

**Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, Adults' Sunday School Lesson, Acts Lesson 31
by Elder Sherman Ong (<http://www.lifebpc.com/othermin/ssadult.htm>)**

Acts Chapter 17, reading the first 15 verses. Acts 17 and the Word of God says " "

God bless the reading of His sacred word.

Let's pause for a word of prayer together.

Abba Father, thank you for this privilege to come before your throne of grace and we yield our hearts to you. We pray O God this morning you will cleanse and sanctify us according to your promise. Take away our sins and all the distraction of the world that we may be able to focus on the Lord Jesus and Him alone in our study, in our application. That Lord we may learn to live a life that is glorifying to you. Hear this our prayer in Jesus blessed name we pray. Amen.

We have covered chapter 16, And if you turn with me to the book of Philippians, Philippians chapter 1. And as we go along I like you to relate to each of the Pauline epistles. Chapter 16, we saw the founding of the churches at Philippi. Of course we have Lydia who was the seller of purple. We have the demoniac lady, the girl who was healed and we have the Philippians jailer. Acts 16:31 says "but believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved and thy house." What a wonderful promise and this is the church that was born out of adversity.

The Apostle Paul while he was in prison, he wrote the book of Philippians to these members in Philippi. So I like you to look at Philippians chapter 1. And here we have the most wonderful letter. The book of Philippians is called the letter of joy. And throughout the four chapters as I've committed to you to read, there are passages in fact every chapter, the joyful theme is so prevalent and the apostle despite being in imprisonment he was filled with joy for these brethren in Philippi.

And you just look at first 6 verses in Philippians chapter 1, Paul begin his letter begin by writing Paul and Timotheus and now you know that timotheus was a companion with him when he was in what we call house imprisonment. Paul was given this privilege because he was a Roman citizen, he was allowed for visitors and his fellow companions could bring his letters to the various people. And it was very kind of him to include Timotheus in the greeting because it should be the kind of solidarity, the kind of unity in graces and love.

And so he said, Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ. Well they were leaders and yet they did not say, we are your leaders or founders, you know? We are your founding pastors. Paul did not say that, Paul said that we are servants. And how true is it to remind us that we must always be humble. No matter what a man has accomplished in the past it is nothing compare to what Christ has done for us on the cross. And no man should claim should claim credit or glory. Whether you are a founder of a church or a movement. Whether you are like Paul, a church planter, it is important to stay humble. And so the Apostle says we are the servants of Jesus Christ. This is a constant theme every church leader must continue to hid behind Christ because He is our Master, He is our Head and we, His servants. The servants of Jesus Christ to all the saints in Christ Jesus. You know this is the most beautiful phrase because he address the Philippians, these new found Faith that Philippians have enjoyed, they have now become saints in GOD.

What a great honour? But as I said many time unfortunately we are not able to live up to our sainthood. All of us who born again believers we are known as saints in Christ Jesus. And who are these people? They are saints at Philippi with bishops and deacons. Now the word bishop means Overseers or Elders. Or Elders. And so you can see very wonderfully in one verse the apostle Paul was able establish the context and he gives us glimpse of this church of the Philippi without the background in Acts 16 you can begin to sense the excitement in the apostle.

First of all he identified himself as a servant, he addressed as saint and then he remembered that during his stay. During his tenure, he appointed pastors, elders, deacons. And having done that, in one sense his mission accomplished. There is no need for Paul to tell the Philippians eh remember me ah! I'm the founder you know? You must always give me first place ah. Never! Because every church whether the local church or the church universal belongs to Christ! No man can laud over the congregation or claim supremacy and said that because I'm the Founder of so many Churches therefore I must be remembered.

No such thing eh. So we must honour Christ, we must put Christ first and how the apostle Paul in true humility, in true fashion, he said that look you can forget about me. It doesn't matter. But you must support your local leaders. These are your elders and your deacons. Verse 2 is a very beautiful greeting together with verse 3, because Paul says, "Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you," Well while we have no doubts where boyfriends and girlfriends when they write love letter in those days, they will always have beautiful words to write. In these days of internet age we have emails, and then now we have smses, and now we have instant chat and it is very easy to have very flowery, flowly romancing words to go in between two parties who are in love.

But here is a love letter truly born out of adversity. The apostle Paul despite of his circumstances he was able draw that kind of true Christian joy in writing and as he recollect as he remember the fond memories of ministry to the Philippians and how Lydia came to know the despite she was a religious woman and how the demoniac lady was being used as a "yao qian shu" (Money Tree) you know? And how the Philippian jailer the entire household how they were converted. I'm sure all things flowed through his mind.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this morning I have one application for you. Do not rush through life. Every stage, every moment of our life is worth remembering if it is lived for the Lord Jesus Christ. I say one more time, do not rush through life. Every stage, every moment of our life is worth remembering if it is lived for the Lord Jesus Christ.

You know we have been rushing through our life, when the mother first rush to deliver the baby that is the first rush. And after the baby was delivered, rush to clean her up or clean him up and then dress the baby and get the baby ready try the first breast feeding. We are rushing all the time. When the children is up and running, we rush them to school. We cannot wait you know? Nowadays eh, I learn that one year old can go to school. One year old baby can go to school you know? By one and a half year they must be able to articulate the first alphabet. And then we rush them to play group, to nursery.

I was told now we have nursery one and nursery two. And then they go to kindergarten, kindergarten one, kindergarten two. Mind! Very soon we are going to have infant one and infant two as well. From the day zero you are born you must go to school. We can't wait but to rush our life to get education to get a piece paper. We rush through primary school. Making sure that they get of the best of the Primary school, get the PSLE, and then now instead of going through the normal wait for result kind of application we go for what we call DSA. DSA stands for Direct School Admission. We make sure that in the Primary school train our children get the kind of a CCA, a certain uniform group or certain gift may be music may be art and all kind of things. And use that to apply for a school of your choice. Before the PSLE result we are already secured. "Choop!" Booked a place!

And then we rush to the secondary school because now you get into DSA, you get into a good school, they give you through train. Wow, no need to do 'O' level. All the way to 6 years either do a 'IB' which is international baccalaureate, Diploma or you do a normal GCE 'A' level and secure a place. Those of you who have very intelligent child send them to NUS High you will almost secure a place in NUS. Wonderful! Our entire life is series of rush! We rush! We rush! The young people can't wait to grow up!

I want to be independent, I want to be adult! And I want to be on our own, but we never savor the moments of our life with our family, with our love ones. When we are in our office place we have no time, we are rushing for meetings. We have projects; we have deadlines and that colleague who is sitting next to you for years never get to hear about Jesus Christ. Brothers and sisters in Christ, don't rush. God has a timing for everything.

I want to share with a testimony with you this week because this is my third week into my new job and the Lord lead me to two very beautiful occasion to witness to two colleagues. I did not force the situation, I was going through the work with them. And somehow the topic of religion came into our discussion and this assistant Director was asking me, "Um, how do you differentiate between a Christian and non-Christian?" I said, "Praise the Lord, how wonderful to be able to be asked this simple but profound question." And for the next 10 mins I spend my time witnessing to him. Can you describe the difference between a Christian and a non-Christian in 60 seconds? We call this the elevator speech. Sometimes when I'm in the lift I see patients I see people in wheelchair. And I expressed kindness to them and they were very surprised. Who is this? How come he you know so kind to me? And there was a lady rushing for the lift, I said, "It's ok. Take your time." I press the button, and open the door. And when they come in, they are beaming with smile. You know? Don't rush through life.

We need to wait upon the Lord. We need to be sensitive to the spirit's prompting and we need to minister and God give Paul the wonderful memory. That's why he says, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Because his ministry with the Philippians were very fruitful and they were very responsive people. They believe and they were genuinely in faith. They seek for baptism, they wanted to form their own worship, they started their bible study. And Paul was rejoicing, Verse 4, "Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy". Paul was able not only to think of them. Thinking of them is not good enough. Sometimes we said that "Oh! I'm so concern for my children. And you are thinking about your darling boy and darling girl in school, "what is he doing, what is she doing?" Brothers and sisters in Christ, thinking about them is not good enough. As you think may I encourage you to pray for them. Pray without ceasing. Thinking is not good enough, we must learn to pray for our children that God will protect them from all harm and danger. Pray that God will preserve their footsteps, so thinking is not good enough. The apostle Paul exemplifies that. He says that, "I am so thankful always in every prayer of mine."

And by the way, if Paul says in every prayer of mine it means in every prayer of his. You know something? Paul got so many people, so many churches to pray you know? And Paul spends hours on his knees praying for the church Philippi, Colosse, Ephesian, Ephesus, Thessalonica, Corinthians and so on and so forth. And this the kind of life that God expect us to live. Verse 5, "For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now" It was important for him at this stage in the opening statement to remind the Philippians of the importance of the gospel centric ministry. And I say this to you for life church to continue to be a bright candle stick we must be a gospel centric which is translated as Christ Centered.

A Christ-centered gospel centric ministry is one that focus in soul-winning. And we continue to move forward to fight our chief enemy, Satan and not against one another. There's no value tearing out each other's convictions or doctrines and say that I'm right and you are wrong. We gotta come together and preach the gospel and win souls. Time is running out! We don't have time! But verse 6 is most beautiful. It is a verse that constantly encourage my heart because Paul says, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:"

Unfortunately, the Far Eastern Bible College is not taking our letters very kindly. Now what they have done is every letter that we sent to them they print it, they distribute it, they publish it on their website and if you go to the toilet behind, the FEBC notice board, you will see all the letters of correspondence between the college and us. We call this in Primary school English program call "show

and tell". My son will come back and say, "Oh, I got Show and Tell!" "Show and Tell" means you got to prepare a topic and then you tell a story so on and so forth. This is most unfortunate. It is an attempt to arouse emotional sentiment on the ground and perhaps to seek sympathies.

The recurring theme today is that Life Church's Board of Elders bully Rev Timothy Tow and we kicked him out. Brothers and sisters in Christ, up to today we are still paying Rev Tow his last drawn salary. It is very, very difficult, it is very, very painful to deal with fanatics, unreasonable supposedly theologians. And as long as we hold to this attitude that I am right, you are wrong in the concept of the world's management there is no win win. There is no win win.

Often time we thought that it is easier Christian church because the fundamental believe that we have Christ's love in our heart it should be easier for us to negotiate and discuss. But the situation between the church and college is gone very ugly, very ugly. Last time I was very burden and I thought of writing to FEBC or even specifically to Jeffrey Khoo. I say the time has come that we must stop all these things because this "Show and Tell" business is not doing good for the college. Do you know why? Because there are many things that the college is doing is illegal, and wrong. If they go down this path, the man of the Law will catch up to them and very soon the college may have to close.

In their desperate attempt they went to re-register themselves in 2004 after the resignation of Rev Tow in 2003. And they have gone on to get what they call the "CASE TRUST" accreditation. All these things are done undercover because there are a lot of processing inside that is not correct. And out of desperation they are doing this "Show and Tell" it is not good at all for the college.

Now I say in the public the Board of Elders of Life Church love our Founding Pastor, Rev Dr Timothy Tow very much. We still respect him. We pray for him, we pray for the college but there was no way to communicate to them because anything that we should say or write, it will be "show and tell". When I think of the show and tell I tell myself, father forgive me, I will not write anything to them because anything that I write is going to be used against me. So we have come to a point non-communication, how sad isn't it? Aren't we all brothers and sisters in Christ? But Paul is different, because Paul does not hold to himself and say that I am the leader, I am right, I am the boss! I am the owner! Never! Paul says I'm a servant!

And now as we move into Acts chapter 17 here we see the founding of another church, the church of Thessalonica. And very beautifully chapter 17 verse 1 we have read just now they came to Thessalonica where there was a Synagogue of the Jews. The Apostle Paul was always find opportunity and occasion to reach out to the people and to preach the gospel. And here he spends 3 weeks in the home of Jason. While Jason potentially could be a relative or a kinsman. If you turn with me to Romans 16, Romans chapter 16 verse 21, Romans 16 again is a really beautiful chapter, it really tells us about all the fellow workmen labouring together with the Apostle Paul. And here in Romans 16 verse 21, "Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you." So he consider Jason, Sosipater as Kinsmen and as Kinsmen he was welcome to the home of Jason. And there he was ministering to the Thessalonians, preaching over 3 weeks. And we are told that in verse 2, "as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days" for 3 weeks he continue to discuss, he present to them. There was open and **allege**.

The Last time we talked about explaining and demonstrating or discussing and applying. So all bible study lessons, whether it's a Sunday school's lesson, whether it's a bible study discussion we must first have the definition and then we have the application. So don't just rush through your bible reading, as you read you meditate and you apply.

Now no point having this doctrine and say that we are right but never apply! The word of God is very clear! Love! For God is love! Where is the element of Love? As we have pointed out the problem with Rev Quek Suan Yew's letter in last week's weekly, "Mark those who caused division." Instead of saying,

"I'm sorry, I made an error or I made a mistake" This morning in Calvary Pandan's Elder's page he called us Satan. So Life Church Elders are Satan to Rev Quek Suan Yew.

It really pains my heart to say all these things you know? I have no joy in saying all these things to you but the time has come really that we have to be open book with congregation. And that is why we share all these things with you, because after 5 good years we are ready to part with college. Because we realize there's no more negotiation, there is no way that they are going to change their mind. For them to Keblakang Puseng and turn around it will be a slap on the cheek and it's going to be very very difficult. So I guess the resolution is very simple, Amos 3:3 says, "Can two walk together except they agree?" And if they cannot let us apply Acts chapter 13.

We just learn this couple of weeks back you know? Acts chapter 13 and here we have a very beautiful illustration how the apostles they come together and they were very happy working together. Acts chapter 13, if you look at it they were first commission. The churches commission them and they go forward and they continue to travel in their missionary journeys and they were quite happy for a while, they said let's continue what we are doing. Then all of a sudden they went into a situation where they have a church problem, did they start to write emails against one another or maybe they have no internet but they went a meeting. They have a Jerusalem council in Acts chapter 15 and then they come up with a resolution. The resolution was very wonderfully crafted and they said this is our decision let us bring forward to all the churches.

But before they start their 2nd missionary journey in Acts chapter 16 there was a problem and what was the problem? Look at Acts 15 again, Act 15 verse 37. You look at it, it's a very simple issue right? It's a choice of who want to be your co-workers. And Acts 15:37 says "And Barnabas determine to take with them John whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder." They go each to their own way. "and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;.. Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God." So I guess depart we must and eh that I think is the simplest and I hope the most painless resolution. So that God's work can be propagated, so that we can spend all our energy on soul winning.

And so Paul in his usual manner preached the gospel, of course as usual some believe, some did not. Those who believed praise the Lord, look at verse 4. "Some of them believe and then consorted with" Paul and Silas. The word consorted here means that they join with them. They are supporting of the gospel they have just heard and yet there were those who were against, verse 5 when the Jews believed not, but they were moved with envy. Now where they were envious? You know here is the situation when the Jews during the Sabbath day which is the Saturday they go to Synagogue, they begin to rehearse the Old Testament Scripture and they have entire crowd's attention. And everyone practically so-called follow them you know? Follow their leaders. And all of the sudden, you have Paul who came along, eh... let me share with you, this is the gospel. And guess what? When you believe in this Jesus Christ you going to have eternal life. What a change? Can you imagine the Synagogue chanting and reading and praying.

Now I don't know how many of you have get the opportunity to go to Israel. If you go to Israel and you stand before the wailing wall, and how the Jews will knock themselves this way you know? That's how they pray by the way. And they will chant, they will read their scriptures. It is a form of worship but sorry to say to me it's meaningless. This is call outward manifestation, something which is not desirable. If you read Matthew chapter 6, Jesus commented, don't be like the Pharisee, the way they pray, the way they fasted. Don't make pretence out of a faith, a religion that you have.

And here the Jews become envious because they were envious of Paul and Silas. How come they just come for 3 weeks huh and the crowds follow them you know? Why are they so successful? And instead

of sitting down and discuss and learn from them, they resort to force. They take things into their own hand and they summon the people to the Rulers and to the city folks. And He dragged out Jason, verse 7, "whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary" They put a false charge against them just like Rev Quek Suan Yew.

We never ask them to sign a undertaking that the Bible has mistake but he would interpret it and said that we want them to do this and confuse the whole world and the letter is in the internet you know? Today you go to the internet, the whole world can access it. And what will they be thinking of Life Church's Elders? Unreasonable, unloving, forced them out, kick them out, all kinds of things ah!

The Jewish people who were envious of Paul and Silas took them to task, bring them to the magistrate. Verse 8, you know if you deal with the leaders alone is fine, you can do it in private correspondence. You don't go and print them and put them on the notice board. Don't put them on the website. Correct or not? Between 2 pastors or Elders we can talk, we can discuss, we can email. But you don't publish everything and show and tell you see? This what the Jews people do here in verse 8, "And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things" Wow! "And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go." These people thankfully they were quite reasonable because Jason was with them so they take task with Jason, Jason you ah "Chi li Pa Wai" (receiving goodness from one, yet giving alliance to another) ha! You are one of us, how come you invite foreigners and come and trouble us?

So they deal with Jason, but for Paul and Silas, ok, you are none of us, just go just go! As long as you go and give us peace we are ok. So that's what they do, verse 10, "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night" Wow! They don't even go by broad daylight! They have to go for a secret night mission. Well, those brothers who go through the National Service you know that the "night mission" means what? Night Mission means stealth, means trying to hide right? So that the enemies cannot see you. It's very sad!

We tried very hard to keep the situation under control. The last 5 years our leaders never want to breathe a word to the congregation. Because as far as the congregation is concern some may understand, some may not. And to keep on harping on the same subject is not profitable. And we so we focus our 5 years on teaching the word. We want to feed the congregation with Word. We want to help the congregation to apply the Word. To exercise Christian love, we start the "Warm Programme". Every 3rd week you see a pink weekly. Why? Testimonies of "Warm programme", people who are blessed by the ministry, the programme and the things we are trying to do here. We have the evangelism and discipleship committee who organize eh street evangelism, discipleship training workshop. Why are we doing all these thing? Why didn't we spend time talking about why we should not be VPP? Huh! No need to what? If it's a Doctrine that is untenable, it's untenable. Let it be! Because in due time GOD will vindicate.

And I was very thankful as I commit to the Lord to rest last night and say, "Lord, perhaps we are taking we are taking things into our own hands as well." Because our human wisdom tells us that try not to "Show and Tell", try not to do this, try not to do that. But maybe it's God's will for them to so-call go into this path and eventually we can get vindicated. Not by us! We do nothing eh! If the Law of the land catch up with them, so be it eh! Because the day will come we say we have nothing to do with them. And anything gotta do with FEBC there's nothing to do with Life Church. Ok? So this is very, very clearly specified now.

I have an issue as chairman of the Bible, I mean the Beulah project committee. We were given a twenty thousand.. Wow! Everybody wakeup ah! Twenty thousand tax for Beulah house last year. And I have to face up a tax man you know? And say that, "Hey, hello! This one nobody use and we are doing redevelopment, how come you ask we all to pay twenty thousand tax? Oh! They say you all use it as a Hostel what? I say huh?! Excuse me? One fine day there was a tax officer who came before Beulah

House was demolished and right there in Beulah House there was a sign board, "FEBC Hostel". Brother and sister in Christ, I don't know how to answer? First of all, I'm not FEBC but the tax man says this is Life Church's property what? Sorry, based on our assessment this piece of property is worth two hundred thousand. So we only ask you to pay twenty thousand, that's very cheap!

So this morning I have to share with you the Church have dutifully paid twenty thousand property tax for Beulah House even though for the last whole year we never use the place. To fulfill all righteousness, render unto Caesar what is Caesar's. But the college who cause this trouble for us, they don't care and they don't know. They don't want to know anyway. So if look at the letter they published, they demanded for Life Church to hand over Beulah House for them so that they can move FEBC to Beulah House. That is the long and short of the whole story lah! They write 5 pages, there is only 1 point you need to read, give us Beulah House.

And some our leaders and members says that it is only right we part with them. We take number 9, they take number 10. Waaah! I rest my case! And so we continue to struggle and we continue to pray for wisdom. As I say the time may have come God will vindicate us, so we don't have to do anything. huh ok?

So they depart, Paul and Silas. There is no point hanging on to something that we cannot change, something that we cannot influence, something that we cannot manage. And so the time may come for us to start Life Bible College.

Again the Tax man ask our church office, "Do you have a name for this re-development project?" And so our office manager Mrs Tan Yin Chan call me up, "Elder Ong, how ah? The tax department says do you have a name?" I say, "What so important about the name?" "Oh! They want to put it on record." I say, "Very simple lah! Tell them this is call Life Bible Center" So Session member please forgive me eh, I made a independent decision on the name. On the spot they asked me what is the name. I say Life Bible Center lah! No more Beulah House already, it's ok. You know why? Because the next time the tax man ask me how come this Beulah house was used as a FEBC Hostel? I say, that was in the past. Today this building is call Life Bible Center and this is the property of Life Church. We got nothing to do with the Hostel. Fair enough? While I think in a moment of "Divine Wisdom" that is the only solution I can offer. So please pray for your leaders.

So often time we are put on the spot you know? And by the way, we have a full time job you know? I'm not a full time person here, sometime the tax officer talk to me as if I am the pastor here and I am given a salary. And he asked this question actually you know? By the way are you a staff of the church and how much salary are you given? I say no, I'm sorry I'm a volunteer, I'm a appointed Elder by office but I'm not a fulltime Elder, I mean fulltime worker. I'm a fulltime Christian and I serve the Lord to the best I can!

So they moved on to Berea. Wow! This is wonderful because in Berea Paul and Silas found another group of likeminded people. Why? Because these are called the noble people. Verse 10, "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica," While we thought for a moment the Thessalonians were beautiful, they were wonderful, they were responsive to the gospel. And over 3 Sabbath days Paul explain, demonstrated the scripture and they happily received the gospel but here is a group of people call the Berean. The Berean people received the Word with gladness, look at verse 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." Or not.

Lifers, have you been reading Matthew? Sorry, as a Sunday school teacher I have to remind you. One chapter a day ok? And I tell myself no bible, no breakfast. My domestic help can testify of that by the

way. Every morning she serve me breakfast I never touch my bread or my coffee until I finish my one chapter. No matter how rushing I am I make sure I follow the program because as a leader of the church, if I don't follow huh, I cannot face up with the members. But now I am in authority to ask you, you know? Have you been reading? Huh huh! Because I've been reading! This morning even at breakfast, my son and my daughter with me. Instead of reading myself, I read to them. How about that? Is it ok? Ok! Then half way through my son says to me, "daddy, how long more ah?" Today is the 20th of January Matthew chapter 20 has got 34 verses. When I read to verse 21, he ask me, "daddy, how long more ah?" "My son, enjoy your noodles. Let me read to you!" And I finished all the 34 verses and I explain to them from FB Meyer. At least they heard Matthew chapter 20.

So tomorrow morning, Matthew chapter 21, please follow the bible reading programme. Any if you have not been reading not too late. Let say if you have been reading from day one to now. To night go home, one sitting one hour, read 20 chapters. Ok? "Bo Bian" (no choice) eh! This is call spiritual indigestion. If you have to do that, once in a while do it. It's good for your soul. Alright? But it is better to do it one chapter a day lah, more digestible. Alright? Tomorrow is Matthew 21 all the way to next week, alright? We have Matthew 28. And we are coming very, very close huh? Matthew 28, by the way is the last chapter already hor! For by next Sunday we finish the book of Matthew. How wonderful, isn't it? So don't forget your bible reading programme, don't forget your memory verses, don't forget your church theme, "Towards a growing and fruit bearing Christian life"

The Bereans search the scriptures daily and Paul is again forced to flee by night. Ha Ha! You know the life of the leaders are always tough you know? We call this fly by night ministry. Heh heh heh! Paul having to fly by night from Thessalonica to Berea. Now he is being forced to leave again. Verse 13, and when "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."! So wherever you go they will follow you.

Today you write a respond to any of them, whether Rev Quek Suan Yew, Rev Jeffrey khoo, they will have a reply for you and that will be endless! It will be endless. So we have said don't reply anymore lah! Enough is enough! So last week when we published the article, that's final! No more, no more! Ok? That's where we are.

And we thank God that Paul and Silas was full of resilience. Here is another trait of a spiritual leader. A spiritual leader must never say die. In the face of adversity instead of looking at the problem you look upward. You can look at Christ, Christ our Lord and Christ our Saviour. Verse 14, "And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode there still." This time the apostle Paul decided even to part way with the mission team. The scripture is not very clear why he did that, but later on in 2nd Timothy chapter 4 we will learn the reason why. But I give a hint, it was important to preserve the gospel seed of these Berean Christians. Between the Thessalonians and Berean, the sharp distinction was these were people who search the scripture. And so it was important for the Apostle Paul to leave Timothy and Silas behind to continue to do the follow-up. Make sense? So brothers and sisters in Christ, it is important for us not just to sow the gospel seed, win the soul but we must also do the follow-up.

God willing, this coming week I'm looking forward to revisit the topic with the two collogues which I have sown the gospel seed and if God's will be so we will bring these two into our kingdom, in the kingdom of Christ. And it will be a joyous, joyous day you know to see souls being won for the Lord.

Verse 15, 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, and they departed.

Next week is a very exiting debate and at Mars hill, this is the place the apostle Paul is going to open up a huge debate and a big topic which of great interest in today's context. So I urge you to read. I have given you 2 pages of notes from chapter 17 all the way to chapter 19. Go back, use it, go along

with the scripture reading and may the Lord help to apply what we are learning. Remember it's not in the reading alone but it's also in the reading and application. And when we learn the Word of God and allow the Word of God to change and transform our life and then to apply it. We can make a difference for Him.

Let us pray.

Most Holy Father, once again we come before your throne of grace, fully conscious that we are sinners saved by Thy Grace. Father, we confess that without Christ we can do nothing. And so this morning, Father, we want to pray for the Far Eastern Bible College. Lord, you will speak to the college leadership and help them to appreciate not only to teach their doctrines but to practice their doctrines and to practice the key principal of love as spelled out for us and help us to move on to focus our energy on soul winning. As we see the days of the Lord appearing eminently. Father, this morning I am going to commit this lesson to you and I pray that thou will use it to make clear the verses that we have just read and studied as well as the current situation between the church and the college. Have mercy upon us O God, we are your needy people and we need you. Father, take away all hostility but fill our hearts with your love, grace and mercies. And so now dismiss us with your peace and joy in believing in Jesus. In whose precious name we pray. Amen.

God bless!