

GOSPEL
of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Acts 16:13-17

Lydia's Conversion, Baptism, and a Gospel Encounter

by Bob DeWaay

October 18, 2020

Lydia's Heart Is Opened

Acts 16:13, 14 (NASB)

And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

- Lydia will become a key person, used by God for the gospel to take root in Philippi

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 2

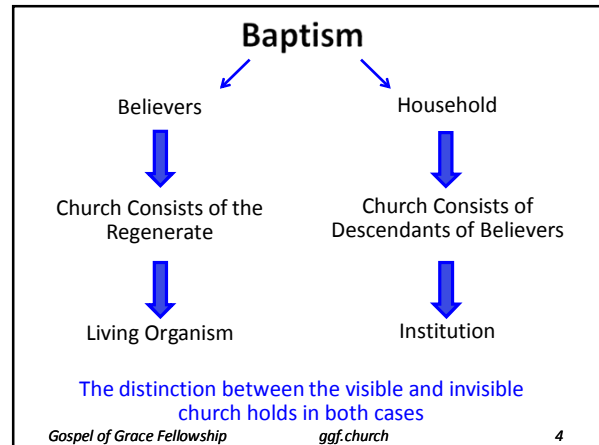
Lydia and Household Are Baptized

Acts 16:15 (NASB)

And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us

- The text does not tell us any details about these household members
- The implication is that they, too heard the gospel and believed
- Elsewhere in Acts is it believers who are baptized
- Lydia is highly motivated to serve the Lord

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 3



Baptism in Acts

Acts 2:38, 41 (NASB)

Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit". ...So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

- "Baptism" in various tenses is used 21 times in Acts
- Never is it explicitly applied to infants; it is consistently used in the context of conversion

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 5

The Circumcised Heart

Colossians 2:11, 12 (NASB)

And in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

- "Made without hands" shows its nature
- 4 parallel truths: "made complete" (vs 10); "circumcised" (vs 11); "buried" (vs 12); "raised up with Him" (vs 12)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 6

Baptism Implies Death

Romans 6:4-7 (NASB)

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if **we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death**, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that **our old self was crucified with Him**, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no **longer be slaves to sin**; for he who has died is freed from sin.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

7

Lydia's Role Frames the Philippi Narrative

Acts 16:15 (NASB)

And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

Acts 16:40 (NASB)

They went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

8

A Spirit of Divination

Acts 16:16, 17 (NASB)

It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, **a slave-girl having a spirit of divination** met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation."

- In Luke 8:28, a demonized man called Jesus "Son of the Most High God"
- The spirit is called a "python" spirit (Greek)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

9