

Theme: God sovereignly works by His Spirit to draw people from all backgrounds to Himself, and to sustain our joy even in times of suffering.

I. Intro – Inside Joke

- A. Meeting - we were told what a person often said
- B. Person came in and said exact words – all laughed
- C. He asked what was funny
- D. Reading epistles like that – what is behind them?
- E. Acts 16 and founding of church at Philippi

II. Planting the Church in Philippi

- A. Lydia's conversion (vv13-15)
 - 1. No synagogue – not many Jews
 - 2. Lydia – wealthy worshipper of God
 - 3. God opens her heart
 - 4. Her and household baptized
 - 5. House becomes base of operations
- B. The deliverance of the slave girl (vv16-18)
 - 1. Slave girl who predicts the future
 - 2. She makes a lot of money for her owners

- 3. Shouts “Listen to these men”
- 4. Paul speaks her deliverance

C. Paul and Silas arrested (vv19-24)

- 1. Owners lose money – the real problem!
- 2. Appeal to racism, civic unrest
- 3. Crowd unrest, Paul and Silas beaten
- 4. Placed in jail and stocks

D. Paul and Silas in jail (vv 25-28)

- 1. Praying and singing to God – in jail!
- 2. Everyone else is listening
- 3. Great earthquake frees prisoners
- 4. Jailer wants to kill himself; Paul restrains

E. Salvation of jailer and his family (vv29-34)

- 1. “What must I do to be saved?”
- 2. The Gospel – believe!
- 3. He washes Paul, and is washed (Chrysostom)
- 4. Same as Lydia – family and baptism
- 5. Filled with joy!

F. Paul & Silas released & leave Philippi (vv35-40)

1. Magistrates – “Release them...”
2. Paul – “They broke the law – come get us...”
3. Magistrates come to appease them
4. Paul and Silas go to Lydia’s and then leave

III. Applying the Word

A. Do we see the variety of people God calls?

1. Lydia, (slave?), jailer – founding members
2. Rich God fearer; demon possessed slave, soldier
3. God calls from every tribe – do we welcome?
4. Do we think God only calls people like us?

B. Do we see God’s salvation does not change?

1. Holy Spirit must open the heart
2. It is always believe on Jesus
3. Believers get baptized

C. Do we see God’s heart for families?

1. Specifically says to jailer – “and your house”
2. Lydia and jailers household come to faith

3. Take heart – God works in families

D. Do we see joy of Spirit runs in all circumstances?

1. Joy in salvation of jailer & household
2. Joy even in beating and jail
3. Do we exhibit joy – even in trial and suffering?

E. Communion

The Founding of the Church at Philippi (Part 2)

Acts 16:11-40
December 2, 2007
Communion
Romans 15:13

“He washed and was washed; he washed them from their stripes and was washed himself from his sins.” Chrysostom