

# **The Gospel comes to Philippi**

Sermon 1 in the Philippians Series

## **Acts 16:1-15**

Acts 15 & 16 are pivotal chapters in the Book of Acts and the history of the church.

Acts 15 – because it sets the stage for evangelistic efforts among the Gentiles as Gentiles.

### **Intro: 16:1-5**

#### **I. The Macedonian Vision 16:5-10**

It was the Holy Spirit who stopped Paul from going where he planned and opening the door to where he should go.

1. God is the one who sovereignly directs how, when and where the gospel will be proclaimed.

2. Macedonia needed the gospel.  
It wasn't that Asia didn't need the gospel.

Other apostles, evangelists and Christians would go into Asia.  
Others would go east and farther west than Paul  
Paul would be used by God to open the door of Europe for the cause of Christ.

3. Notice the “we” passage Luke includes in verse 10.

#### **II. The Conversion of Lydia 16:11-15**

##### **A. Where were all the Jews?**

Paul is led to find this small group, with this God-fearing woman, called Lydia, heading up this prayer meeting with a few others.

##### **B. Lydia Herself**

She is not even European.  
She had come from Thyatira, the very area that Paul had just left.  
Lydia was not her real name. It is a pseudonym for the region from which she came.

### C. What do we know about her?

1. She was already a worshipper of the God of Israel.
2. She was evidently a widow – and a wealthy merchant woman.
3. The issue of Lydia and her household baptism.

The normal way to read this is – and most commentators agree -- the Lord opened her heart – she was converted – those in her household who were used to going to the river were converted – and all confessed their new found faith in Christ by following Him in baptism.

1. She proved her profession by baptism.
2. She proved her profession by hospitality.

### Final Applications



**The Second Missionary Journey of Paul<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Sproul, R. C. (Ed.). (2015). *The Reformation Study Bible: English Standard Version (2015 Edition)* (p. 1944). Orlando, FL: Reformation Trust.