## **ROADBLOCKS**

Philippians 1:12-13 ... "But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ"

Roadblocks are encountered when police, military, or construction crews stop or slow your movement on the road. If the checkpoint is of a police or military nature, it is usually for the purpose of discouraging criminals from moving about the country. Construction roadblocks prevent you from getting hurt. Even criminals sometimes set up roadblocks to force travelers to stop and submit to their demands for money, weapons, food, vehicles or other items. Recently, the PNP warned Wali citizens that armed groups are spontaneously setting up checkpoints in our area for just such a purpose (which we already knew). They also warned that armed groups are taking that a step further and going door to door like doctors who, in the old days, made house calls.

Spiritual roadblocks are also common. Some are setup by God to slow down our advancement toward sin and serious mistakes. God's roadblocks are explained in His Word, executed by the Holy Spirit through our consciences, and spoken of by pastors who are charged with giving us clear warning of the difference between right and wrong. But, satan also sets up roadblocks which are meant to divert us to a different route. Satan's game is all about deception and entrapment, just like the rebels roaming the countryside today.

Fortunately, God is able to warn us of roadblocks setup by satan and rebels. But we have to be tuned in to God's radio frequency and listening closely. All too often, however, we allow God's warnings to float into the air like a wisp of smoke because we think we have a better idea of where and when to go. If you want to benefit from God's warnings and roadblocks, you need to have your radio (heart and mind) turned on and fully charged (God's Word hidden in your heart). You need your radio tuned in and the volume cranked up to hear God speaking to you (through the Holy Spirit channel). Finally, you need to act upon the warnings given. Warnings ignored may lead to wrong decisions that take you on a dangerous path filled with hazards.

Today's verses were written by Paul concerning his arrest in Rome. They state that his plans to continue traveling to the churches he started, were blocked by Christ so that he could testify about God to prison guards and others. God may want you to change course or to stop moving entirely, both for your benefit and his glory. But you have to listen to him. Please listen and follow his instructions. They could save your life.

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