

~RCW~

ABLAZE FOR A PURPOSE

Rev. Dr. Richard C. Whitcomb
pastor.whitcomb@agapehouseghana.org

Acts 16:22-28 “The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, ‘Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!’”

THREE TRUTHS ABOUT BEING ABLAZE FOR A PURPOSE

1. Now is the RIGHT TIME to be ABLAZE.

Acts 16:23-24 “After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.”

Ezra 9:9 “For we were slaves, but in His unfailing love our God did not

abandon us in our slavery. Instead, He caused the kings of Persia to treat us favorably. He revived us so we could rebuild the Temple of our God and repair its ruins.”

Psalm 119:49-50 “Remember Your promise to me; it is my only hope. Your promise revives me; it comforts me in all my troubles.”

We expect revival because of who God is and what God has promised.

Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 “We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely on God, who raises the dead. And He did rescue us from mortal danger, and He will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in Him, and He will continue to rescue us.”

**Great hope grows out of
great hardship.**

**Difficult days are fertile ground
for revival.**

Matthew 24:14 “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

2. JESUS is the REASON to be ABLAZE.

Acts 16:25 “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God.”

Matthew 12:21 “His name will be the hope of all the world.”

Ephesians 2:12 “In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you

did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.”

Job 8:13 “Such is the hopeless future of all who turn from God.”

Acts 4:12 “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

Revival always centers around Jesus.

3. REVOLUTIONARY RESULTS occur when we become ABLAZE.

Acts 16:26-28 “Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, ‘Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!’”

God uses our song of praise rising at midnight to shatter shackles and demolish dungeons.

1 Peter 1:13 “Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.”

Romans 10:14-15 “But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?”

Memory Verse: Acts 4:12 “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”