

*First Baptist Church of Christ
511 High Place, Macon, GA 31201*

Summer Sabbath Resources for Adults

Volume 1, Issue 1

June 13, 2010

By Sharon Bailey

The Unstoppable Gospel!

Bible Text:

**Please read Philippians 1:1-2, 12-18
aloud from your favorite translation.**

Devotional Thought

During the early days of Castro's power in Cuba, A Baptist missionary, David Fite, was imprisoned there, just like Paul, for spreading the Gospel of Christ. I was a teenager at Tattnell Square Baptist then, and hearing of his plight impressed on me the cruelty of that communist regime and the life-or-death, all out stories of the danger he was in and prayed for his safety. I can't say that I felt emboldened. I don't recall our

church's receiving any direct communication from him. If we had, he might have sent the same message Paul did to his well loved friends at Philippi -"Grace and peace to you, through it all, the unstoppable Gospel messages goes on!" Paul was far more concerned about their encouragement to continue in the faith in the Way of Christ than about conveying his own discomfort, fear, or distress. He sums up the reports that have come to him about those who are

criticizing him while he is in the Roman prison with a quick statement of their motives, and an almost humorous "What does it matter?" He knows that people are talking about Christ, about The Way and about him, and he knows that though the motives may be mixed, the lively discussion is good for the spread of the gospel. He simply rejoices, knowing that God will draw some sincere believers into the fold as a result of all the furor.



Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Do you think those who "dared to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear" were also in danger of imprisonment or death?

Can you comprehend the motivation of those who proclaimed Christ out of envy or rivalry? Why do you think they opposed Paul?

What does Paul's gracious attitude say to us when we cringe at or criticize preachers or evangelists whose message or manner we find disagreeable?

AN INVITATION TO PRAYER

Hebrews 12:3 says, "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourself were suffering."

Pray for Christian workers around the world whose faithfulness to the Gospel puts them in danger, and for those who are imprisoned for Christ.

An Invitation to Service

We are not under a repressive regime, threatened with jail or death. We can freely, boldly, pray, give, and spread the gospel message here or beyond our borders. Resources for prayer and involvement in bold service can be found on www.fbcmacon.org, www.thefellowship.info, and www.globalwomengo.org, as well as the Wednesday night placemat and the *High-Lites*. *Pick one service to offer Christ and your neighbor this week.*