

Paul Transferred Under Heavy Guard

1. Tribune Carries Out His Duty to Safeguard Prisoner (23-25).

2. Tribune Deftly Covers His Own Tracks (26-30).

3. Everyone Here Is Shown Doing Their Duty (31-35).

CONCLUSION: Jesus is orchestrating His Kingdom's expansion on earth through His people certainly, but He also has total control over all other kingdoms, including Rome. He is the One, after all, who has entrusted the sword to governors and kings to administer His justice for the time being. Here even with the fallen sinfulness of self-serving rulers, we see justice being safeguarded with Paul receiving protection and appropriate due process of the law. King Jesus is able to bring about justice regardless of man's machinations. Let us trust Him as we seek to peacably testify to His resurrection.

Romans 13:1-7

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not **bear the sword** in vain. For **he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer.** ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.”

Second Timothy 4:1-5

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore **render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.**” When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Our plans often go awry because of things beyond our control. But nothing is beyond God's control. He works here through lowly soldiers and governors alike. He is completely faithful to all He has promised to do and cannot be thwarted. Trust in Him!

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 23:23-35; Romans 13:1-7; Second Timothy 4:1-5; Revelation 1:4-8; Matthew 22:15-22.** DISCUSS How is King Jesus establishing His Kingdom on earth? How does His sovereignty comfort you? Challenge you? PRAY "Lord Christ, thank You for preserving and protecting us. Thank You for faithfully doing exactly as You promised to save us."

Sunday Evening

Come join the *Young Adults' Fellowship* tonight at 6pm. Pray for them!

Monday

READ **Acts 23:23-35; Romans 13:1-7; Daniel 4:34-35.** DISCUSS How does God use government? What is it supposed to do? How does it accomplish God's will? Is its authority absolute? MEDITATE on **Matthew 4:17.** PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of government. With all its faults it is still Your means to keep order."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 23:23-35; Second Timothy 4:1-5; Hebrews 1:1-3.** DISCUSS Who upholds all things? How are they upheld? Who is ruling and reigning now? Is He trustworthy? MEDITATE on **Matthew 4:17.** PRAY, "Lord, Your authority alone is complete. Thank You for ruling and reigning over all things even now. Teach us to trust Your sovereignty and to submit to Your Word joyfully."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 23:23-35; Revelation 1:4-8; Psalm 135:1-21**. DISCUSS, How does God compare to the kings of the nations? Why do we doubt Him? How are you turning from your rebellion against Him today? MEDITATE on **Matthew 4:17**. PRAY “Lord, forgive us for resisting You. Teach us to submit to You completely in all our ways. Allow us to humble ourselves before You.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 23:23-35; Matthew 22:15-22; Romans 13:1-7**. DISCUSS, What are we supposed to give to Caesar? What are we to give to God? What is the difference? Which are you wrestling with today? MEDITATE on **Matthew 4:17**. PRAY “Father, make us as submissive and joyful as Jesus was in submitting to You coming to save us. Holy Spirit, embolden us to witness to Christ.”

Friday

READ **Acts 23:23-35; Romans 13:1-7; Second Timothy 4:1-5; Revelation 1:4-8; Matthew 22:15-22**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if Christ has given you the honor to be identified among His people! MEDITATE on **Matthew 4:17**. PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *There will be both the in-person and live-stream services available.* READ **Acts 24:1-27; Job chapters 38-41**. Invite others to join you for either *in-person or live-stream service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to be glorified in our testimony of Him.

Romans 8:38-39

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying,
“*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*”