



Ball Of Confusion!

“That’s What the World is Today”

Romans 12:1-2





**“Ball Of
Confusion”
Lyrics of 50
Years Ago
Are
Appropriate
Today!**

***“People moving out,
people moving in why,
because of the color of
their skin, run, run, run,
but you sure can’t hide.***

***An eye for an eye, a tooth
for a tooth, “vote for me
and I’ll set you free,” rap
on brother rap on!***

***Well, the only person
talking about love thy
brother is the preacher,***

***And it seems, nobody’s
interested in learning but
the teacher,***

A Nation Of Unrest!

“Segregation

Determination

Demonstration

Integration

Aggravation

Humiliation

Obligation To Our Nation”

BALL OF CONFUSION!

(That’s What the World is Today, Yeah!)

Lyrics from “Ball Of Confusion”

*... Evolution, revolution, gun
control, the sound of soul,*


*Shootin rockets to the moon, kids
growin up to soon,*

*Politicians say more taxes will
solve everything, and the band
played on....*

*....City inspectors, bill collectors,
mod clothes in demand,
population out of hand,*


*Suicide too many bills, hippies
moving to the hills.....*

*....Round and around and around
we go, where the world is
headed, nobody knows.....”*



“What’s Goin On” Featured Lyrics of Social Unrest! (1971, Marvin Gaye)

*“Mother, mother, there are too many of you crying,
Brother, brother, brother, there are far too many of you
dying,
You know, we’ve got to find away, to bring loving here
today,
Father, father, we don’t need to escalate,
War is not the answer, for only love can conquer hate
You know, we’ve got to find away, to bring loving here
today*



***“Picket lines, and picket signs,
Don’t punish me, with brutality,
Talk to me, so YOU can see,
WHAT’S GOIN ON, WHAT’S GOIN ON, WHAT’S
GOIN ON!”***

What Is Goin On?

***The Recent Viral
Pandemic Caught
America By
Surprise, But The
Most Recent Re-
Explosion of the
Racism Pandemic,
Caught America
With Its Eyes
Wide Open!***

***“Racism is not getting worse, it’s
getting filmed!” UCONN Women’s
Basketball Statement (George Floyd)***

This Story Is Familiar!

- **Ahmaud Arbrey** - 25 year old black man shot and killed by a retired police officer while jogging in a neighborhood (Georgia)
- **Freddie Gray** - 21 year old man, arrested for carrying a pocket knife and assaulted by police with the now infamous “knee in the back of the neck” position, that caused his death (Maryland)
- **Trayvon Martin** - 17 year old black kid, killed by a “community watcher” because he “looked suspicious” while returning to his father’s girlfriend’s house from a local convenience store (Florida)
- **George Floyd** - 46 year old black man killed with the, “knee on the neck” maneuver by this Police officer after being arrested, for allegedly using a questionable \$20 bill (Minnesota)



But the Story Is Not New!

Emmett Till Was a 14 year old, African American boy who, in 1955, was taken by white men from his house and beaten in Miss., mutilated, shot in the head, and thrown in the river. His body was recovered, but his mother requested an open casket viewing at his funeral so that America could see the horrors of his final hours!



We as Black and White Christians May Be Called To Face Unlawful Suffering From The Authorities!



“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters.

Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”

1 Peter 4:15-16

***Don’t Use a Peaceful Protest as an Opportunity to Commit Crimes!
(steal, loot, deface, insult, conceal stolen property)***

The Character of Christ Can Glorify God At Difficult Times! 2 Peter 1:5-10

The
Scripture
Teaches
Christians
How To
Behave In
This
World!
Philippians
1:27-29
N.I.V.

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened (intimidated) in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.”

Philippians 1:27-29

“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.”

The Apostle Paul Models What a Christian Should Do When Falsely Accused! Acts 16:16-40

- While in Philippi, Paul and Silas, with God's help, upset a fortune telling business, by their Godly witnessing, where a woman was being used to fraudulently predict an unsuspecting customer's future, for money and prosperity (they changed her heart)
 - Verse 16 says that she had made the owners of the business wealthy by this misrepresenting the truth
 - When the men behind the business then recognized they could no longer make money; since Paul and Silas rendered the woman useless to them, they "dragged" Paul and Silas before the Roman authorities
 - These were Roman businessmen, that owned a disreputable business, who brought two Jewish men (Paul and Silas) before the Roman court with false charges
-

Observations

- One of the first things we should do if we are accused of legal wrongdoing by the authorities, is make sure we are obeying God's laws. Here is one: Romans 13:1

“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.”

- God doesn't give Christians the right to steal/deface, or act ungodly, because we are emotionally upset, Ephesians 4:26
- In this text, I don't read where Paul and Silas' accusers got roughed up by our church brothers and thus were taken to court! (Don't brawl with Police officers, rendering evil for evil) 1 Peter 2:23, Romans 12:17



Reduce Your Risk To Yourself!

- **Don't resist arrest. If driving, stop your car in a safe place as quickly as possible**
- **Follow the officer's commands. Don't be Confrontational but Cooperative (Not the time for speeches)**
(Yes sir, No Sir; Yes Ma'am, No Ma'am)
- **Upon request, show your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance (initiate calmness)**
- **Keep your hands where the officer can see them (avoid making sudden movements). If driving, place your hands on the wheel.**
- **If you are in the passenger's seat, put your hands on the dashboard**

Observations

- **After the false charges were levied against Paul and Silas, they were flogged/beaten by the authorities and placed in a Philippian jail and locked down by their feet while in the cell**
- **If you are ever faced with physical persecution for your religious beliefs, remember your experiences are not new**

Read Hebrews 12:1-2

“Wherefore seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight ...

Hebrews 12:3-4

“For consider Him (think about) that endured (plowed through) such contradiction (hostility) of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint (lose heart/give up) in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”

- Jesus, Paul and several Apostles were physically assaulted due to their beliefs; and like Jesus, some lost their lives
 - The Hebrew writer reminds his Christian readers that Your cost for discipleship may not have been as severe as your leaders, YET
 - The Hebrew writer says that your knowledge that Jesus had already experienced your mistreatment by humanity (your lack of access and privileges normally given, your insults) should keep you encouraged and let you know that you are on the right track (Jesus and the disciples were Jews in a Roman world)
 - We are also challenged to *“Endure hardship as discipline ... God is treating you as His Children”* Verse 7 Christians are challenged here to put up with some things! Paul is also showing us how to conduct ourselves when falsely accused and imprisoned
-

Observations

- While in prison, they worshipped God at midnight! (didn't curse God, and blame Him for the circumstances they were facing)
 - As a response to the suffering of God's men, God caused an earthquake that shook the jail cells open and the security locks off of Paul and Silas' feet! Verse 26 (God was working on the weather!)
 - They surprisingly remained in the prison cell (didn't run away to freedom and escape wicked hands, disobey the law)
 - Due to their Christian behavior while in prison, the Philippian jailor asked to hear the gospel ("What is it that makes you act like you do in spite of your suffering?") Acts 16:29-33; these were not your average prisoners!
 - Now, being converted by the actions and words of Paul and Silas; the jailor treats their wounds, is baptized, along with his family, and takes Paul and Silas to his own house for a fellowship meal with joy and happiness verse 34 (you ever baptized your opponent, competitor?)
-

Who
Arranges
All Of
This?

***GOD, WATCHING
HIS CHILDREN
OBEY HIS WILL,
AND IN SPITE OF
THEIR CIVIL
CIRCUMSTANCE,
RESPONDS TO
THEIR NEEDS!***

The Aftermath

- The next morning, the jailor, now a brother in Christ, receives orders from the Roman magistrates, to release Paul and Silas from prison
- But Paul verbally documented that the local authorities had violated their rights as Roman citizens; being beaten without a trial, thrown into prison, and asked to leave quietly as if they had not been mistreated, verse 37
- *Due Process Had Not Been Followed By The Roman Government, and These Roman Citizens Who Just Happened To Be Christians Were Going To Hold The Government Accountable!*



Observations

- **Paul asked for a public apology - and got it! Verse 39**
- **Paul asked for a public escort out of prison, thereby reinstating God's positive influence in the minds of the people they were evangelizing - and got it! Verse 39**
- **After leaving prison, as Roman citizens, Paul and Silas decided to go where they wanted rather than where the authorities preferred**
- **The authorities requested them to leave town, verse 39; but as free citizens of Rome, Paul and Silas exercised their rights under Roman law and went to sister Lydia's house, who was baptized in Acts 16, and met with the brothers and sisters there**
- **Any of the eight attorneys at W.P.C.O.C. would have taken their case!**



The Message
Today:

**There is a Way
To Respond To
Government
Mistreatment
and Glorify
God In How
We Respond!**

Matthew 5:16



The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent Of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 8:38