

PROVEN FAITHFULNESS

MARKS OF SPIRITUAL AUTHENTICITY

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” —*I Corinthians 4:2*

SILVANUS...

“FAITHFUL BROTHER” I PETER 5:1-12

“Silas was a substitute... Substitute, was he, or regular? Baring his back to the whip because a friend was baring his, laying down his life for a Friend he had never seen, yet loved. Silas was ultra regular.” —Frank S. Mead

I. THE COMMISSION (Acts 15:27, 32, 33)

- A. The “woody” missionary.
- B. Chosen to bear the decrees.
- C. In the company of Paul, Barnabas, and Barsabbas

II. THE COMMITMENT (Acts 15:35-40)

- A. Expanding the ministry (vs. 35, 36)
- B. Conflicted associations (vs. 37-39)
- C. Silas selected (v. 40)

III. THE CRUCIBLE (Acts 16:16-40)

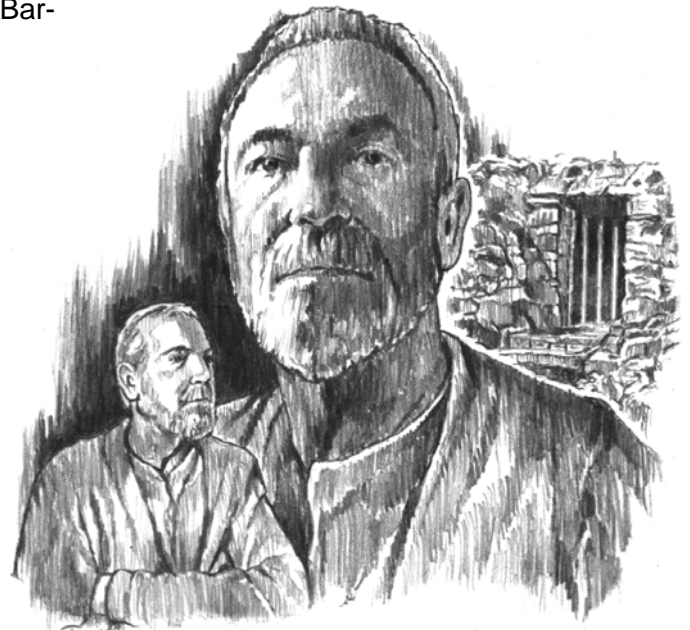
- A. The test of truth (vs. 16-21)
- B. The test of pain (vs. 22-24)
- C. The triumph of faithfulness (vs. 25-40)

IV. THE COMMENDATION (I Peter 5:1-12)

- A. Principles for leadership (vs. 1-9)
- B. Promises of Divine strength (vs. 10, 11)
- C. Praise for faithfulness (v. 12)

CHARACTER QUALITIES OF SILVANUS

- 1. Acceptance of the great Gospel commission.
- 2. Devotion to the Word of God .
- 3. Dedication to the ministry of encouragement and strengthening.
- 4. Harmonious team action.
- 5. Sacrificial and painful loyalty.



“A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. “
—*Proverbs 18:24*.

FOR CONSIDERATION...

- 1. What would you consider as Silas’s true marks of spiritual maturity? How do you see him as both a leader and a follower?
- 2. Do you think that Silas’ deferential willingness to serve as a “substitute” was a sign of weakness and inability—or strength?
- 3. What does the torturous Philippian jail experience declare regarding Silas’ resolve of loyalty?