

**Acts 23:12-35**  
**What about Circumstances?**

**Introduction:**

The English dictionary defines, “circumstances” this way: “a condition or fact attending an event and having some bearing on it; determining or modifying factor.”

Circumstances can be good or bad, dark or bright. Our lives are filled with circumstances. The circumstances of our lives are very intricate. There is a variety of complexities, but for the Christian all circumstances are under the control of a loving Sovereign God.

Phil. 4:11,12 “I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of going filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

**I. God’s Silence Towards Us**

**A. The presence of Christ – Heb. 13:5; John 14:18; Matt. 28:20**

1. Does not necessarily mean His presence is brilliant – v.11
2. The dark times – King Saul pursuing David – I Samuel
3. What do we do in dark times? Ans. “take courage” v.11; John 16:33; Rom. 8:28

**B. Forty Zealot Jews:**

1. A description of unbelievers – Rom. 3:13-18;
2. Conspiracy against Paul – Matt. 26:47
3. False religions of the world are duped by Satan – Eph. 6;12; II John 1:7

**II. God’s Provision**

**A. Paul’s nephew – Heb. 10:34; 13:3**

**B. The God of small things – Turn To: I Corinthians 1:26-31**

1. David’s five small things – I Sam. 17:40
2. Samson’s Jawbone of a donkey – Judg. 15:15
3. John the Baptist speaks of making children of Abraham out of stones – Luke 3:8
4. Covenant children belong to the Kingdom of God - Matt. 10:14; Matt. 18:2,3

**C. God controls Circumstances**

1. Provides security for Paul
2. Provides security without bribes – (Judas Matt. 26:15; 27:9; Felix- Acts 24:24-26)
3. Paul’s converts – Aristarchus and Epaphras – Col. 4:10; Phile. 1:23

**Conclusion:**

1. *IT is through difficult circumstances that the Lord often uses us as witnesses of the gospel – Acts 9:15; Acts 24- governor Felix, Acts 25 – governor Festus, Acts 26 King Agrippa*
2. *It is through difficult circumstances that the Lord spares our lives. None of us can die before our calling hour; none of us can die in the day of the Lord’s return for His church – II Tim. 4:6-8*

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