**GOOD REPORT ABOUT THE CHURCH**

July 24, 2016

***“Dear brothers and sisters, after we were separated from you for a little while (though our hearts never left you), we tried very hard to come back because of our intense longing to see you again. We wanted very much to come to you, and I, Paul, tried again and again, but Satan prevented us. After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! Yes, you are our pride and joy.”***

***1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 NLT***

**THE JEWISH LEADERS**

* + - They were afraid of losing their political position and power.
    - They resented the fact that Christians were preaching the Good News to the Gentiles.
    - The Jews didn't want the Gentiles to be saved. A lot of animosity towards the Gentile people.
    - The anger of God. Cannot speak against Christ and the church continuously.
      1. Destruction of Jerusalem
      2. Hardening their hearts to the point of no return.

**DIFFICULT TIMES**

* + - Being a Jew himself, it was difficult for Paul to see his own countrymen rejecting Jesus.
    - Paul and his team were facing a lot of adversity, accusations and lies.
    - The team chose to respond in Humility.

***“Humility does not mean you think less of yourself. It means you think of yourself less.”***

* + - Paul, Silas, and Timothy chose to be Obedient and Action their beliefs. (Believe and Belive)

***“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if He doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.””***

Daniel 3:16-18 NLT

***“This is what the LORD says: “Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the LORD.***

***They are like stunted shrubs in the desert, with no hope for the future.***

***They will live in the barren wilderness, in an uninhabited salty land.***

***“But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence.***

***They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water.***

***Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought.***

***Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.”***

Jeremiah 17:5-8 NLT

**LIVING TO YOUR FULL POTENTIAL**

1. **COURAGE**

-Strength in the face of pain or grief. Act on one's belief despite danger or disapproval.

2. **CLEAR CONVICTION**

**-What would you die for? What would you live for?**

**-What will you give your life to?**

**-What kind of life do you want to live?**

**-What are you passionate about?**

**-What kind of person do you want to be?**

-**What values, principals, beliefs do you live by?**

**-Where do they come from?**

**-What kind of legacy do you want to leave behind?**

**Sometimes You Win--Sometimes You Learn**

John C. Maxwell & John Wooden

Humility: The Spirit of Learning

*Success and fame don’t always come to the most talented people. Sometimes they come to the person who can turn adversity into advantage.*

*When people are humble enough to have a clear and realistic view of themselves, their vision is usually also clear and realistic when they face their mistakes, failures, and other losses.*

*“When lack of humility makes us “out of tune” within ourselves, the world gets out of focus.*

*We lose perspective and have difficulty learning”*

*“Mistakes can often be our best teachers. If we are willing to admit them and learn from them, we gain in knowledge and wisdom. We can do so if every time we take time to reflect on them by asking:*

*What went wrong?*

*When did it go wrong?*

*Where did it go wrong?*

*Why did it go wrong?*

*How did I contribute to making it go wrong?*

*What can I learn from this experience?*

*How will I apply what I’ve learned in the future?”*