of the "one string" they had left—they prayed and sang praises to God (Acts 16:25). As a result of their testimony, the jailer and his entire household were converted and baptised.

Have you allowed life's adversities to discourage and immobilise you? With God's help, make the most of the "one string" you have left. —JEY

*In times of great adversity,
Resources nearly gone,
Through faith in God a Christian can
Triumphantly go on. —Hess*

If you keep in tune with Christ, you can sing even when all is dark.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

OCTOBER 1, 2017

One String



At midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God. —Acts 16:25

Italian violinist Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840) was playing a difficult piece of music before a large audience. Suddenly one string on his violin snapped, yet he continued to play, improvising beautifully. Then two more strings broke, and he completed the composition playing with only one string.

Insights for Living Learning from the Church at Philippi (2)



(Judges 9:54) "Then he called quickly to the young man, his armorbearer, and said to him, "Draw your sword and kill me.." " So his young man thrust him through, and he died."

(1 Samuel 31:4) "Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, ..." But his armorbearer would not, ... Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it."

(2 Samuel 17:23) "Now when Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, he .. went home ... Then he put his household in order, and hanged himself, ..."

(Matthew 27:5) "Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself."



We have two further lessons to learn from the church plant at Philippi:

1. See the _____ you have in _____, Acts 16:17, 25-34, 12:19

(Romans 6:23) "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

(Romans 10:9) "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

(2 Corinthians 5:15) "and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."

(2 Corinthians 5:17) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

(Acts 8:36-37) ".. What hinders me from being baptized?" {37} Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." ..."

(Matthew 28:18-20) "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. {19} "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."

(Jeremiah 29:11) "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."



(Isaiah 63:9) "In all their affliction He was afflicted, ..."

(Psalms 56:8) "You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?"

(Isaiah 43:2) "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the

rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall

the flame scorch you."

(Hebrews 13:5) ".. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you.""

(Matthew 6:34) ""Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

(2 Corinthians 9:8) "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

(Romans 15:4) "For whatever things were written .. that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

(Hebrews 12:3-4) "For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. {4} You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin."

(1 Peter 1:3-4) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,"

(2 Corinthians 5:20) "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, ...: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20) ".. you are not your own? {20} For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

2. Use the _____ for _____, Acts 16:35-40, 13:22, 17:6

(Acts 25:11-12) ""For if I am an offender, ..., I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things ... I appeal to Caesar." {12} Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered,

"You have appealed to Caesar? To Caesar you shall go!""

(Romans 13:1-4) "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. {2} Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, ... {3} For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. ... {4} For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil."

(Acts 5:29) ".. "We ought to obey God rather than men."

(Proverbs 21:1) "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes."

(Daniel 2:48) "Then the king promoted Daniel .. and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, ..."

(Isaiah 44:28) ".. 'He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid.""

(1 Corinthians 9:16) ".. woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!"

(Acts 24:16) "".. I ..always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men."

(Romans 14:21) "It is good neither to .. do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak."

(1 Corinthians 10:32) "Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,"

(2 Corinthians 6:3) "We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed."

(1 Corinthians 9:22) ".. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

