

SCCC – THE INEVITABLE REALITY

S - Scriptures

“And I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.” Acts 24: 16

C – Consideration

Paul is on trial before the governor. His accusation was: “We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him.” The apostle challenged his enemies to prove their accusation; nonetheless, he confirmed one of their statements: he was Christian. In his defense, he pointed out an earlier judgment he had in Jerusalem “Or these who are here should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin— unless it was this one thing I shouted as I stood in their presence: ‘It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.’” The major persecution against Paul and all the other disciples was the same: “Jesus was alive!” The first sermon registered in the book of Acts, Peter said: “You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.” The governor postponed Paul’s judgment, but “He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.”

C – Commitment

What called my attention in this incident were the words of Paul, a man full of the Spirit of God confronting not just his accusers, but the governor. The text said that Felix wanted to know more about the message. Paul presented to him and to his wife their spiritual disease: sin, and the cure for it: Jesus Christ. He had already mentioned that one day everyone will stand before God. The wicked ones will receive their condemnation and the ones justified by Christ’s death and resurrection their salvation. There are two things that called my attention. One is Paul’s statement as a follower of Jesus, “So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.” As a new man, he had a heart to please God; he is no longer a wicked Pharisee, but a humble servant. On the other hand, I noted the governor, fearful of the judgment to come, but with no fruit of repentance, “At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.” His greed overcame his fear, and he was no longer searching for the right Lord, which would give him eternal salvation but after mammon, the false god, who would take him to eternal damnation.

C – Call

Lord, I pray that I might follow the example of Paul, striving against sin, and being recognized by men and by God as a true follower of Christ. Deliver me from the destructive power of the false god mammon. Give me understanding and a holy fear to live in holiness, to put my hope in Jesus and in the resurrection to come. In His name, I pray. Amen.