

“3 Hearts, 1 Savior!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. I don't think a Christian ever gets tired of hearing how someone was won to Christ! – Such great stories on how much **grace** God has shown; what God has **pulled them out of**; or how God **pursued** them. (examples)
- 1.2. One of the outstanding characteristics of Christianity is its variety of methods in dealing w/mankind.
 - 1.2.1. It takes them as they are, & works with them in their individual temperaments & circumstances.
 - 1.2.2. **The object is the same** (salvation for the soul); **but the means vary** (taking different ways to same goal).
- 1.3. Here we have 3 different kinds of sinners, or 3 hearts that are won to Christ:
 - 1.3.1. **A business woman; a slave girl; & a man given jail duty.**
 - 1.3.1.1. **A soft heart; a blind heart; & a hard heart.**
- 1.4. Recap Macedonian call. [**Destination**, Europe – **Duty**, to preach the gospel!]
 - 1.4.1. We picked up Luke(10)[“we” passages] Both Philippi narratives 16:10-17; 20:5-15

2. **3 HEARTS, 1 SAVIOR! (11-40)**

- 2.1. **A SOFT HEART!** (11-15)
- 2.2. (11) **Sailing** – On that ship were **seeds of life** for Europe.
 - 2.2.1. Later to become **seeds** that would sail to **America**.
- 2.3. (12) **Philippi** - named after *Philip of Macedon II* (father of Alexander the Great)
- 2.4. **Colony** – (not golf course on Jackson) **It was a little Rome**. Cities that followed Roman law & customs.
- 2.5. (13) **Riverside** – obviously was not 10 Jewish men, needed for a synagogue.
- 2.6. **Sat down & spoke** - What an insignificant way to open up a continent!
 - 2.6.1. **Free, simple, informal, w/nothing set or elaborate about the service, just prayer & an opportunity of testimony for Christ!**¹
- 2.7. (14) A business woman in Philippi from Thyatira. A Gentile God-fearer.
 - 2.7.1. **1st convert made in Europe.**
 - 2.7.2. **Thyatira** – center of the purple dye business. Since purple goods were expensive, Lydia was likely a wealthy person. And traveled far more than most women of her day.

¹ Griffith Thomas; Outline studies in Acts; pg.322

- 2.8. The Lord opened her heart – Who?
- 2.8.1. The heart = the center of our moral life. Including: Intellect(thinking); Emotions(feeling); Will(determining).
- 2.8.2. It's the essence of our whole being, our personality. It contains "the issues of life".
- 2.8.2.1. Prov.4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.
- 2.8.3. From our heart proceeds evil thoughts; with it man believes unto righteousness; God offers man a new heart!
- 2.9. Why does a heart close off to God? – because the sin in our nature(root) & the sin in our practice(fruit).
- 2.10. The Lord opened her heart – not Paul.
- 2.10.1. It's the sun that makes the photograph not the artist!
- 2.10.1.1. Explain w/o light. Long night exposure still picking up moon light.
- 2.10.2. It's God's Son that makes the convert not the artist!
- 2.10.3. The conversion & sanctification of every soul is God's & God's alone!
- 2.11. Example: Closed rose bud. Try to open myself. Or, water & prep soil, & allow the sun to do its work.
- 2.12. (15) In at least 2/3rds of the world, all important decisions are made by groups.
- 2.12.1. Because only insignificant decisions are left to individuals, when missionaries come w/an individualistic gospel, it frequently seems as though it must be an unimportant issue to those they are trying to win. (Peter Wagner; Acts of the H.S.)
- 2.13. She 1st opened her heart, then her home!
- 2.14. Her salvation so quiet. Nothing startling. Just growing conviction that something deeper was missing.
- 2.15. A heart so Soft it just needed more light!
- 2.16. A BLIND HEART! (16-24)
- 2.17. What a contrast to the 1st woman, who was used to making a profit; this young woman was used for profit.
- 2.18. (16) Spirit of divination/a spirit of Python - [πυθων] {puthon} In Greek mythology it was the name of the Pythian serpent or dragon, and was said to have guarded the oracle at Delphi(Greek city), and been slain by Apollo.
- 2.18.1. Oracle? – A religious institution focused upon an individual who had a satanically empowered gift of prophecy & who was sought out by many who wished to determine the will of the spirits.
- 2.18.1.1. The oracle at Delphi was a priestess known as the Pythia because she was empowered by the Python spirit.

- 2.18.1.2. She would only prophecy on the 7th day of the month.
- 2.18.1.3. She would take a ceremonial **bath**, sacrifice a **goat** to Apollo, enter an underground **chamber** beneath the Temple sit on Apollo's tripod.²
- 2.18.2. According to mythology, Python's power was passed to Apollo, & through him to others.
- 2.18.3. Paul encountered this same spirit in this slave girl.
- 2.19. (17) Fallen angels are probably the finest imitators of holiness.
- 2.20. (19) **Their hope of profit was gone** – No different today in someone getting saved & getting out of a **gang; drug trafficking**; (they know too much)
- 2.21. **2 women** were the 1st European converts... **Where was the man of Macedonia?**
- 2.21.1. And after vs. 24... **was this what the great call to Macedonia was all about? [For a ladies prayer mtg? For a demon possessed slave girl? Lord, which one do you want to be the pastor & the assist pastor in this new church plant?]**
- 2.22. **A heart so Blind** it needed someone to remove the blindness!
- 2.23. **A HARD HEART!** (25-34)
- 2.24. (25) In spite of persecution & pain, these Christian prisoners prayed & praised.
- 2.24.1. Tertullian wrote, "**Legs** did not feel, because **souls** were in heaven".
- 2.24.2. Lord teach me to **praise** instead of **complain!**
- 2.25. What a contrast in the gospels where **king Herod frets** while sitting on his throne; while here, **prisoners rejoice** because their minds are at ease!
- 2.25.1. Spurgeon, "A crust of bread from one heart brings a song, **from another** a thousand acres of ripening grain can produce no thanksgiving."
- 2.26. When you hurt, ask God to give you **songs in the night!**³
- 2.26.1. Ps.42:8 **The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, & in the night His song shall be with me - A prayer to the God of my life.**
- 2.26.2. Job 35:10 says **God gives us songs in the night.**
- 2.26.3. Ps.149:5 **Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds.**
- 2.27. (26) In 1 Kings 19:11,12 Elijah was told, **Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD. And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake,**

² Peter Wagner; Acts of the H.S.; pg.401,402

³ Warren Wiersbe; With the Word; pg.718

but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹² *and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.*

2.27.1. I guarantee he was in this earthquake!

2.27.2. It shook the foundations; opened door; & loosened the chains.

2.27.2.1. There was some *heaven-quake* involved in this *earthquake*, lest how do you explain no one hurt.

2.28. All I know is *I'd be out of there*, remembering what God did for Peter!

2.28.1. *Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty I'm free at last!*

2.28.2. **Wait!** Oh, it wasn't to set **them** free, but to set **another** free!

2.29. (28) Had Paul not called out we'd have a man dieing & slipping off to hell!

2.30. (29) **Trembling** – The Jailer knew something was very wrong. His life was not right

2.30.1. His **post** was in danger, but more importantly ...his **soul!**

2.30.2. Maybe remembered unnecessary cruel treatment of Paul & Silas?

2.30.2.1. (24) **Feet in stocks** – (Greek/ξύλα /xoo-lon) wood, stocks. **A Roman Instrument of torture w/more than two holes for the legs so that they could be forced widely apart unto apposition which soon became intolerably painful.** [LKGNT; pg.304]

2.31. (30) The greatest question for all mankind... **What must I do to be saved?**

2.32. **Saved** – always in contrast with “lost”.

2.32.1. Similar contrast to “Lost” (sheep, coin, son) with “found”.

2.32.2. **So salvation is the opposite of being lost, it's being found; it's the opposite of being in danger, it's being safe.**

2.33. What about the 2nd most important question, **What must I do to be lost?**

2.33.1. No elaborate answer, for it consist of *just one word...* **nothing!**

2.33.1.1. **See Jn.3:36,18.**

2.34. (32) At sometime his household enters the scene because they heard & received also. (nothing magical about **& your household!**)

2.35. (33) I love that he not only **felt bad** for the beatings, but **did** something about it.

2.35.1. **Wash** their wounds; then **wash** your sins away!

2.36. **The 1st recorded episode of an out-and-out pagan, becoming a believer in Jesus Christ!** (i.e. no prior exposure to Judaism)

2.37. **A heart so Hard** it needed a **great earthquake** to **crack it open!**

2.38. **CIVIL RIGHTS!** (35-40)

2.39. Paul did not use his roman citizenship here to **protect himself** from pain; **but** here he uses it to **protect the new church.**

- 2.40. **End:**
- 2.41. **So we had:** a religious **business woman** w/an open/soft heart; a **slave girl** with the Philippian-Python-possessed-heart; rugged **roman soldier prison guard** w/a hard heart.
- 2.41.1. **God has a thousand keys to open a thousand different doors in order to deliver His own.** *George MacDonald*
- 2.42. Whether **your heart** is **soft**; **blind**; or **hard**; the Lord wants to open it this morning!
- 2.42.1. **Ps.34:18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed**(contrite) **in spirit.**
- 2.42.2. **A heart must be penetrated by God!**
- 2.42.3. A heart may be as **thin** as an egg shell, like the **Philippian business woman Lydia**;
- 2.42.4. A heart may have a **black veil** over it, like the **Philippian slave girl**;
- 2.42.5. A heart may be **thick** & needs an great earthquake to crack it, like the **Philippian prison guard**;
- 2.42.6. **But a heart must be penetrated by God!**
- 2.43. **What help does mankind truly need? – Knowledge of God; Pardon of sins; Power for life; & Hope for the future!**⁴
- 2.44. **So if salvation is the opposite of being lost, it's being found; and it's the opposite of being in danger, it's being safe.** – **Do you want to be found...safe?**
- 2.44.1. **Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ & you will be saved!!!**

⁴ Griffith Thomas; Outline studies in Acts; pg.318