

Acts 22:10 “What Shall I Do, Lord?”

12/17/16 Sat Morn Prayer

O Little Town of Bethlehem – Philip Brooks - sung by Nat King Cole

*Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love
Oh morning stars together, proclaim thy holy birth.
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to men on earth.*

*Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

Silent Night! – Joseph Mohr - sung by George Beverly Shea

*Silent night, holy night All is calm, all is bright
Round your Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace Sleep in heavenly peace*

*Silent Night, Holy Night Shepherds quake at the sight
Glory streams from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing hallelujah. Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born*

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth..*

Act 22:10 *So I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.'*

Context/Biblical Background – Paul is back in Jerusalem – Acts. 21:17 and following. He had come back from his missionary journey bringing an offering from the Gentile churches to the Jewish church in Jerusalem. He is trying to break down these barriers between the Gentile and Jewish believers by bringing the offering. He also desired to be there for the Feast of Pentecost. Those feast times were great times in Jerusalem. Hundreds of thousands of people would gather. Great holidays. Great times of celebration. Great times of worshipping God. Paul wanted to be there. Now those were the two ostensible reasons. There probably was a third reason that Paul wanted to be there and that is to share the gospel with the Jews. Paul always desired to bring the gospel message to the Jews. He felt that he understood them sufficiently so that he could convince them that Jesus was the Messiah. So here in Acts Chapter 21, he returns. When he was in the temple with four men who had gone through a purification ritual, Jews from Asia gathered making false charges against Paul. A mob gathered. They seized Paul and were seeking to kill him. Guards from the Roman garrison at the temple rescued him. He asked that he be allowed to address the mob. Beginning in verse 1 of Chapter 22, we have that account. It is in that account that Paul brings up his Damascus Road conversion. In that testimony he recited the events of his being apprehended by the Lord and his response. **Act 22:7-9** *And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' [8] So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' [9] 'And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me.*

Saul's (Paul's) conversion is one of the most significant events in the Bible. Today, we want to look at Paul's second question.

The Lord Meets Paul on the Damascus Road - Saul's Second Question:

Act 22:10 *So I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.'*

- **v. 10** *What shall I do, Lord?* Few venture to really ask God such a question, but when we ask it, we must ask it with submission and determined obedience.
- Saul's question was *personal*. He asked the question with an "I": "**What shall I do, Lord?**" We often are quite interested in what God wants others to do. But the surrendered heart asks, "**What shall I do, Lord?**"
- In Acts chapter 10 as we read of Peter being called to go to the Gentiles with the gospel, the house of Cornelius in Caesarea, as the Lord is preparing Peter, breaking down some of the prejudice that the Jew had against the Gentile. As the Lord had let down the sheet from heaven in the vision that Peter had, and the command of the Lord was, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat." He said not so, Lord. That is an inconsistent statement. You can't really say, not so, Lord, can you? You can say not so, friend. Not so, to your spouse. But you can't say, not so, Lord. Paul has the correct response. What shall I do, Lord? If you call Jesus, Lord, that is correct. It isn't denying or refusing to do, but Lord, **what shall I do?**
- *So I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?'* An important evidence of being converted. **Rom 10:9-10** *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. [10] For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Paul is surrendering himself to the Lordship of Jesus. *What shall I do, Lord?*

- Paul assures them that when he was so startled on the Damascus Road, he referred himself entirely to a divine guidance. His immediate response was not, "Well, I will be a Christian," but, "*What shall I do, Lord?*" Let the same voice from heaven that has stopped me in the wrong way guide me into the right way, Act 22:10.
- Lord, tell me what I shall do, and I will do it." And immediately he had directions to go to Damascus, and there he should hear further from the Lord, who now spoke to him.
- Another Biblical example of an initial response is in *Isa 3:10* Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."
- What an example this is for each of us! How we need, not only initially, but continually, be seeking our Lord for His providential guidance in asking, "*What shall I do, Lord?*"
- Should that not be our question at the beginning of every day, as well as continuing through each day as we are led by the Spirit in our hourly and daily walk.

SUMMARY:

- ❖ What a wonderful conversion? One of the best conversion accounts in the Bible!
- ❖ Notice the two great questions – Who are You, Lord? What shall I do, Lord?
- ❖ Consider well, your answers to both questions.
May each of us focus on, "What shall I do, Lord?" Today and all the tomorrows!
(Isa 12:23) Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.
- ❖ 1Th 4:3-6 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; [4] that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, [5] not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; [6] that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.
- ❖ 1Th 5:16-18 Rejoice always, [17] pray without ceasing, [18] in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- ❖ 1Pe 2:15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—

PRAY TODAY FOR: (Name persons, name things, take direct aim at the objective of your supplications)

- Our Church, Nationally and locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; for kings and those in authority
- Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and the one VACANCY
- Our President and Vice President: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence.
The new administration being formed! Cabinet Members: Sec. of State – Rex Tillerson; Treasury Sec. – Steven Mnuchin; Defense Sec. – Gen. James Mattis; Attorney General – Jeff Sessions; Interior Sec. – Ryan Zinke; Agriculture – still open; Commerce Sec. – Wilbur Ross; Labor – Andrew Puzder; Health & Human Services Sec. – Tom Price; HUD Sec. – Ben Carson; Transportation Sec. – Elaine Chou; Energy – Rick Perry; Education Sec. – Betsy DeVos; Vet. Affairs – still open; Homeland Security – Gen. John Kelly; Cabinet Level Officials: – Reince Priebus; U.N Ambassador – Nikki Haley; EPA – Scott Pruitt; Trade – still open; Budget – Mick Mulvaney; Economy – still open; C.I.A. Director – Mike Pompeo; SBA – Linda McMahon; Nat'l Security Advisor – Michael Flynn; Chief Strategist – Stephen Bannon; Ambassador to Israel – David Friedman; Supreme Court candidate: Judge Raymond Gruender

INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR THE NATIONS:

ANGOLA - Republic of Angola, Africa - Pray for: *Those seeking to alleviate physical suffering; Healing of the invisible wounds; The Church, despite great growth, has not emerged unscathed from decades of conflict. Much prayer is needed, specifically for: Forgiveness and love in action; The right relationship between Church and state; Christ-like, holy living by followers of the Lord Jesus that commends the gospel to Unbelievers; Unity in the gospel; The challenge to biblical faith is great; Christian leadership is still the most critical challenge before the Church; Young people and children.* Pray for: *a) Primary and secondary schools; Ministry to students; Churches to increase their vision; Humanitarian ministries, such as WVI, Samaritan's Purse; Support ministries such as MAF; c) "Traditional" mission agencies; Media and support ministries: The Bible Society; GRN; Radio broadcasts, through TWR; Pray for more programs for these languages and a wider listening audience; The JESUS film*

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