

“Woman & Men Alike Establish House Churches!”

Acts 16:11-15

Therefore, sailing from **Troas**, **We (Paul, Silas, & Timothy)** ran a straight course to **Samothrace**, and the next day came to **Neapolis**, and from there to **Philippi**, which is the **Foremost City** of that **Region of Macedonia**, (being) a **Colony** (of mostly **Roman Army Veterans**). And we were staying in that city for some days. And on the **Sabbath Day**, **We (Paul, Silas, & Timothy)** went out of the **City (of Philippi)** to the riverside, where **Prayer (Meeting)** was customarily made; and **We** sat down and spoke to the **Women** who met there. Now a certain **Woman Named Lydia** heard **Us**. **She** was a seller of **Purple (Dye & Cloth Merchant)** from the **City of Thyatira**, **Who** worshiped **God**. (Now) the Lord **Opened Her Heart to Heed** the Things Spoken (**Gospel – Rhema**) by **Paul**. And when **She** and **Her Household** were **Baptized**, **She** begged **Us**, saying, “**If You have judged Me to be Faithful to the Lord, come to My House and Stay!**” So, **She** persuaded **Us (Paul, Silas, & Timothy)**.

Acts 16:11-15 (NKJV)

The Setting For Today’s Scripture Reading

Therefore, sailing from **Troas**, **We (Paul, Silas, & Timothy)** ran a straight course to **Samothrace**, and the next day came to **Neapolis**, and from there to **Philippi**, which is the **Foremost City** of that **Region of Macedonia**, (being) a **Colony** (of mostly **Roman Army Veterans**). And we were staying in that city for some days.

Acts 16:11-12

Show Map Of Paul’s 2nd Missionary Journey

Show Map Of Paul’s 2nd Missionary Journey Overlaid On Modern Map Of Turkey

Q

“What Will Be The Outcome Of This Historic Journey To Thyatira & The City Of Philippi?”

A1

**The Foundation Of The Church In Philippi Will Be Laid Down,
& An Epistle Of The New Testament Will Be Written!**

A2

**Some Of The Hardest People (Soldiers – Veterans) To Reach
With The Gospel Message Will Be Convinced & Find Faith In Christ!**

A3

**These Veterans Will Become True Soldiers Of Christ & His Cross
& They Will Stop At Nothing To Share The Good News
& The Truth Of The Gospel To The World,
For They Fear Nothing - Not Even Death!**

A4

**A House Church Will Be Formed In A Gentile Women’s Home (Lydia)
As The Basis For Further Preaching, Teaching, & Missionary Outreach
In This Important Commerce, Government, & Military Region
Linking Asia To Rome Across Southeastern Europe**

A5

**Lydia Will Become An Important Connection Later To John The Apostle,
In His Evangelism & Letter To The Church Of Her Hometown – “Thyatira”
One Of The Seven Churches Addressed By Jesus Christ In The Book Of Revelation**

John The Revelator Writes, “**And to the Angel of the Church in Thyatira Write, These things Says (Rhema) the Son of God, Who has Eyes like a Flame of Fire, and His Feet like Fine Brass: I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you because you allow that ‘Woman Jezebel, ...**

... **Who Calls Herself a Prophetess**, to teach and seduce My Servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols". And I gave **Her** time to repent of her sexual immorality, and **She** did not repent. Indeed, I will cast Her into a sickbed, and **Those** who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless **They** repent of their deeds. I will kill Her Children with death, and **All the Churches** shall know that I **AM He Who** searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each One of you according to your works. Now to **You I Say (Rhema)**, and to the **Rest** in **Thyatira**, as many as do not have this (**False**) **Doctrine**, **Who** have not known the depths of **Satan**, as **They (Church Leaders & Council)** **Say**, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have Till I Come (Again). And **He Who** overcomes, and keeps My Works until the end, to **Him** I will give power over the nations, 'He shall rule Them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels', as I also have received from **My Father**; and I will give Him the Morning Star (My Very Self – My Everlasting Presence). **He** who has an ear, let **Him** hear what the **Spirit Says (Rhema)** to the **Churches!**"

Revelation 2:18-29 (NKJV)

Q

"What Do Paul, Silas, & Timothy Do Immediately Upon Entering A New Town – Like Philippi?"

A

They Look For An Opportunity On The Sabbath Day
To Present The Gospel Message By Looking For A Synagogue

Q

"What Happens As They Search For Their Opportunity?"

A

They Find No Established Synagogue – Hardly A Jew In Sight!
They Find Only Gentiles In The City Square, Government, Etc.

Q

"What Do They Do Next?"

A

They Go To **Plan B** For A Jewish Person Of Faith!

Q

"What Is **Plan B** For A Jewish Person OF Faith?"

A

Plan B – If No Synagogue Is Present – Find The **Local Prayer Meeting!**

... And on the **Sabbath Day**, **We (Paul, Silas, & Timothy)** went out of the **City (of Philippi)** to the riverside, where **Prayer (Meeting)** was customarily made; and **We** sat down and spoke to the **Women** who met there.

Acts 16:13

Q

"Who Do The Men Find In Charge Of Keeping The Ancient Faith & Truths?"

A

Gentile Women Converts To Judaism

Q

"What Kind Of **Women** Did They Find In **Leadership** Over This **Sacred Sabbath Assembly**?"

A

A Wealthy Business Owner, Landowner, & Leader Over Her Household!

... Now a certain **Woman Named Lydia** heard **Us**. **She** was a seller of **Purple (Dye & Cloth Merchant)** from the **City of Thyatira**, **Who** worshiped **God**.

Acts 16:14ab

Q

"What Kind Of A **Spiritual Leader** Was **Lydia**?"

A

One Whose Heart & Soul Was In Tune With The Movement Of **God's Holy Spirit**

... (Now) the **Lord Opened Her Heart** to Heed the Things Spoken (**Gospel – Rhema**) by **Paul**.

Acts 16:14c

Q

“What Did Lydia Immediately Do In Response To The Holy Spirit’s Prompting In Her Life & In The Life Of Her Faith Community & Household?”

A

She Acted In Immediate Action Of Faith & Obedience!

Baptism Of Water Unto Repentance & Baptism Of Fire Unto Holiness

And when She and Her Household were Baptized, She begged Us, saying, **“If You have judged Me to be Faithful to the Lord, come to My House and Stay!”** Acts 16:15

Q

“What Was The Outcome Of Her Conversion & Actions Of Faith & Obedience To The Gospel’s Message & Call On Her Life & Her Faith Community & Household?”

A

Her House Was Chosen As The First Home Church In Philippi By Paul!

Q

“Okay, Pastor Scott, Where Is Your Evidence For Women Being The Head Of House Churches In The Bible?”

A

Glad, You Asked!

Evidence Of Actual Women In The New Testament

As Pastors, Deacons, Teachers, & Church Leaders Of Home Churches, ECT.

- 1) **Four Unmarried Daughters** Of Phillip The Deacon & Evangelist, **Who All Had The Gift Of Prophecy** According To Luke The Evangelist & Author Of The **“Two Parts Of The History Of The Christian Church”** Acts 21:8-9
 - 2) **Phoebe - A Deaconess: Minister & Servant**, Was So Important That She Was Appointed By Paul As Bearer Of The Epistle To The Romans Romans 16:1-2
 - 3) **Priscilla - Always Mentioned Together With Her Husband Aquila As Co-Workers In Christ** Romans 16:3-5
- Priscilla Helped To Instruct Apollos In Ephesus** According To Luke Acts 18:2-26
- Priscilla Is Mentioned Before Her Husband Aquilla, In Precedence Four Times:**
1x In Romans & 2x In Acts, & 1x In The Church At Ephesus – 2nd Timothy 4:19
- 4) **Junia - Is Mentioned Either As The Wife Of Andronicus Or As His Co-Worker In Christ** Romans 16:7

Junia Suffered For The Faith, Going To Prison For Preaching The Gospel

- 5) **Lydia – Is Mentioned As Having Her Whole Household Baptized In The Faith. She Was In Charge Of Her Household & Her Business** According To Roman Law Of The Day. And She Was In Charge Of The Jewish Prayer Time In Light Of No Sabbath In Philippi Of Thyatira. She Also Became The Leader Of The Church That Met In Her Home From Then On. Acts 16:13-15
- 6) **Many Other Women, Like Mary of Magdala, The Sisters Of Jesus, & Jesus’ Mother, Are Also Mentioned In Extra Biblical Writings** As Pastors, Deaconesses, Elders, & Prophetesses These Women Were Mentioned Throughout The Early Centuries After Christ & Would Take Too Long Here To Include In This Discussion Without Consulting A Series Of Extrabiblical 1st – 4th Century Writings.

CQ

Central Question For The Church Today

“Who Does God Desire To Lead His People In The Church: Men, Women, Or Both Together?”

CA

From The Evidence Presented It Should Be Apparent That Women Held Nearly Every Position Of Importance & Authority In The Ministry Of The Early Church & Therefore, Should Continue These Roles Today In The Modern Church!

Let Me Encourage You With One Final Word From God Addressed To All Of Us TODAY!

Paul Who Helped Form & Ordain Many Of These Home Churches Writes To Us Again Today, *“And so, Dear Brothers and Sisters, we can Boldly Enter Heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the Blood of Jesus. By His Death, Jesus Opened a New & Life-Giving Way through the Curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a Great High Priest Who Rules Over God’s House, let us Go Boldly Right into the Presence of God with sincere hearts Fully Trusting Him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s Blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with Pure Water. Let us hold tightly without wavering to the Hope we affirm, for God can be Trusted to Keep His Promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the Day of His Returning is Drawing Near!”*

Hebrews 10:19-25 (NKJV)

If Paul Were Here Himself Today Addressing Timothy & All Of Us, This Is What He Might Say:

“My Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ, I Love You All! May we Truly Love One Another in All Unity! May We Share the Mercy and Grace of God in Our Thoughts, Words, and Deeds, with All Those Who Need to Experience the Love of God in Christ! May Each of Us Freely Give of Our Gifts, Talents, and Callings, as the Holy Spirit has Blessed Us, that We might Edify & Encourage the Whole Body of Christ! Let Us Each Offer Our Service in Perfect Unity, Without Hindrance, Without Distinction, & Without Distraction, that the World May Come to Know: ‘How Wide, and Long, and High, and Deep, is the Love of God in Christ Jesus Our Lord!’”

Pastor Scott A. Kovalcik

OUR NEW MISSION AT CROSSWAY!

“Let Us Begin To Establish Home Churches In Our House Meeting Weekly Or Biweekly To Meet The Needs & Comfort & Guide Those In Our Area In Which We Live, So As To Make New Disciples, New Friendships, & New Members Of Christ’s Body – The Church!”