

Acts 16:25-34

Salvation: Three Gentiles, Three very different walks of Life, Two different genders, All responded to the same gospel message.

Lydia, a successful business woman who was religious—**Acts 16:13-15**

A demon possessed slave girl—**Acts 16:16-18**

A Roman Jailer—**Acts 16:30-34**

25 What was the immediate response of Paul and Silas? Why was this response unusual? Who was listening to their prayers and singing...1) "to God", and 2) "the prisoners were listening to them."

* Remember Paul's response to the vision in Troas—**2 Cor.2:14**? Thanks be to God...

* Now think about the response he received in the first city where they preached the gospel, Philippi.

* Have you ever wondered why Paul and Silas were seized and put in jail, but Timothy and Luke were not? Follow the money and observe that racism and religious persecution are nothing new, **19-20**.

26 How did God respond to the prayers and singing of hymns by Paul and Silas? An earthquake. Not just an earthquake, but a "great" earthquake that managed in the midst of all the chaos to shake the foundation of the jail, open the door of each cell, and unfasten the chains of each prisoner. That was God because that was more than just natural destruction. Remember Peter and prison? **Acts 12:3-8**.

27 Why was the jailer going to kill himself? Roman law and justice was absolute which is one of the reasons why Rome ruled the world for nearly one-thousand years. Nations that accommodate anarchy crumble from within sooner than later.

28 What compelled the rest of the prisoners to stay put rather than run? At least some of them were in jail for capital punishment from the response of the jailer. Had stories about the demon possessed slave girl and her healing made their way through the jail followed, by prayer, singing they heard, and an earthquake that opened doors and took off chains? Paul was commanding and they were afraid to disobey him. Apparently the God of the Jews was greater than the god of the Greeks (Atremitis) and Romans (Diana) whose temple was considered one of the seven wonders of the world.

29 The irony of the roll reversal would be funny if the circumstances were not so tragic and the consequences so deadly.

30 The million dollar question, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31 What does the bible say is the basis for biblical salvation? "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." This answer is consistent throughout the entire New Testament.

How is the way of salvation question answered in the New Testament? "Believe" on the Lord Jesus.
John 1:12; 3:14-18; 3:36; 4:53; 5:24; 6:27-29; 6:35; 6:47; 7:38; 8:24; 9:35-38; 11:25-26; 12:46; 14:12; 17:20; 20:31; Acts 10:43; 13:39; 16:31; Romans 1:16; 3:21-22; 4:4-5; 10:4; 10:9; 10:14; 15:13; 1 Cor.1:21; Gal.2:16; 3:22; Eph.1:13.

"By grace, through faith, a free gift of God." **Romans 3:23-28; 1 Cor.6:23; Eph.2:8-9; Titus 3:4-8.**

How does the New Testament not answer the way of salvation question?

(Two stories from Gettysburg the first week of November.)

Universalism
Religious relativism
Feelings or sincerity of the heart
Moral and ethical works
Baptism
Financial giving
Academic achievement
Doctrinal Orthodoxy
Service activities and remembering the poor
Religious heritage
Age
Ethnicity
Gender
Circumcision
Keeping the Mosaic Law
Speaking in Tongues
Repentance to sorrow or tears to authenticate genuine salvation

32 The gospel can be shared with an entire family at the same time. But the response to the gospel in believing only happens personally and individually. “They spoke the word to him together with all who were in the house.”

33 Romans did not wash the wounds of Jewish prisoners.
Baptism is an act of obedience because of salvation, not a necessary means to salvation.

34 Jews who were committed to following the Law of Moses would not have entered a Roman soldier’s house or eaten non-kosher food with him and his family. The gospel is supposed to cross ethnic and religious traditions. The ground is level because of the cross! **Rom. 3:22; Gal.3:28; Col. 3:11.**

Is there anyone in this room today who has never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for your eternal salvation? Are you ready to do this today, right now? **John 1:12**

Is there anyone in this room who has mistakenly put their faith for the salvation question in their own works or achievements? Would you like to address this error today by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and the complete and finished work He accomplished at Calvary for your salvation? **John 3:16-18; 1 John 5:11-13.**

Let’s pray.

Pastor Karl Payne