

27. Dr. Andrew Corbett

9 March 2022 at 8:29:10 pm
Acts 16:12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days.

28. Dr. Andrew Corbett

9 March 2022 at 8:30:32 pm
Acts 16:14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.
Acts 16:15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

29. Dr. Andrew Corbett

9 March 2022 at 8:30:54 pm
Acts 16:16 ¶ As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.
Acts 16:17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation."
Acts 16:18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

30. Dr. Andrew Corbett

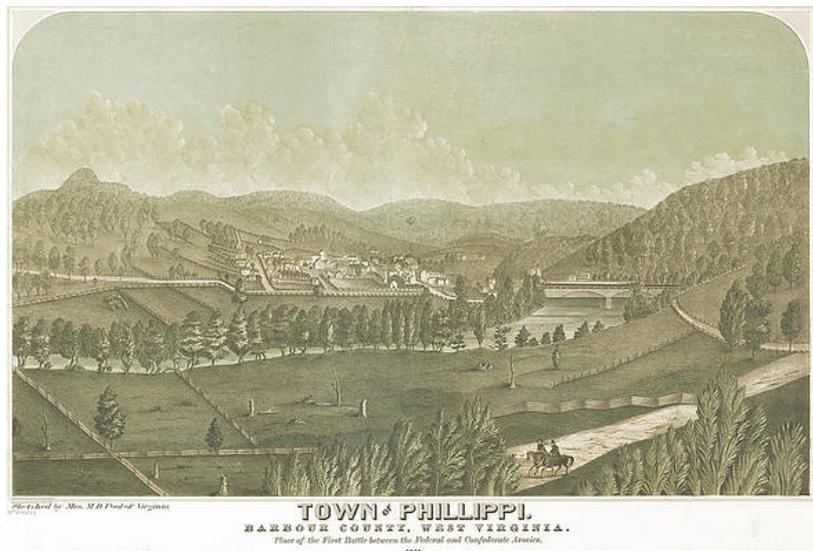
9 March 2022 at 8:32:39 pm
Acts 16:19 ¶ But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers.
Acts 16:20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city.
Acts 16:21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice."
Acts 16:22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods.

31. Dr. Andrew Corbett

9 March 2022 at 8:35:36 pm
Acts 16:23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely.
Acts 16:24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Study 2

FAITHFUL PREACHING



Background

Paul's initial time in Philippi was rather brief. Philippi was a *leading* city in Macedonia (Acts 16:12). In the short time he, Luke and Silas were there, they led a businesswoman to the Lord and baptised her (Acts 16:14-15) Paul cast out a demon from a fortune-telling slave-girl (Acts 16:16-18), disrupted business activity in the city (Acts 16:19-22), and was thrown into jail (Acts 16:23-24).

1. And if all of that wasn't dramatic enough, what other dramatic episode contributed to the planing of the Philippian church according to Acts 16:25-40?

32. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 March 2022 at 1:14:58 pm

Acts 16:25 ¶ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, Acts 16:26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

Acts 16:27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

Acts 16:28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

Acts 16:29 And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas.

Acts 16:30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Acts 16:31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Acts 16:32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

Acts 16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

Acts 16:34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

Acts 16:35 ¶ But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go."

Acts 16:36 And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace."

Acts 16:37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out."

Acts 16:38 The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens.

Acts 16:39 So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city.

Acts 16:40 So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

33. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:07:49 pm
Phil. 4:15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.
Phil. 4:16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

34. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:11:31 pm
The Philippian church financially supported Paul several times.

35. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:13:03 pm
Phil. 1:12 ¶ I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,

36. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:13:19 pm
Paul reassures them that he is still able to share the gospel even though imprisoned. This reveals Paul's amazingly positive attitude and confidence in the sovereignty of God.

37. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:17:34 pm
Phil. 1:13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

38. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:17:42 pm
"The whole imperial guard" had heard about Christ. This reveals that Paul had great courage and didn't use his current negative circumstances as an excuse not to reach out.

39. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:21:55 pm
Phil. 1:14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

40. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:22:03 pm
Paul's imprisonment had emboldened many of the believers in Rome to be confident in their preaching of the gospel. Thus, Paul had been able to multiply his preaching effectiveness by mobilising many preachers.

Each of these converts had experienced a dramatic conversion as a result of the preaching of God's Word confirmed by the Holy Spirit. After the Philippian magistrates came to Paul and Silas and apologised to them for their mistreatment, they were obliged to leave the city. It appears that Luke may have remained in Philippi to set the church in order. "The use of the 'we' in the narrative of Acts is dropped until Acts 20:5-6 when Paul returns to Philippi" (Kent et al 1996, 4). There is an ancient tradition that Luke was actually a Philippian. Upon Paul's second visit to Philippi, the Philippians warmth of affection appears to have been made clear.

33 2. How does **Philippians 4:15-16** reflect this appreciation by the Philippian church shown to Paul, its founder?

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35 3. It appears that the Philippians were deeply concerned for Paul when he was imprisoned in Rome. How does Paul reassure them in **Philippians 1:12**, and what does this tell us about Paul's outlook in the midst of his trying circumstances?

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37 4. According **Philippians 1:13**, who were among those to whom Paul preached to, and what would *this* have revealed about Paul? Consider.

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39 5. Rather than view his imprisonment as a setback to the cause of the gospel, what tremendous benefit did Paul recognise as a result of his imprisonment according to **Philippians 1:14**?

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41. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:33:11 pm
Paul, seems to have become increasingly focused on Christ as he got older.

42. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:39:50 pm
Phil. 1:15 ¶ Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.
Phil. 1:16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.
Phil. 1:17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

43. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:40:01 pm
Paul was glad that the gospel was being preached even by those whose motives were not pure - because the gospel was still powerful even then.

44. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:49:11 pm
rejoiced

45. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:50:10 pm
Phil. 1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

46. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:53:51 pm
Rom. 10:14 ¶ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

47. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
9 March 2022 at 9:52:00 pm
Without preaching, people cannot turn to the Saviour to be saved from their sins.

The Importance of Preaching Christ

Amazingly, “The names Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus, Lord Jesus Christ, Lord Jesus, Jesus, Christ, Lord, and Savior, occur 51 times in the 104 verses of the Epistle” (Kent et al 1996, 7).

6. What might this reveal about the aged apostle's relationship with God at this stage of his life? Discuss.

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Even though Paul was imprisoned he was seeking every opportunity he could to preach the gospel so that everyone could come into a relationship with the true God. To Paul, the gospel was so powerful in transforming lives (as the Philippians themselves had experienced) he was glad when God used anybody to preach it.

7. But how did he feel when some people were preaching the gospel with selfish motives to simply receive accolades (and probably financial gain) from others? (Phil. 1:15-17)

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It appears that some of these preachers might have been claiming that their freedom to preach was a sign of God's blessing on them and that Paul's imprisonment was a punishment from God. Rather than Paul being distracted by these possible taunts, which he alludes to in Philippians 1:17, he actually

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rejoiced (Phil. 1:18).

8. What does this tell us about the importance of preaching and why is this so? Discuss. (Consider Roman 10:14.)

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9. How were Paul's positive reactions to his negative circumstances - where at times he even *rejoices* in the midst of them - a challenge to us? Discuss.

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10. What cause for rejoicing do we currently have?

Application Discussion

- How does the Evil One discourage most believers from sharing the gospel?
- Why is it that some believers struggle to see the positive in life challenges?
- How do you do you good things even when you don't feel like it, and why?