

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED? Grimsby, March 15/15

THESIS: to make certain that all know how to find salvation

READING: ACTS 16:11-34

INTRO: *What Must I Do To Be Saved?* This is a question that was asked in the first century and is still being asked today. A man responsible for a jail asked the question in this instance. Let's expand it and **get a framework** for his question. What was he asking for? What prompted it?

PAUL, LYDIA AND A PRAYER MEETING- Acts 16:11-15.

The men of God shared the good news of God's activity in Jesus Christ. Then God "*opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message.*" Now she was able to understand the deep meaning the benefits to her. We too need to believe that God can move in our lives to make understanding possible. The very next thing we see is a time of baptisms- Lydia and "members of her household" were immersed into Christ and became Christians.

Baptism is immersion. Nothing else is indicated as a substitute. No amount of religious talk ending up in sprinkling or pouring water on a person replicates Bible baptism. To be baptized in Bible fashion, one must be immersed. Lydia moved from being a "*worshipper of God*" to "*a believer in the Lord,*" hence a Christ follower. Note, no matter what else took place, **she is a believer. This is important as we proceed.**

ARREST IN PHILIPPI – 16:16-21. First there was the spreading of a teaching the people had not heard of, and most people don't like to change their religion, and, in addition, the men who were using a gifted woman, who was able to predict the future for their own gain, quickly realized that this preaching must stop! They grabbed Paul and Silas and took them to the authorities. The charges brought against these two godly men were: "*These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.*"

A NIGHT IN JAIL- Acts 16:22-31. The beatings were humiliating and painful, they were placed in sitting position with feet in stocks. They are now treated like criminals. Do we hear them complaining to or about God? No, Listen to Act 16:25- "*About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.*" We hear gratitude, respect and praise to God. THEN- an act of God, in response to the two preachers, happened, "*Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"*" Now, the question again, "*What must I do to be saved?*"

A one sentence answer says it all, just like with Lydia, who already was a religious woman but became a "believer in Jesus Christ." They said, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.*"

THE WHOLE STORY- Acts 16:32-34. This man must hear about Jesus before he can believe in him. So we see a Bible Study going on. To believe in Jesus is to know that he is God's Son, He is the one and only Saviour, His death was to make forgiveness possible for all of us. He is the ONLY WAY.

So, as we would expect, we see more baptism. Just as those who die are buried, those who die to sin and their old lives must bury the old person and be raised to new life. Great happiness results from knowing one has followed God in obedience.

CONCLUSION: We will sing a song of encouragement. Let us encourage anyone here who has been baptized but not committed and those who have never been baptized because they put it off. Please come forward if you feel the need.