



BY T.L. OSBORN

I WANT TO TELL you about a miracle that took place in a prison at the town of Philippi. This is a Bible story and it is true. Ac.16:19-40

Paul and Silas, two of God's servants had been preaching the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ to the people of the city.

These men had encountered a lady who was possessed by an evil spirit of divination. She was a slave of some rich men who were using her fortune-telling powers to gain money from the people.

For many days, this woman followed Paul and Silas, making occultist incantations about them. v.16 Recognizing that she was possessed by an evil spirit, after some days, the Bible says, *Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command you, in the name of Jesus Christ, to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.* v.18 She was wonderfully healed and restored.

The rich men, upset by the loss of their income through the woman's divinations, had Paul and Silas arrested, beaten badly and put in the common dungeon with their feet and hands in stocks. vs.19-24

That night, instead of complaining, those men *prayed and sang praises to God, and the prisoners heard them.* v.25 God saw their faith and at midnight there was an

earthquake. *Immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.* v.26

The jailer awoke startled and frightened. When he saw that the prisoners were free, he drew his sword to slay himself v.27 because he knew that he would be charged with negligence and would be killed if the prisoners escaped.

But just as he was ready to commit suicide, Paul called out: *Do yourself no harm: for we are all here.* v.28

The jailer knew it was the voice of the man who preached Jesus. He knew how they had unjustly beaten the men. And he had been shocked by their singing praises and praying to God. Now they were freed by a miracle. To him, this was proof that they had beaten and shackled Godly men, and he was terrified.

He rushed in and fell down before Paul and Silas asking, *Sirs what must I do to be saved?* v.29-30

That is the most important question in the world that one can ask.

Paul said: *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved?* v.31

That same night, the converted jailor took Paul and Silas, washed

their wounds and was baptized by them. Then he brought them into his house, set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house. vs.33-34

What about you? Do you want to be converted as that jailor and his family were? Believe on the Lord, and *you too* will be saved. Believe what?

Believe that Jesus died for your sins. Believe that He gave His life to ransom you from the power of evil.

The Bible says, *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.* 1Ti.1:15 It also makes this statement: *Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.* 1Co.15:3

Why did Jesus, the Son of God, die for our sins? Because *the wages of sin is death.* Rom.6:23 God created humankind without sin. Then Satan came, and lied to them, prevailing on them to disregard God's Word. Rejecting what He said, they began to deteriorate and die. God's law stated, *The soul that sins, it shall die,* Eze.18:4 and that law could not be rescinded.

God had told Adam and Eve that if they sinned, they would die. Gen.2:16-17 They did not believe what He said, but rebelled and ate the forbidden fruit. Consequently, they were expelled from the Garden of God's presence, to live as slaves of Satan, the destroyer.

But people were God's creation. His Word says, *The Lord is not willing that any should perish.* 2Pet.3:9 SUBSTITUTION was the only way to save people. So God sent His own Son who had no sin, to assume *our* guilt and to die for *our* sins, as *our* substitute. He endured *our* punishment and died in *our* place.

Now that He died for our sins, we can no longer be condemned.

*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved.* Ac.16:31 Why?

Because *God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting LIFE.* Jn.3:16

Believe God's Word. Believe what He says. The wages of your sin is death. Your sins condemn you and you will die under their penalty unless you believe the Gospel.

Believe that Jesus suffered death in your place and that He died so that you can live. Believe that His death fully ransomed you from all of your sins. Now all you have to do is, *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.*

This is almost too wonderful for words, but it is true, because of God's intense Love. The Bible says, *Behold, what manner of Love the Father has bestowed upon us.* 1Jn.3:1


It says, *God commends His Love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* Ro.5:8

God loved you and me so much that He gave His only Son to save us from our sins—to ransom us from Satan's power to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. Jn.10:10

He created you. He loves you. He has paid to redeem you because He believes in you and He wants you as His friend and partner.

Receive Him then. Thank Him for His great Love. God loves and values you enough to give His Son as a ransom for your freedom from evil.

Come to Him today and say: "Lord, I repent of my sins; Thank You that You gave Your life and shed Your blood to redeem me. You paid my penalty. You endured the judgment of my sins. Now I accept You as my Savior and Lord. I receive You into my life. Thank You for loving me before I ever loved You. Amen!"

God bless you! 

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