

# Good News From Chardon

July 11, 2021

Issue 28

## Lydia

Church of Christ

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Chardon, OH 44024

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Lydia is one of my favorite characters in the bible. The little said about her speaks volumes. She was “from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God” (Acts 16:14). It is curious that Paul and Silas were “forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia” (v.6) and yet, after receiving the call to bring the gospel to Macedonia, the first person they convert is a woman from Thyatira, a city in the province of Lydia (no kidding) in Asia Minor. The Lord works in mysterious ways!

Paul, Timothy, Silas and Luke encountered a group of Jewish women gathered together by the riverside outside the gate of Philippi. Where there was no synagogue Jews would often worship near bodies of water for prayer and ritual purification. The men spoke the gospel and “The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul” (v.14). She tenderly received the truth, obeyed it with her household and invited the men to stay with her. Again, there is not much text to go on but what is recorded is significant.



Being a Jewess, Lydia would have been familiar with the book of Proverbs. It is no coincidence then that her godly character is cut from the same purple cloth of Proverbs 31, a woman of whom Lydia bears a striking resemblance.

The Proverbs 31 woman is diligent, hardworking and successful (vv.13-19), like Lydia who was herself a businesswoman. She even wears “purple” (v.22), the same color of Lydia’s stock, a color reserved for nobility and royalty (cf. Mt. 27:28). But the godly woman’s true adornment is “strength and dignity” (v.25; 1 Tim. 2:9-10), the very raiment of Lydia evident from this encounter. She is compassionate, “reaching out her hands to the needy” (v.20), much like Lydia reaching out to a tired band of preachers, inviting them, even insisting, that they lodge with her.

Lydia understood that “charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is worthy to be praised” (v.30) and so Luke described her as a “worshiper of God” or a God-fearing woman. I love how she “prevailed” (!) upon the men (v.15) asking Paul, “If you judge me faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” Who could argue with that? She showed her faith by her works (Jas. 2:18) and her faithfulness was worthy to be praised. Paul and the gang had no choice but to oblige. That’s called wisdom, another trait of the Proverbs 31 woman (v.26).

In the same town Paul and Silas got thrown into jail for casting out a spirit from a slave-girl who was greatly annoying Paul (vv.16-19). After being released, and converting the jailer in the process, “They went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.” (v.40) Again, Lydia extended her hospitality to these haggard preachers by receiving them into her home.

Lydia heard the gospel with an open heart and responded to it, leading her whole household to do the same. She showed her faith by her works and love of the brethren. Her profession of godliness was evidenced by her actions (1 Tim. 2:10). How much like the godly woman of Proverbs 31, who leads her family by example? What a woman! What a great example of faith! Lydia is the kind of example you need. Think of what the world would be like if there were more Lydias!

From the Danville, Ohio, church of Christ

## Schedule of Services:

Greeting: Tom

Song Leader: Dale

Opening Hymn:

**55—Take Time To Be Holy**

Opening Prayer: Mark  
Hymn:

**13—Wonderful Words of Life**

Scripture Reading: Larry  
Acts 16:6-15

Hymn:

**649—I Gave My Life For Thee**

Lord’s Supper: Ray  
Hymn:

**53—Purer In Heart**

Sermon: Tom

Invitation Hymn:

**642—I Am Resolved**

Closing Hymn:

**17—Revive Us Again**

Closing Prayer: Ryan

**PRAYER LIST**

- \*Bonnie and her family .
- \*Margaret and Albert.
- \*Wanda and her family.
- \*Kathy, her sister and friends.
- \*Zarna’s family and friends
- \*Larry and Ruth.
- \*Pat and Ron and their family.
- \*Juanita’s sister Betty and the rest of her family.
- \*Mary and her family.
- \*Robert and Sara and their children.
- \*Ray and Barbara and their family.
- \*Dale and his family.
- \*Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.
- \*Myron & Carole and their family.
- \*Mark and his family.  
Mark has not been feeling well.
- \*Our congregation



**CALENDAR**

- July 11—Worship 11 am.  
Speaker: Tom
- July 11—Bible Study 6pm  
on-line with Dale
- July 16—(a.) Gary & Cindy
- July 17—(b.) Myron
- July 18—Worship 11 am.  
Speaker: Tom
- July 18—Bible Study 6pm  
on-line with Dale
- July 25—Worship 11 am.  
Speaker: Tom

# Lydia Baptized at Philippi

Acts 16:6-15

after	appeared	Bithynia	called
Concluding	course	forbidden	foremost
Galatia	gospel	immediately	Macedonia
Mysia	Neapolis	night	passing
Permit	Philippi	Phrygia	Pleaded
Preach	region	sailing	Samothrace
Saying	Sought	Spirit	stood
straight	Therefore	through	

S A H E W P R A S A S E L L S E P N  
 R I O F P E H U R P L E F I R H O T  
 O N M T T T H R E C I T L Y I I H O  
 F O T F I H Y A Y T I O R L G G E Y  
 A D A W H M O W O G P R I E U G S L  
 N E D D I B R O F A I P R O N S R E  
 E C H I P E D E E G P A S I T A U T  
 C A O D T H E N P I L O D S L I O A  
 A M E R O F E R E H T U O E R T C I  
 R N A P P E A R E D L M P D O A D D  
 H S I P E N E A P C E S T D H L O E  
 T T N G E R I H N R O G E I S A O M  
 O R Y A H S R O O G E T N A R G T M  
 M A H T Y T C F O H E A I I E I S I  
 A I T M D E D A E L P L C D S T P H  
 S G I G N I Y A S E I T H H I S N S  
 G H B C A L L E D N S S P O K E A N  
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Hidden Message: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else’s, we’d grab ours back.**

SUNDAY: Worship — 11:00 am; Bible Study — 6:00 pm (on Zoom)  
 Website: [Chardonchurchofchrist.org](http://Chardonchurchofchrist.org)  
 E-mail: [church\\_of\\_Christ@roadrunner.com](mailto:church_of_Christ@roadrunner.com)  
 Pod Cast: [Chardon.podbean.com](http://Chardon.podbean.com)  
 Follow us on FaceBook



Answer to Puzzle : She was a seller of pur-  
 ple from the city of Thyatira, who wor-  
 shipped God. The Lord opened her heart to  
 heed the things spoken by Paul.