



BIBLE STUDY

August 13, 2024

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2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The Book of Acts

“Can I Get A Witness-The Gospel To The Ends Of The Earth”

ACTS 16:11-15

The First Convert of Phillip: Lydia

1. The Travel (v.11-12)

11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis.

Samothracia - This was an island in the Aegean Sea. It was about 20 miles in circumference and was an asylum for fugitives and criminals.

Nepalese - This was a maritime city of Macedonia, near the borders of Thrace. It was about 10 miles from Philippi.

God said nope, not going there.

6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.

7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

12 From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

Philippi was “the place where the armies of Mark Antony and Octavian defeated Brutus and Cassius in the decisive battle of the second Roman civil war in 42 B.C.”

2. The Church Service (v. 13)

13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.

A. No Synagogue

“we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer.”

There was few Jews in this Roman colony, because if there were as many as 10 heads of families in a community, the Jews were required to form a synagogue.

B. Determined Women

So, there was no synagogue, but these women decided to still pray.

See these women was determined to worship, even with the obstacle in front of them.

3. The Woman: Lydia (v. 14)

14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.

A. Lydia City/Name

Thyatira was well known as a center for this purple dye and fabric made from it. Later, there was a church in Thyatira also, and it was one of the seven churches addressed in Revelation, Rev. 2:20-24.

It is not certain if Lydia was her name or that they called her Lydia, because she was from the city of the same name, Lydia.

B. Lydia Profession

Lydia was a purple merchant.

Anyone who was a seller of purple dealt in a valued, luxurious product.

This woman was the first convert in Europe, and one might say that the Macedonian man turned out to be a woman.

9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

C. Lydia Worship

Lydia was a worshipper and a “god-fearer”.

D. Lydia Open Heart

Lydia, it seems, was so strongly affected with what Paul said, that she embraced the gospel with the full assurance of faith, and with all her heart.

The most important element in evangelism is asking God through prayer to open hearts, for without this there can be no genuine conversion.

4. Baptism & Hospitality (v.15)

15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

Lydia whole household was converted & baptized.

“If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

What Lydia was saying here is that if you have considered me as being sincere in the profession I have made of believing in the Lord Jesus, and really regard me as a true Christian, come to my house & stay there as long as you are in the city.

The church in Philippi was indeed influenced by Lydia. She played a significant role in its establishment.

She became the first Christian woman in history and even used her household as the headquarters for Paul and his friends during their ministry there.

Her open heart and home contributed to the growth of the Philippian church.