

Speaker: George Meikle
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Reading: Acts 16v6-15

This passage records a great time in the experience of the people of Phillipi. God reached out so that men and women could be blessed and their sins could be forgiven.

It is a great moment when you trust Christ and the burden of sin is lifted, to know you are bound for heaven and you have peace with God.

The servants of God had come – the message of salvation had come.

Where would we be without Christ? What would be our hope without the Saviour?

One of the greatest things men and women can know is peace with God. There is only one way to heaven. It is the same person: the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you know where you are going? Do you know your eternal destiny?

It is all to do with God. There is a strange notion that we are born Christians, but the Bible contradicts this. Paul was not a Christian until the moment he believed. You are asked to repent of your sins and believe. The Bible says, “[For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life](#)”(John 3:16).

There needs to be a link with the Lord Jesus Christ on the principle of faith. Paul would say “[I am ready to preach the gospel](#)”(Rom 1) – A great message speaking of great salvation “[How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?](#)”(Heb 2:3). It is a great message because its source is God – That is what makes the gospel different. A message from heaven to meet men and women in their need as sinners. Never has so much been done by one man: the Lord Jesus Christ.

What would the world be without Christ? - “[The light of the world](#)” (John 8:12), “[brought life and immortality to light](#)” (2 Tim1:10). Paul said, “[I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth](#)”(Rom 1:16).

Also in Acts 16, there was a damsel who was not in control of her own life but Paul cured her and there was the jailor who cried, “[What must I do to be saved?](#)”(Acts 16:30) and received the answer “[Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved](#)”(Acts 16:31).

Paul and Silas had been forbidden to preach in Asia but their first convert was an Asian. God makes no mistakes, His orderings and timings are all right and accurate. God is in control.

Paul's first sermon was to a few women by the riverside. Heaven had decreed that Paul and Lydia must meet. None of us are here by chance. Lydia was a devout person: she worshipped God. Whether we are religious, demon possessed or dark as night: all need to be saved.

It is difficult to pray to someone you do not know, but this is what lots of people do in an emergency. Christ gives peace.

Lydia did not sell her purple on the sabbath; she was by the river praying. Not as today when all seven days are the same - “[lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God](#)” (2 Tim 3:4). Lydia desired the Lord – she acknowledged there was a God.

The Bible teaches a day of reckoning, a day of judgment. The Bible teaches life after death.

“There is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim 2:5).

Lydia had an unbiased mind: she had no reservations about the Bible.

Her heart was soft: it was opened by the Lord.

What would Paul tell her?

God loved her (Rom 5:8): you will never die unloved because God loves everyone.

She was a sinner and needed to get right with God. The Saviour had come, died, been buried and risen again to make this possible. He would tell her of Calvary (2.Cor 5:21).

She just obeyed, trusted and believed. She set an example and her family believed also. She obeyed in baptism. There was a change – She was kind, she opened her home. The blessing came because she listened, believed and obeyed.