

## **Salvation: What Does the Bible Teach? – Part 2**

### **Acts 16:12-15**

#### **Introduction:**

1. Have you ever tried to serve the Lord and you felt like you were running into a brick wall? Paul must have felt this way. vs. 6-7
2. Finally, God made it clear to Paul and his missionary team that they needed to head into Macedonia (modern-day Europe). They immediately obeyed. vs. 10-11
  - One side note: it appears that the writer of Acts, Luke, joins Paul's team. Notice the change of personal pronouns to "we" in verse 10.
3. They settled in the city of Philippi. It was a chief (important) city in that part of Macedonia, named after the Emperor Philip, the father of Alexander the Great.
4. After several days and no apparent progress, they heard that there was a little worship service that met by the riverside each Sabbath day.
5. Paul and his group decided to attend the service. While there, they began witnessing to several women about Jesus Christ. vs. 13
6. A businesswoman by the name of Lydia listened and received Paul's message. She became a disciple of Christ and even opened up her home to allow Paul's missionary team to set up their headquarters there. vs. 14-15
7. This is the humble beginnings of a great church that was to be formed, to whom Paul would later write the book of Philippians.
8. This morning we will examine Lydia's conversion and learn several vital principles about salvation. Do you know you are saved today? Do you know your sins are fully forgiven? Do you know that heaven is your home? You can know!

**First, salvation is needed by everyone.**

**Second, salvation is of the heart.**

**Third, salvation is of the Lord.**

**Fourth, salvation is a choice.**

1. While God opened Lydia's heart, she still had to attend unto the things which were spoken by Paul. The word "*attended*" means "to hold the mind towards; pay attention to; apply oneself to."
  - The opening of the heart was God's work, but the attending was hers.
  - **Illustration:** Use a door that is shut and locked. If I tell a person that there is a special gift inside the door, but he doesn't have a key, it is useless for him. If I unlock the door and open it, he still must decide whether to believe the promise and walk through the door. It is his choice.
2. People cannot be saved unless they receive, accept, and apply the message of the gospel. They must choose to walk through the door.
3. The reason why people perish in their sins is because they receive not the love of the truth that they might be saved. **2 Thessalonians 2:10**

**Fifth, salvation leads to good works.**

1. After Lydia received the message of Paul's gospel (vs. 15):
  - She desired to identify with the Lord through baptism.
  - She testified to those in her home about Jesus Christ.
    - She must have gone home and told them the good news of Christ, and they too believed and were baptized with her.
  - She wanted to be of service to the Lord.
    - No sooner was Lydia saved than she was volunteering her home to be a headquarters for Paul's entire missionary team. She continued to be a faithful and continual help. vs. 40
2. After a person is saved, there is a natural desire to want to serve the Lord.  
Ephesians 2:10
  - If there is no desire to serve the Lord at all, this is a warning sign that true salvation may not have occurred.
3. Good works do not save us, but once we are saved, there should be a desire to do good works for Christ. **Illustration:** James Kraft
4. Are you saved today? Have you made that choice? Have you accepted Christ as your Savior? Do you desire to serve Him now that you are saved? "...*Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...*" **Acts 16:30-31**