

“FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES”

PAUL’S ENEMIES AND ALLIES – CLASS 3



WHO WERE PAUL'S "FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES"?



- RULERS OF ASIA
- LEADING GREEK WOMEN
- CENTURIONS & CHIEF CAPTAINS
- GAMALIEL
- OTHER OFFICIALS



“FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES” VS “FRIENDSHIP OF THE WORLD”!

- JAMES 4:4 YE ADULTERERS AND ADULTERESSES, KNOW YE NOT THAT THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE WORLD IS ENMITY WITH GOD? WHOSOEVER THEREFORE WILL BE A FRIEND OF THE WORLD IS THE ENEMY OF GOD.
- COLOSSIANS 4:5 WALK IN WISDOM TOWARD THEM THAT ARE WITHOUT, REDEEMING THE TIME.
- 1TIMOTHY 3:7 MOREOVER HE MUST HAVE A GOOD REPORT OF THEM WHICH ARE WITHOUT; LEST HE FALL INTO REPROACH AND THE SNARE OF THE DEVIL.

WINNING “FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES”

??? WORK IN PROGRESS

- SOMETHING ABOUT HOW TO ‘WIN’ THESE FRIENDS AND WHY.....

THESSALONICA

- ACTS 17:1 NOW WHEN THEY HAD PASSED THROUGH AMPHIPOLIS AND APOLLONIA, THEY CAME TO THESSALONICA, WHERE WAS A SYNAGOGUE OF THE JEWS:
- 2 AND PAUL, AS HIS MANNER WAS, WENT IN UNTO THEM, AND THREE SABBATH DAYS REASONED WITH THEM OUT OF THE SCRIPTURES,
- 3 OPENING AND ALLEGING, THAT CHRIST MUST NEEDS HAVE SUFFERED, AND RISEN AGAIN FROM THE DEAD; AND THAT THIS JESUS, WHOM I PREACH UNTO YOU, IS CHRIST.
- 4 AND **SOME** OF THEM BELIEVED, AND **CONSORTED** WITH PAUL AND SILAS; AND OF THE DEVOUT GREEKS A GREAT MULTITUDE, **AND OF THE CHIEF WOMEN NOT A FEW.**



BEREA

- ACTS 17:10 AND THE BRETHREN IMMEDIATELY SENT AWAY PAUL AND SILAS BY NIGHT UNTO BEREA: WHO COMING THITHER WENT INTO THE SYNAGOGUE OF THE JEWS.
- 11 THESE WERE MORE NOBLE THAN THOSE IN THESSALONICA, IN THAT THEY RECEIVED THE WORD WITH ALL READINESS OF MIND, AND SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY, WHETHER THOSE THINGS WERE SO.
- 12 THEREFORE **MANY** OF THEM BELIEVED; **ALSO OF HONOURABLE WOMEN WHICH WERE GREEKS, AND OF MEN, NOT A FEW.**
- 13 **BUT** WHEN THE JEWS OF THESSALONICA HAD KNOWLEDGE THAT THE WORD OF GOD WAS PREACHED OF PAUL AT BEREA, THEY CAME THITHER ALSO, AND STIRRED UP THE PEOPLE.



ATHENS... MARS HILL SPEECH!!

- ACTS 17:14-15 AND THEN IMMEDIATELY THE BRETHREN SENT AWAY PAUL TO GO AS IT WERE TO THE SEA: BUT SILAS AND TIMOTHEUS ABODE THERE STILL. **AND THEY THAT CONDUCTED PAUL BROUGHT HIM UNTO ATHENS:** AND RECEIVING A COMMANDMENT UNTO SILAS AND TIMOTHEUS FOR TO COME TO HIM WITH ALL SPEED, THEY DEPARTED.
- 16 NOW WHILE PAUL WAITED FOR THEM AT ATHENS, HIS SPIRIT WAS STIRRED IN HIM, WHEN HE SAW THE CITY WHOLLY GIVEN TO IDOLATRY.



MARS HILL SPEECH!!

- ACTS 17:31 BECAUSE HE HATH APPOINTED A DAY, IN THE WHICH HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS BY THAT MAN WHOM HE HATH ORDAINED; WHEREOF HE HATH GIVEN ASSURANCE UNTO ALL MEN, IN THAT HE HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD.
- 32 AND WHEN THEY HEARD OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, **SOME MOCKED**: AND OTHERS SAID, **WE WILL HEAR THEE AGAIN OF THIS MATTER**.
- 33 SO PAUL DEPARTED FROM AMONG THEM.
- 34 **HOWBEIT** CERTAIN MEN CLAVE UNTO HIM, AND BELIEVED: AMONG THE WHICH WAS DIONYSIUS THE AREOPAGITE, AND A WOMAN NAMED DAMARIS, AND OTHERS WITH THEM.



EPHESUS

- ACTS 19:29-30 AND THE WHOLE CITY [EPHESUS] WAS FILLED WITH CONFUSION: AND HAVING CAUGHT GAIUS AND ARISTARCHUS, MEN OF MACEDONIA, PAUL'S COMPANIONS IN TRAVEL, THEY RUSHED WITH ONE ACCORD INTO THE THEATRE. AND WHEN PAUL WOULD HAVE ENTERED IN UNTO THE PEOPLE, THE DISCIPLES SUFFERED HIM NOT.
- 31 AND CERTAIN OF THE CHIEF OF ASIA, WHICH WERE HIS FRIENDS, SENT UNTO HIM, DESIRING HIM THAT HE WOULD NOT ADVENTURE HIMSELF INTO THE THEATRE.



CENTURIONS & CHIEF CAPTAINS

- MOST CENTURIONS WERE OF PLEBEIAN ORIGIN AND WERE PROMOTED FROM THE RANKS OF THE COMMON SOLDIERS. THEY FORMED THE BACKBONE OF THE LEGION AND WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING DISCIPLINE. THEY RECEIVED MUCH HIGHER PAY AND A GREATER SHARE OF THE SPOILS THAN DID COMMON SOLDIERS.

[HTTPS://WWW.BRITANNICA.COM/TOPIC/CENTURION-ROMAN-MILITARY-OFFICER](https://www.britannica.com/topic/centurion-roman-military-officer)



CENTURIONS & CHIEF CAPTAINS



- “THE CENTURION IN THE INFANTRY IS CHOSEN FOR HIS SIZE, STRENGTH AND DEXTERITY IN THROWING HIS MISSILE WEAPONS AND FOR HIS SKILL IN THE USE OF HIS SWORD AND SHIELD; IN SHORT FOR HIS EXPERTNESS IN ALL THE EXERCISES. HE IS TO BE VIGILANT, TEMPERATE, ACTIVE AND READIER TO EXECUTE THE ORDERS HE RECEIVES THAN TO TALK; STRICT IN EXERCISING AND KEEPING UP PROPER DISCIPLINE AMONG HIS SOLDIERS, IN OBLIGING THEM TO APPEAR CLEAN AND WELL-DRESSED AND TO HAVE THEIR WEAPONS CONSTANTLY RUBBED AND BRIGHT.”
- CENTURIONS HAD TO BE AT LEAST 30 YEARS OF AGE, LITERATE (TO READ WRITTEN ORDERS), HAVE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION, AND AT LEAST SEVERAL YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE. AS A COMMANDER, A CENTURION HAD TO BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN HIS TROOPS’ MORALE IN PEACE AND INSPIRE HIS MEN IN BATTLE.
- [HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/CENTURION](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centurion)

ROMANS RESCUE PAUL IN JERUSALEM! (ACTS 21)

- V. 30-32 ...WHEN THEY SAW THE CHIEF CAPTAIN AND THE SOLDIERS, THEY LEFT BEATING OF PAUL...
- V. 37-38 AND AS PAUL WAS TO BE LED INTO THE CASTLE, HE SAID UNTO THE CHIEF CAPTAIN, MAY I SPEAK UNTO THEE? WHO SAID, CANST THOU SPEAK GREEK? ART NOT THOU THAT EGYPTIAN, WHICH BEFORE THESE DAYS MADEST AN UPROAR, AND LEDDEST OUT INTO THE WILDERNESS FOUR THOUSAND MEN THAT WERE MURDERERS?
- V. 39 BUT PAUL SAID, I AM A MAN WHICH AM A JEW OF TARSUS... I BESEECH THEE, SUFFER ME TO SPEAK UNTO THE PEOPLE.
- V. 40 AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN HIM LICENCE... HE SPAKE UNTO THEM IN THE HEBREW TONGUE, SAYING...

CENTURIONS & CHIEF CAPTAINS (ACTS 22)

- V. 24 THE CHIEF CAPTAIN COMMANDED HIM TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE CASTLE, AND BADE THAT HE SHOULD BE EXAMINED BY SCOURGING...
- V. 25 PAUL SAID UNTO THE CENTURION THAT STOOD BY, IS IT LAWFUL FOR YOU TO SCOURGE A MAN THAT IS A ROMAN, AND UNCONDEMNED?
- V. 26-28 WHEN THE CENTURION HEARD THAT, HE WENT AND TOLD THE CHIEF CAPTAIN, SAYING, TAKE HEED WHAT THOU DOEST: FOR THIS MAN IS A ROMAN. THEN THE CHIEF CAPTAIN CAME, AND SAID UNTO HIM, TELL ME, ART THOU A ROMAN? HE SAID, YEA. AND THE CHIEF CAPTAIN ANSWERED, WITH A GREAT SUM OBTAINED I THIS FREEDOM. AND PAUL SAID, BUT I WAS FREE BORN.
- V. 29 ... THE CHIEF CAPTAIN ALSO WAS AFRAID, AFTER HE KNEW THAT HE WAS A ROMAN, AND BECAUSE HE HAD BOUND HIM.
- V. 30 ON THE MORROW, BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE KNOWN THE CERTAINTY WHEREFORE HE WAS ACCUSED OF THE JEWS, HE LOOSED HIM FROM HIS BANDS, AND COMMANDED THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND ALL THEIR COUNCIL TO APPEAR, AND BROUGHT PAUL DOWN, AND SET HIM BEFORE THEM.

CENTURIONS & CHIEF CAPTAINS (ACTS 23)

- V. 12-15 FORTY JEWS MAKE A VOW TO EAT NOTHING UNTIL THEY KILL PAUL!
- V. 16-22 PAUL'S SISTER'S SON HEARS OF THE PLOT
 - HE TELLS PAUL
 - PAUL TELLS THE CENTURION
 - THE CENTURION TELLS THE CHIEF CAPTAIN
 - THE CHIEF CAPTAIN TAKES THE TIME TO LISTEN TO THE LAD
- V. 23-24 THE CHIEF CAPTAIN TAKES IT SERIOUSLY AND ORDERS TWO CENTURIONS AND THEIR MEN, SEVENTY HORSEMEN AND TWO HUNDRED SPEARMEN TO CONDUCT PAUL SAFELY TO CAESAREA!

CLAUDIUS LYSIAS SENDS A LETTER!

- ACTS 23:25-30 AND HE [THE CHIEF CAPTAIN] WROTE A LETTER AFTER THIS MANNER:
- “CLAUDIUS LYSIAS UNTO THE MOST EXCELLENT GOVERNOR FELIX SENDETH GREETING.
- THIS MAN WAS TAKEN OF THE JEWS, AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED OF THEM: THEN CAME I WITH AN ARMY, AND **RESCUED HIM**, HAVING UNDERSTOOD THAT **HE WAS A ROMAN**.
- AND WHEN I WOULD HAVE KNOWN THE CAUSE WHEREFORE THEY ACCUSED HIM, I BROUGHT HIM FORTH INTO THEIR COUNCIL: WHOM I PERCEIVED TO BE ACCUSED OF QUESTIONS OF THEIR LAW, BUT TO HAVE NOTHING LAID TO HIS CHARGE WORTHY OF DEATH OR OF BONDS.
- AND WHEN IT WAS TOLD ME HOW THAT THE JEWS LAID WAIT FOR THE MAN, I SENT STRAIGHTWAY TO THEE, AND GAVE COMMANDMENT TO HIS ACCUSERS ALSO TO SAY BEFORE THEE WHAT THEY HAD AGAINST HIM. FAREWELL.”



THE CENTURION ON THE SHIP! (ACTS 27)

- V. 1-3 WE ARE TOLD HIS NAME → “JULIUS, A CENTURION OF AUGUSTUS' BAND” AND HE “COURTEOUSLY ENTREATED PAUL, AND GAVE HIM LIBERTY TO GO UNTO HIS FRIENDS TO REFRESH HIMSELF.”
- V. 9-11 HE DIDN'T LISTEN TO PAUL (THIS TIME!) → “THE CENTURION BELIEVED THE MASTER AND THE OWNER OF THE SHIP, MORE THAN THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE SPOKEN BY PAUL.”
- V. 21-23 PAUL TESTIFIES TO THE MEN WITH HIM ON THE SHIP!
- V. 29-32 THE SAILORS TRY TO ESCAPE → “PAUL SAID TO THE CENTURION AND TO THE SOLDIERS, EXCEPT THESE ABIDE IN THE SHIP, YE CANNOT BE SAVED. THEN THE SOLDIERS CUT OFF THE ROPES OF THE BOAT, AND LET HER FALL OFF...” (HE LISTENED THIS TIME!)
- V. 33-36 PAUL ENCOURAGES THEM ALL TO EAT, AND THEY TAKE HIS ADVICE!
- V. 42-42 THE CENTURION GOES AGAINST PROTOCOL TO SAVE PAUL!!!
- ACTS 28:16 AND WHEN WE CAME TO ROME, THE CENTURION DELIVERED THE PRISONERS TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD: BUT PAUL WAS SUFFERED TO DWELL BY HIMSELF WITH A SOLDIER THAT KEPT HIM.

LESSONS FROM “FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES”!

- HOW DO WE ACT BEFORE NEIGHBOURS, COLLEAGUES, ‘FRIENDS’?
 - WHO IS INFLUENCING WHO?
- HOW DO WE ACT BEFORE THE ‘AUTHORITIES’?
- ARE WE ‘GOOD’ CITIZENS? ARE WE “GOOD FRIENDS”?
- DO WE ‘RENDER UNTO CAESAR’ HIS DUE?
- DO WE LOOK FOR EVERY ADVANTAGE TO PREACH THE WORD IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON?