

Obstacles are Opportunities (Part 1)

Difficulties Can Lead to Declaration; Trials Can Lead to Testimony: Paul's Trials Acts 25-26 Chris Mueller 10-18-2020

Introduction:

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

E - Exercising some **HUMILITY**

E - Expressing some **THANKS**

E - Exposing His **CHARACTER**

E - Embracing this world is **NOT OUR HOME**

DEMOCRACY

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

Romans 1:24, 26 & 28 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

STEP ONE IMMORALITY For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, **STEP TWO HOMOSEXUALITY** and just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper. **STEP THREE DEGENERACY**

Romans 1:32 ...give hearty approval to those who practice them.

ACTS 25

#1 New leader: New plot and an appeal to _____ 1-12

#2 New visitor: New politics and a new possibility 13-27

#3 New opportunity: New reactions and a new hope 1-32

TAKE HOME:

A - People will be _____ toward the Gospel

John 15:18-19 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you."

Christ is too awesome, too powerful, too wise, too loving, to have his followers live in fear.

B - The lost are _____ to sin

2 Peter 2:19 "By what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved."

If you don't know Christ, you are a slave to sin and you will never be free from its bondage until you turn to Christ.

C - Christians should grow in confidence that God is in _____

TURN TO CHRIST
TRUST CHRIST

QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST

1. What can we learn from the Jewish leadership's hatred of Paul and his message?
2. How can we talk to the lost about their slavery to sin, and how can we help believers overcome some bondage to addiction?
3. What practical steps can you take in order to actually glorify God in a declining society? What can you say and do differently?



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