

Preach the Word  
Committed, Dedicated, Faithful  
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I'd like for you to take your Bibles and go to Acts chapter sixteen. Tonight I'd like to take you into the sixteenth chapter of Acts and share with you what I think God's message is for this, The Way Family Camp, on this closing night of June, whatever it is, 1975.

There was a city in what we refer to as Asia Minor area, called Macedonia. This - not a city, but a territory, an area, a country, it was referred to. This particular area of Macedonia, if you'll look at your maps, you don't have to, but if you do, you'll find out it's north of Greece, and it's bordered on the east coast by the Aegean Sea. It has in it, or it had in it in its day, five great, tremendous cities: Amphipolis, Berea, Thessalonica, Apollonia, and Philippi. Two of the epistles are addressed to two of those cities: the one in Thessalonians, and of course the epistle to the Philippians. The city of Berea is mentioned in a very favorable light. So this great area of Macedonia, I think, is like we are here tonight at this Camp in this year 1975 and in this month. And I'd like to open the Word to you and my heart to you and share with you what I have seen a little bit of here in the Word.

Before I read from the sixteenth chapter of Acts, I would like to remind you, especially you Way grads, you newcomers to The Way Ministry, perhaps, have not had the opportunity to have the accurate translation of Proverbs 29:18. But, you grads will remember that Proverbs 29:18 states: Where there's no knowledge of God's Word, His people wander aimlessly. Where there's no knowledge of God's Word, the people wander aimlessly. It doesn't say, Where there is no knowledge of science, or philosophy, or history, or mathematics, or sociology, or psychology, the people wander aimlessly. It says, Where there is no knowledge of God's Word. The King James says, Where there is no what? [Vision] Vision. Where there is no vision, the people perish. The original text reads, Where there's no knowledge of God's Word, the people wander aimlessly. So, it must be that knowledge of God's Word which makes it possible for people to know where they're going, why they're going that direction, how to go that direction, and how to live a life that is more than abundant.

In Luke {Acts} the sixteenth chapter, and tonight we begin with the ninth verse. A vision appeared to Paul in the night. That vision was a revelation. I'm in Acts sixteen, did I say Luke? Sorry, the author, writer. Sixteen-nine of Acts, please. That vision was not an apparition. It was a revelation. It simply means that God showed it to him like on a TV screen in Technicolor. He woke up in the middle of the night and he had a vision. And that vision was, there stood a what? [Man] A man of Macedonia and prayed him saying, Come over into Macedonia and help us. That's the kind of vision that I saw years ago for the outreach of the Word around the United States and the world...a picture of the potential that's latent out there, and the absolute essential need of people reaching out and helping the peoples of the world.

America has given away more money, more everything else than any other nation in the history of the world and is the most hated and despised nation in the world today. We have helped to feed more of the poor. We've helped to teach them to farm, how to take care of their sex problems. We've done

everything for them and all we have brought to our self is hatred. If you don't think the Americans are hated, go to Canada. That's our sister country to the North. If you don't think we're hated, go to Europe. See them in France and Spain, Sweden, Germany. We rebuilt Germany with American money. All of that junk. India the same way. Africa the same way. All the nations. Near East where I have been, Lebanon, Syria. All of those countries hate us...because all we have done is shared our ego with them. We have never shared God's Word and the missionaries have been the worst. There are two people that ought to come home: all the politicians and all the missionaries. And then the American people ought to be given fifty dollars to spend in a foreign country. Then let them go. Because we have been such a tremendously bad influence. Every place Mrs. Wierwille and I, and numbers of others, have traveled to teach God's Word, we have never seen them see the American people. You know what they've seen? Crooked politicians. Missionaries, who had slaves working for them. They have never seen your heart and mine. They have never seen the common people of America that make this, our country, great. And the reason we have...they haven't, is because nobody's taught them God's Word. They have never seen the Word of God in an American, generally speaking.

This is why, this cry is tonight. Just put any land in there, put any place in there, but mainly put your next-door neighbor in it. A vision in the night. Praying him, come over, come over next-door neighbor, come over and do one thing, what? [Help us] Help us. Don't teach us how to farm, how to raise chickens, how to breed better cattle. Don't tell us how to have more armament. Come over and help us, help us so we can help ourselves. And the only help that's living is the Word of God, class. Nothing else helps. Jesus Christ said, The poor ye have what? [With you always] Well, quit trying to dig the poor out and give them five-thousand a year. Won't work. Contrary to what? [The Word] Word of God says, if you don't work you don't what? [Eat] Well, why don't we practice it? See. The cry is, Come help us, help. That was the Macedonian cry.

He saw a man of Macedonia standing there. He wasn't sitting down. He wasn't lying down. He wasn't dead. He wasn't reclining. He was standing up and holding out his arms, that's what he said...saw. And he said, come to Macedonia, Macedonia, Macedonia, Macedonia. Help us. Help us. Help us. And ladies and gentlemen, that's what's happening tonight across our country. People are standing up and they're crying for the Word of God, for somebody to just come and help them with God's Word. Help us. Help us. Help us. Every community, every city, every area, the cry today, Help us.

Verse ten. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia. I can't believe that. Is that right? Yes, it is right. Two-thirty in the morning he had a vision. You know what he did? He went back to bed and he said, Well, I'll sleep in till nine-thirty or eleven. I'll have breakfast. Then I'm going to think about it. Ladies and gentlemen, he had that vision at two-thirty in the morning and what did he do? [He got up] Immediately, he got up and he packed his suitcase. You talk about commitment, dedication and faithfulness! How do like that one? Oh, but I'm too tired, Lord. You know, I worked hard teaching the Word yesterday. Lord, I stayed up till twelve-thirty helping your people. You never hear Paul saying that! Why? 'Cause, sir, he was committed, he was dedicated, and he was faithful. And when God spoke, it was God's Word, it was God's Will. It meant what it said and what? [Said what it meant] Right then, not five hours later! He got up and packed his suitcase. Immediately. Immediately. And you know what immediately means? You don't need a commentary; all you need is your renewed mind on God's Word. That's all. Right. Ha-ha. Immediately, we endeavored to go to Macedonia. Why didn't he go to New York? Had more people. The Word was what? [Macedonia] It means what it says and it [says what it means]. Right. I send a group of W-O-W's to Timbuktu in Georgia. Where do you



think they go? [Timbuktu] And I would die on that field before I'd leave that field. Because if you don't, you got the rest of the days of your life to live with, and you'll always live below par unless you really tap in and get God's forgiveness, and put your teeth a hundred-thousand times deeper than you did the first time.

Paul didn't argue with God. He didn't say, Well, I'll wait till noon tomorrow...see if there's a flight out. He packed his bags and he knew when he got to the airport the plane would be there. That's right, boy. He – immediately. The Word of God to him was what? [The will of God] It meant what it said and it [said what it meant]. When He said Macedonia, what'd He mean? [Macedonia] Sure, your mind will say to you, Well now, that's beautiful; that was Paul. Is that right? Sure, that's right. But what about Maryland? What about Florida? What about Illinois? What about all these? Is there a need out there? [Yes] You're God's people. Go back in that place, hear that Word of the Lord. Move that Word. Hold it forth. They're holding out their hands and saying, Help us. Help us.

The community says you can't help. All the adults say you kids can't do it. All the kids say the adults are old fogies. They won't believe. I don't give one damn what anybody says. If God says, GO, you never ask any questions about age or anything else. You do one thing, what? [Go] Go. Paul didn't even stop for a haircut. Immediately, do you see it? Immediately. Boy, oh boy.

That last phrase, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the Gospel...not social problems, not political, but to preach one thing what? [The Gospel] Sure. Do you think they had a few poor over there? You think they had a little political problem? Oh, by the barrel full. You think they had a little sex problem and all the rest? Tremendous. He said one thing only. Preach the Gospel, the good news, the Gospel, the Gospel. Preach the...not social service, not science, not philosophy, not history, not mathematics, but preach one thing, what? [Gospel] The Gospel, the Gospel. He said assuredly, gathering that the Lord had called us. And all it was, was a what? [Vision] Vision. Not as, not as any clearer than my speaking to you tonight, I guarantee you.

You're not seeing a vision, this is me. In the vision it's like a TV. But whether you get it by TV or direct, it is still God's what? [Word] Word. He got it by a vision and he said, I know that's the Lord saying, Go there and preach the what? [Gospel] Amen. And I'm saying to you tonight, Go back in your community and preach the what? [The Gospel] Amen. Quit stewing about the social problems, the poor, and tearing up the place. Just hold forth one thing, the Gospel, the Gospel, the Word, the Word and nothing but the Word.

When you wake up in the morning, talk the Word. When you go to sleep, talk the Word. And if your husband kisses you, talk the Word to him, vice versa. If the old goblin grabs you by the toe in the middle of the night, give him the Word. Ha-ha. Ah shoot.

Really something. Preach the Word. And remember the Word is...it says, Today is the day of salvation; now is the acceptable time. The time of the Word is always an eternal now, 'cause the Word is not a **has been**. The Word is not a **will be**. The Word is an **eternal now**. It lives right now, right now. Right. Preach the Word. One of the other places in the scripture it says, Preach it in season and what? [Out of season] That means it's on all the time. That means...it's an Orientalism that means preach the Word, the Word, the Word, the Word and nothing but the Word, morning, afternoon, and night, midnight and any other...just the Word, the Word, and nothing but the Word. What a tremendous thing. Well.



Therefore, verse nine, loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, Samothracia, Samothracia, or something. And if you know that part of the Mediterranean, and you know the problems, to come with a straight course took a lot of believing. Because, I checked out the time of the year, here. It was the time for storms; they blow you all over the place. But they went with a straight course. Boy, oh boy. Paul believed God called him. Paul believed that all the winds of hell couldn't drive him off a course. They set her for a straight course and they headed directly from Troas straight down the line because God had said, Get over there man, to Macedonia. He didn't stop by Berea for a visit with a friend. He didn't pull in and harbor at a beautiful sea coast and say, Well, now I'll take a few days off, visit with the friends; we'll go on a yacht and do a little fishing. Oh, I think I'll live...have a little holiday before I get in there...a little vacation. Maybe I ought to attend a Way Family Camp before I get there, huh. Oh, but I want to go to that Family Camp. Oh, I just...Immediately, straight what? [Course] Do you see that? My, it'd be good to go to a Family Camp, right? But it wouldn't be what? [Best] That's right. And God demands man's best if you're gonna get God's best results in return. Just look at that. If there was any man who was entitled to a Family Camp, it was Paul. Ha-ha.

Someone asked me the question, How's come I throw people out of the Corps? Well, first of all, it ain't any of your lousy business, because you're not head of the Corps, I am. And beyond me is God. He runs the show, I just take orders. But we have a little rule and regulation. Let's say I would send you from here over to the hill over here where we had the twenty-four hours of prayer. And I give you forty-five minutes to get there. Do you think maybe you could make it in forty-five? Suppose you didn't get there in one hour and a half. Now something has to be radically wrong, right? Suppose I'd given you three different opportunities to get there in a half an hour and you didn't make it till three days later. I think you have just exonerated yourself from the Corps and not me. That's why they're gone. I didn't throw them out; they threw themselves out, because we operate principles and they all know them. And I never ask man...a woman or a man...to do anything that either I have not done a thousand times myself or can still do right now. But you see, I'm building men and I don't take that crap in the Corps. You can get away with it maybe in the senses world, but if you're going to be in my Corps, by the grace of God, you're going to learn something. Either that or you can go fish in somebody else's pond and catch dummies. But boy, the Word, the Word, the Word, the Word. Paul didn't take five years to get there! What's it say he did? [Immediately] He made a straight course. And they call me back and say, Oh, but I didn't understand it. Didn't understand it. I speak plain English. And I speak loud! Ha-ha. My earthly father taught me that. He said if you're going to be a minister, speak loud enough that the hard-of-hearing get either healed or they can hear you while you're teaching. Ha-ha.

I get so upset with you musicians. You've got fifteen people and you got to have a five-hundred watt amplifier to get to them. Hoo-hoo-hoo. Why don't you just play that stuff. And why don't you just sing up a little so a man can hear you? But, no, we got to have an amplifier - fifty watter, for fifteen people. Oh lord, you can give me an auditorium five times this size, I just screw up the volume. It's a lot cheaper than amplifiers. A lot less trouble. Because this one always stays in pitch. Ha-ha. And I don't have to put a new battery in it every morning and plug it in and fix microphones and hear that BAHHTG. Ha-ha. I just plugged it in, you know. Whoo! Ah, you're beautiful.

Hey, they made a straight what? [Course] That's right. I guess you got that point, huh? If the Word of God says, Jump, you do what? [Jump]. You don't ask how high, you just jump. Right. Shall I tell them the story, Lonnell? Ha-ha.



What kind of bug was that anyway? [Flea] A flea, that's right. Took it into Dr Winegarner's laboratory at the University Center in Indianapolis. And Dr. Winegarner got one of his great scientific men to work on this flea. And the idea was to see how far a flea could jump with all its legs. And then to remove one leg at a time and see how far it could jump. [Much laughter] So the scientist gets his white coveralls on, his white jacket, gets into his immaculate little laboratory. He gets out his pad and his pencil, his pen. And he gets his little old flea out; he doesn't contaminate him, he just gets him out under proper control. Brings him over here. Tears off one leg. And he says, Jump. And he jumps over here. Picks up his piece of paper, makes his notes. Brings him back, sets him down. Gets his tweezers on that other leg back there and he goes, Yip. Pulls it off. And he says, Jump. And he jumps right over here. Picks up his pad. Two legs removed. Jumped that many centimeters. Makes his log. Brings him back, gets his tweezers out. Takes another one off, says, Jump. Finally, he has all the legs off except one. Brings him back. Sets him down after he's made all his notes. Pulls that leg off. Says, Jump. Doesn't do a darn thing. Makes his notes. When you have removed all the legs from a flea, that son of a gun can't hear. [Laughter] Keep you awake two more minutes. I got to think of another one by that time, see. Oh, I love you.

And he came from a straight course. Ha-ha. You see, they were 'straights' at that time. And the next day they came to Neapolis. And verse twelve, and from there they got to where? [Philippi] Philippi. Which is the chief city, the big city, the primary city. It is the major city of that part of Macedonia. And Macedonia was a Roman colony. And we were in that city abiding certain days. Nothing happened. I thought God told him to go to Macedonia. Well, He did. He got there, he abode there certain days, and nothing what? One would have thought, He'd a had...God would have had all the people standing on the coastline welcoming the ship in. Come on in Paul! Come on in man! We've been waiting for you for a century! Come on in. Ah, Paul went in there, got his housing, looked for his four-hour-a-day job. And nothing what? [Happened]

Lord, did I hear you right in that vision? Lord, what do you bring me to this lousy place for? I was born in New York, now I'm down in Mississippi! Oh no, Lord. Little Rock to boot! You see, hardly anybody sees this stuff in the Word that we see. Look at that man. The greatest man with the greatest revelation of all time. Is he complaining? He just goes into town, finds his little four-hour job. You know what he does? Sits down, brews himself a pot of tea. And he lives it up. Maybe speaks in tongues a little bit, just rests himself. Was he doing God's Word while he was waiting? [Yes] Just as much as when he's teaching the Word.

There's a record in the Old Testament...boy if I had time I'd teach it to you. Ain't got that much time, maybe. God said to Moses, I think it was Moses, When the cloud moves, you move. They were covered by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by what? [Night] And God said to Moses, When the cloud moves, you move with the children of Israel, about two and a half million strong. You move. When it stands still, you do what? [Stand still] So when they were standing still, were they doing the Word of God as efficaciously as they were when they were moving? [Yes] I figured this out mathematically because I know the distance between Egypt and the Holy Land. It took them forty years to get there. They must have been standing still most of the time. That's right. Never made it until forty years, honey. And God had said when the cloud moves, you move. When it doesn't move, you don't. They must have stood still and sat still for ages. I think you could walk that thing in three or four days, easy. I'd a got awful impatient with Moses and God. Well, they did. Ha-ha. And old Moses said, Shut up. We walk by God's Word.



They all died in that wilderness, I believe, except Joshua and Caleb who originally started out, except the new children that came up. All of those unbelieving adults, who wouldn't believe God's Word and moved on it, they all died, except Joshua and Caleb, am I right Gail? [Right] I want to tell you adults, you're gonna die, unless you move with God's Word. We had a good fight this afternoon didn't we? Boy, take it back to the rest of your adults. Teach those adults back there to either get on God's Word or for God's sake get out of the way and die. One of the two. Move with the Word or get out!

Three leprous men, remember, outside the gates of the city...came the smartest question they ever asked themselves: Why sit we here until we die? Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to die, so you might as well stand up and die than to sit and die. It's just as easy to die standing up as sitting. And it's easier than laying down. If we're going to die, let's stand up for God and His Word and die, rather than be a pooped-out bunch of so-called Christians doing nothing for God. Let's do something. Even if you just have to sit, if it's the Word of God, you're still doing God's will.

He got in there...as I know he did. Got himself a job. You wonder why I know that... 'cause, it says so in the Book of Acts, if you work it, 'cause, he was a W-O-W that went on the field and he got himself a job and he made his living by...he supplied his food, clothing, and shelter by working and then he witnessed the Word of God full time...when he had the time. But he saw to it that he had the time, 'cause he worked hard and got the job done, then he'd have enough money, then he'd go work. Then when people started abundantly sharing and there was enough abundant sharing, then he quit his job and just gave nothing but twenty-three and a half hours a day to teaching the Word. That's Paul. The book of Acts.

Well, anyways there were no people there. One would have thought, God gave him a vision, He'd at least have a thousand there, wouldn't He? Oh, and this thing is unbelievable, but I believe it 'cause it's in God's Word and it's the only thing that doesn't lie.

They were there certain days, verse thirteen. And on the Sabbath, we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down and spake unto the women which resorted thither. Oh no. Not a woman. No, not a woman, not a woman. This is Oriental culture. V.P. sitting down and talking to a woman wouldn't be out of order at all. Or a woman responding to the Word wouldn't be out of order at all in our culture. But Oriental culture? A man, sitting down and rapping with a woman. God had showed him a what standing? [Man] A man. A man. But when he gets there, there's nobody, not a man at all, but finally ends up with a what? [A woman] Oh, my God. Oh, I sure missed the revelation. I'd better go back home. A woman? He showed me a man. There wasn't a man there when he got there. Paul could have copped right out. You see how many times he could have copped out on the W-O-W field? Had all the chance in the world to cop out. Nobody at the...at the port when he gets there. Nobody that says, We got a job for you. He has to go out and find it. After certain days he goes out to the river where people met to pray and the only people out there are women. A woman. Not even a man. Boy, oh boy. You talk about commitment, dedication, and steadfastness.

And a certain woman named Lydia, verse fourteen, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira. The city of Thyatira was a very, very important place as was Philippi, in Macedonia. Who believed in God, who worshipped God, heard us, whose heart the Lord what? [Opened] That she attended unto the things which were spoken of whom? [Paul] Whose vocabulary was it? [Paul's] Who did it sound like? [Paul] That's right. Not like God. It sounded like what? [Paul] It was Paul, Paul. Paul's vocabulary, Paul's



enunciation, his pronunciation, his facial features, the way he combed...it was Paul. Whose heart the Lord what? [Opened] How did the Lord open her heart? By Paul praying about it? No. God had said, Preach the what? [The Word] The Gospel. The Word, right? Preach the Word, the Word, the Word.

Paul got down there and all he had was women. And basically just one woman, just one. But he still preached the what? [The Word] Oh Lord, but I won't have a campaign in your community unless you can get all the churches together. Get everybody to cooperate. Have a hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Have the auditorium paid for. Then I'll come to your community. Want me to name you the evangelist who operates that way? Paul would never had made that ball game, would he? A man's heart almost breaks when you teach the Word and you see what's happening in modern America in what we call Evangelism. What a cop out, Hannah! What a lousy cop out if God's Word is right! And ladies and gentlemen, if God's Word isn't right, then what have you got? Nothing. And all you have is man's opinion. That's right.

A woman. God touched or opened her what? [Heart] By the preaching of the Word. Doesn't say by singing beautiful songs on guitars and playing clarinets, or anything else. That's wonderful. No objection to it. I love music as much as anybody else in the world, but boy, if you want to reach people, get off of the music and get to the Word, the Word, the Word, the Word. The preached Word. The preached Word. Music is nice, you know, to have a little trip with. But boy, to get people converted and walking on the greatness of the power of God, music will never do it if you play it from now on till doomsday. There's never enough of God's Word in one song to do it. There's not enough of it in fifty of it. You've got to do what I'm doing with you tonight. Just taking her line by line and word by word, baby, right down the line. That's the only way you're going to get...that's the only way Paul got them. That's the only way Jesus Christ got them. And I doubt very much if you and I are going to improve upon Jesus Christ's and Paul's method.

Whose heart the Lord opened. You and I can not open a heart. All we can do is preach the what? [The Word] The Word, the Gospel, that's all, that's all. If they believe it...if they believe it, then they'll open up and that's the Lord opening up their heart, when they hear the Word and believe it. That's the Lord opening up their heart. Not my job to open their heart. It's my job to preach what? [The Word] Remember the scripture? Paul said, somebody planted, I planted. Was that what he said? Apollos what? [Watered] But God gave the what? [Increase] That's why you and I don't have to run around our country and keep score. We never have a meeting, like in here, and go back home now and write, We had...168 at the Camp in Maryland, 31 of them spoke in tongues, five of them were born again, see.

Isn't that wonderful to let God's great IBM keep the score? All we have to do is hold forth the Word. Preach the what? Gospel, the Word. That's all that's...just preach it, rightly-divide it, then the believing is dependent upon the people, right? And if the people believe it, God opens their heart by that Word. Without that Word, you're never going to get to their heart. Argue about it, you'll never get to it. Just lay the Word on them. Remember my teaching or sharing with you, John 3:16 this afternoon? Is John 3:16 the Word? [Yes] If they won't open their heart to that Word, do you think they are going to open if I argue with them? No. Remember that old cliché or statement, A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still? You can convince a man if you're strong enough because you can hold him down and stomp him on the nose with your foot. You can convince him. Or if you've got a big enough gun you can make him kneel down. But he's of the same opinion, what? [Still] The only way a man or a

woman ever changes, as far as I can see, is the Word, the Word, the Word. So you preach the Word. Preach the Word. Preach the Word.

We plant. We water. But, boy, when you plant, plant good seed. Hashing the Word of God to pieces would not be good seed, ha, even from Indiana it wouldn't be. So...and watering the Word of God. You wouldn't think of putting salt water on a wheat seed, would you? So class, the planting and the watering is very, very, very important. So you watch what you plant and how you plant it and how you water it. You know, it's just not sticking it in the ground and pouring a tub of water over it. The record: how they plow the field, how they cultivate it, how they prepare the soil, and then they put the seed in. I think it's in the Gospels. Ha-ha. Then it rains and watered, then God gives the what? [Increase] And if you planted a grain of wheat, you can get that so wonderfully, you have sixty...forty, sixty, seventy-five, eighty beautiful kernels of wheat just like the original. That's what you call God giving the increase. And I am sure that God will not do less with any man or woman's life on the W-O-W field or any ambassador for God anyplace, if they'll faithfully plant and water. I guarantee you the crop will be there. If it has not been there, it's because you did not plant and you did not water properly, 'cause the Word says, His Word does not return what? [Void] I put that whole thing together. I am just absolutely convinced that the Word of God is magnified above His name, that it means what it says and it says what it means. And when that Word of God is rightly-divided and handed out there, properly planted, properly watered, it's got to come back with increase.

Now you say, 'Yeah, you got one'. That's right, I got one. What's so bad about one? I believe my Bible says that the worth of one soul is worth more than all the money in Maryland. Huh-ha. How about taking New York along? Florida? India? The Word of God says that the worth of a soul is more than all the wealth of what? [The world] That's what I believe.

So am I a failure if I just win one? Only in the world's eyes. But you see, the world doesn't judge me. The world has no right to judge me; and if they do, I don't give a damn about it. They don't know what they're talking about anyways. Who judges me? God. And God's Word says that that soul is worth more than all the what? [Wealth] That's why, sir, you can't fail holding forth God's Word. There are no failures in The Way Ministry. We all play first string and we play on the best team in the whole world. We have no losers. That's right, boy.

Well, ha-ha, when she was baptized, verse fifteen, in water...[No] You know God does have water in some of His men's vocabulary who wrote. And I'm pretty sure had God wanted water in here, He would have put what in it? [Water] Is He stupider than you are? [No] If you'd have wanted water in here, you would have put what in? [Water] That's what we've been doing. But God, He wasn't smart enough when He left it out. I got a problem with people, you know that? Did I teach you Acts 2:38 while I'm here? Sure, I did. It's available in the Word, that when you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, believe...then you get remission of sins and you're baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. And ye shall *lambano*, remember? Hoo-hoo.

Lydia, Lydia, Lydia. A woman. Gets saved. Oh no! Yeah. Because of one thing: Paul's steadfastness to carrying out the mission. God showed him a vision of a man. When he got there, the only one that would listen was a woman, Lydia, and he laid the Word on her. And the Lord opened her heart and she and her whole household. She got all of her kids and they listened to God's Word. They were born again.



And then she besought us. This again is totally inappropriate as far as culture is concerned. She besought us saying, If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come in to my house and abide there. Oh no, no, not the man of God go into a widow woman's house with her kids. What the neighbors' going to say? You know what the neighbors are going to say. The same thing they're saying about you, today. They said it then. Whooh. Oh no, not Paul. Not Paul going in that woman's house. Yeah, Paul, going in. And she constrained us. That means she gave him all kinds of excuses why he ought to stay. She was right the first time. Ha-ha. I don't know if you see this as great as I see it. Everything, just many times contrary to society, contrary to culture, but he had the Word of what? The Lord. Boy, and he followed that. Unbelievable. And here is a woman, invites him to come in and, you know, horizontal at her place. Crawl into his sleeping bag. And it's so easy for her to get in that sleeping bag, you know. You see, neighbors think it. That's the human mind. They'll always think that which is worst. Why can't we think that which is good? Because we have a lousy, filthy mind. Not a mind that's renewed according to God's Word. But a mind that...the old natural-man mind.

Two o'clock in the morning. He was supposed to be home at twelve. Your son. Two o'clock in the mor... oh, my God. Wonder if he had an accident? What if...auh? What if he's drunk someplace? Auh. You know I heard there is a lot of pot around. Auh. Twelve-thirty he was supposed to be home, or twelve. He's not home at two. Why not think that maybe he's helping a brother or sister in need. Oh, it never dawned on us. 'Cause the world has taught, he's supposed to be in at twelve-thirty, therefore, he's got to be doing something wrong.

I just went through this experience with parents less than a month ago. Their son saved someone from dying because it was an automobile accident and he helped with that; and I'm sure that other party would have died had it not been for this boy being out till two o'clock in the morning. That's why I'm telling it to you. The parents could have at least thought about their son, that he was doing good. But no, immediately, auh, nervous, Wonder if he's been in an accident, wonder if he's drunk, wonder if he's potted out someplace, see. Makes a man's heart cry, doesn't it? And both of those parents have gone to church for thirty-five, forty years. Ask yourself, what did they learn? Can't have learned very much. That's quite a commentary. You sit under my ministry for thirty-five years and if you don't learn more than that, I don't what I'm going to do with myself. If I couldn't teach you more than that in one night, I'd quit. Right.

Why not believe that God gave him revelation that he could bless that home, 'cause the Word of God says, If the man of God walks in, there is peace in that home, there's blessing in that home. Wherever that man of God walks there's blessing. Well, Paul was a man of God. Why not think in terms...He didn't go in there to shack up with her, have her crawl in his sleeping bag. That's the world. But you see, it looks that way to the world. Look, you don't go by the world. You go by God. To me it's beautiful he went there. Broke all the Oriental culture, and I like that, see. I like that because he walked for whom? [God] God. God is more important than culture!

Said to Jesus, Look, your disciples off the ball. What's the matter with them? You say you're a religious man, why don't they do what they're supposed to do? They're out there shucking grain on Sunday...Saturday. You don't do that on Saturday. I think Jesus said to them, How's come you break the commandments of God by your stupid traditions? I think. I know he said it.

Here it is. Boy, you see what I see in the ministry of a man of Paul: steadfast, committed, faithful. Right down the line. He reached up in Daddy's cookie jar and he said, Father, do I eat her cookies or do I go get somebody else's? Father said, Okie-dokie. So he moved in. And you know something, she immediately went and got him an ashtray, a glass of water, maybe.

And now we get to verse sixteen. And it came to pass, as we went to prayer. Well, where do you think they went to prayer? Back down at the river front. You know. Next to the lake over here. They went back. You know why? They had no denominational church built for them where they could go. So they just went out and sat under the trees next to the river. They went back to where they were wont to pray.

And a certain damsel, a young lady...there it is, next word, possessed with a what? [Spirit] Previously she wasn't possessed. Lydia wasn't; she heard the Word of God. The Lord opened her heart and she was born again. Christ in her the hope of glory. But this little old damsel was possessed. That's the difference. You receive the things from...of the true God by the freedom of your what? [Will] The other God operates by possession. Now, he may possess you for five minutes, or ten, then you're cool as a cucumber when it's over with. You know, one minute you can be totally possessed and the next minute you can be so beautifully human. Nobody knows what's going on. And least of all the psychiatrist and the psychologist. That's right. 'Cause they don't believe in spirit. They're not lonesome; church members don't either {believe in spirit}. For if they do, they got them mixed up that the good spirit is the bad one and the bad one is the good one. 'Cause they got the true God going out and killing everybody He loves. Course they don't know that there is a devil.

So they don't believe in a devil, but they think there is a true God, so He loves you very much, so He kills you. Now if He doesn't kill you, He'll give you a good case of cancer. Or a real deep arthritis so you got it good, so you know He loves you. By sheer logic, if that was true, He ought to give you two cases of arthritis 'cause He loves you twice as much. That's just my stupid brain working. It's not so stupid. 'Cause if God would make you sick, then if He'd make you twice as sick, He'd love you twice as much. Yeah.

This damsel was possessed. You know what that tells me? That she was not in control of her faculties. She was not in control of her mind, at that one place in her mind. Now, if you ever get through the Advanced Class, I'll show you that no human mind is ever completely possessed. But let's say he takes over the telephone line that calls 3478. All the rest of the lines are still real cool. But whenever you want to call 3478, it has an interruption. That's what happened here. She was possessed with a spirit of pythian, it's divination, is pythian. It's a devil spirit. And I'm not teaching devil spirits tonight, so I won't tell you what it is. But, anyways, it says she was possessed. Okay?

And with this spirit, she brought her masters much gain by soothsaying, which is, you know, includes reading of the palms, and counting the beads, and ooooh what a pretty globe. Ooooooh. Yeah. Kennedy's gonna get it in Dallas. She brought her masters much what? [Gain] Now, there's one thing you dare never interfere with: people's profit motive. Don't you ever touch their profit motive, 'cause if you touch their profit, they going to be after you.

Verse eighteen. And this she did many what? [Days] How's come Paul didn't hit her in the teeth the first day with a ball bat? No revelation, that's why. Many days, not just that day when they were out there praying, but for many days, this beautiful, little old preacher followed old Paul around - went to every prayer meeting, every religious meeting they had, and she cried...Paul saying, cried, saying, here's what



she said wherever they went: These men are the servants of the most high what? [God] Which show us the way of what? [Salvation] Was she right? [Yes] Absolutely. The average clergyman would have given her a front seat in every pew and every church in the world...except Paul. Wouldn't you like to have all the members of your churches running around saying, Why, our preacher is the wonderful man of God. He holds forth the Word of salvation. Right on. Real kosher. That's why the devil and the adversary many times tell the truth right down the line. But they don't tell all the truth, because there was an ulterior motive behind it. You've got to see the ultimate profit. Wait till I get you in the Advanced Class; I'll teach you that one, too. You never look at the immediate thing; you look at the immediate thing in terms of the ultimate profit.

Was she religious? Sure was. Counted her beads daily, went through all the prayer rituals, did everything right on. The reason I read you {verse} eighteen first is because I want you to get the impact of this thing. You know, she just didn't walk up and say, Well, fellas, I want to introduce you to a great man of God. These men are the servants of the most high God. They teach us the way of salv... No, but she did it many what? [Days] And always where the people were. How do you think Paul felt? He must have felt like kicking her between the teeth. But he never did a thing because he had no green light. That's why you don't run to the hospitals and try to get all the insane out. You don't run over to the mortuary and get all those dead people up. Those morticians wouldn't like you guys at all if you did that. Imagine, they got somebody in that casket and the lid opens and they walk out. Poor fella get in there in the morning, he'd die of fright standing next to that.

That's how Starr Daily got away from the...from the...getting caught. Did I ever tell you this? Starr Daily and the boys had just done a big hold up, you know. The 150,000 dollar kind, you know. Really a big one. And they had been staking these boys out and they almost caught them. And old Starr slipped out of that place and he ran around a building, and he saw a mortuary, and he got in, and he crawled inside of a casket, and pulled the lid shut, and the guys went through; they never found old Starr. After the guys left, he got up out of the casket and left. That's a good usage of a casket, I guess, I don't know. You don't know much about Starr Daily, some of you. Well, at one time he was America's public enemy number one and they took him, put him in Sing Sing {Correctional Facility} and the warden said, The only way you'll ever get out of this place is feet first. Five years later, he walked out a free man, upright. And he didn't know one tenth of what you know about God's Word. But he knew one thing: that love can open prison doors. And that's a title of a book that's out of print, by Starr Daily. And he just loved that warden to death. He didn't know anything else. He just loved him. And five years later he walked out of Sing Sing a free man, with just love.

This she did many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the woman. [No] To whom? [The spirit] The woman was possessed. And if they're possessed, you know, beating the 'H' out of the woman wouldn't help the spirit, or hinder it. He didn't say to the woman...the woman taken in adultery or something. He never pinned that on the woman. Pinned it on the spirit. When you're possessed, you can't help it.

We just recently had one where somebody just shot a whole mess of people some place. The man couldn't help it. The man was what? [Possessed] Possessed. The law enforcement, the psychologists, they think it's the man. It wasn't the man. It was the what in the man? [Spirit] But, they don't understand spirit. That's why nothing can happen in the criminal courts and the rest; they don't understand spirit.

Paul turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of God. [No] In the name of what? [Jesus Christ] Is that what he said? [Yes] That's what he meant. Had he meant God, you know what he'd said? [God] That's right. In the name, in the name, in the name of what? [Jesus Christ] When he was born again, you're baptized in the what? [Name of Jesus Christ] And that is the name which is above every name, that at that name every knee must bow: heaven above earth, beneath, and the waters underneath the what? [Earth] And those devil spirits know whether that name on your lips, you really believe or whether you're just quoting it. They'll know, baby. And they know if you really believe it and if you don't believe it, they'll laugh at you, "You can't take me..." They don't laugh at old Paul. He was steadfast, faithful. He said, In the name of Jesus Christ come out of her! And he came what? [Out] Right then and there. That's what you call cleaning house. But he never cleaned it until he had what? [Green light] Hey, I thought God called him to preach the Gospel. He did. Part of that preaching is setting the captives what? [Free] Immediately after, Lydia gets converted and they have this, this section here.

Immediately the Word of God shows you a great problem developing. Always happens this way when you're a W-O-W out on the field, really walking as a believer and ambassador. That's why I'm sharing this chapter with you, 'cause it's just like it was written this afternoon at seven-thirty, so I could teach it at eight. It's just as alive as if it was written today.

Verse nineteen. And when her masters saw that the hope of their gain was what? [Gone] They caught Paul and Silas, drew them into the...the court, unto the rulers, and brought them to the magistrates, the people in authority, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our what? [City] And teach customs. They weren't teaching customs, they were delivering a woman who was what? [Possessed] See they lie all the time. Sounds like Christianity today...lie all the time. They did it then, they do it now.

Neither to observe being Romans. And the multitude rose up together against them. And the magistrates rent off their clothes and commanded that Paul and Silas be what? [Beaten] For what? 'Cause they had dared to touch the Union, the profit motive.

They brought their masters much what? [Gain] And when they had laid many stripes on them: thirty-nine lashes with the whip, they still cast them where? [Prison] Charging the jailor to keep them under lock and key at the expense of his life. For, if they were not there the next day the jailor would be executed. That's what that verse means. All because they set a woman free. All because they brought sanity back to a woman who was insane.

Verse twenty four. Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison. He didn't even leave them in the first jail. He put them in the inner jail so they for sure could not what? Get out. And in addition he put their feet in chains. They belonged to the chain gang of Georgia.

We got a beautiful young saint, belonged to that chain gang. Born again of God's spirit today out walking like a son of God in North Carolina. Just a few weeks ago when I was down there at Winston Salem, he showed me these beautiful scars on his arms and on his leg where he'd been in the chain gang in Georgia. He's never gone back to that chain gang, because he's born again of God's spirit now, and has been putting on the mind of Christ and he walks in that freedom.

They put old Paul in chains. Paul in chains? He's never hurt a flea. Put him in chains? I could think of a thousand other people they should have put in chains. Those they didn't. But the man they shouldn't of



put in...what a screwed up world, huh. It's still as confused today. Today for the most part, the criminal gets the protection and the person who really needs it, gets sent...It's a great world, isn't it? Like it was written today.

And at midnight, Paul and Silas sang a sorry story? [No] They said, Oh, what are we in here...all we've done is good. What are we in here for? Never hear Paul say that. 'Cause he had learned in what condition he was, he was always self adequate. Even in the midst of hell, he and God made a majority. If he had to die there, he'd die with God making a majority. He never backed down on that Word.

Ha-ha. At midnight Paul and Silas prayed and they sang. And the prisoners heard them, hoo hoo. You ought to read that in the original. That's real irony. You know, Paul and Silas were not singing (low singing) Glory, glory hallelujah...Don't want anybody to hear me...Glory, glory, hallelujah...No. Paul and Silas were singing (loud singing) Glory, glory hallelujah! Ha-ha. And the prisoners heard it. They said those crazy fools. In the inner prison, feet in the stocks, singing? They'll get her tomorrow morning. They better sing now boy, 'cause tomorrow morning. And I can just hear one of the prisoners shout, Shut up out there! And I can just hear old Paul...Father, I thank you for every prisoner in here. Lord, just let me teach them the Word so they can make up their mind whether they want to believe or not. And Lord I'd like it if you saved the whole outfit. That's how Paul prayed. Well, it said he prayed, he might as well have prayed that. Be good.

And suddenly, there was a GREAT what? [Earthquake] Now, that was just not an earthquake, that was a what kind? [Great] That's what it says, that's what it means. The foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were open. Now, that I can understand with an earthquake, but the last phrase I can't. Everyone's shackles around their arms, or hands, were what? [Loosed] I've never known an earthquake to do that to prisoners. I think it must have been God operating a little overtime work over here.

Verse twenty-seven. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep seeing the prisons door open, he drew out his sword, his...dagger...that's what it is...and would have killed himself because he supposed that all the prisoners had scadoed, fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm. We're all here! Said he did it with a loud voice, right? Then the keeper of the prison said, Bring me a light fellas, bring me a light. And he ran, and he sprang in, and he came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and he said, Sirs, what do I have to do to get saved? It's going to take an earthquake to get some people to that place in our country today. It's going to have to take something absolutely shocking, 'cause they are so lethargic in their positions and their gains, and everything else; it's got to be something cataclysmic.

Well, do you know what I think is almost cataclysmic in our time? The rightly-divided Word! Four crucified with Jesus has to shake some people up. And that he died on Wednesday instead of Good Friday has to shake up a whole mass of them. Do I need to go any further? Boy, that's almost knocking the props out from under them.

Lord, sir, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house. That's not all he said because verse thirty two tells us, And they spake unto him the Word of the Lord and to all that were in his house. That's when Paul went home with him. They {Paul and Silas} taught him the Word of God. And in order to be saved he had to believe God raised him from

the dead - all of that. How long Paul taught, I don't know. He took them the 'same hour of the night' does not mean that it was between twelve and one the same night. The word 'hour' can represent a period of time that night.

After Paul finished teaching him the Word, and he believed God's Word, he took them the same hour of the night. Washed their stripes...where am I here? Was baptized, he and all his, straightway. You know something, I love that Paul guy. They had just been beaten thirty-nine lashes with the whip, you know, before they went to bed that night, just to be able so they get a good night's sleep. When he takes them out of that prison, Paul could have said, Hey, before I teach you the Word how about taking my back... taking care of my back. Paul never said that.

He taught him the Word and led him into salvation. After that, the man thought about cleaning up his wounds. You talk about committed to the Word? Man, I'd been a piker. The Word, the Word! You think Paul's back hurt? Would yours? He was human. Boy, oh boy. Look at that again, And washed their stripes and was baptized. He was born again...he and all his, straightway.

And when he had brought them into his house, then he sat...set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his what? [House] And when it was day, the magistrates sent the sergeant generals saying, Let those men go. And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now, therefore depart and go in peace. But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly, uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out? You know, sort of secretly? Nay verily; let them come themselves and fetch us out.

How's come he didn't tell them Romans when they originally beat him? Word of knowledge? God knew that that prisoner {keeper of the prison} would be born again that night so he never gave Paul the word of knowledge at all. He let them beat the hell out of him. Had he had the word of knowledge, they'd a never beaten him, he'd never gotten inside the prison, then we would have never won the prisoner {keeper of the prison}.

You talk about a man walking...dedicated, committed, faithful. Now, here he gets word of knowledge and he's...they want to bring him out now in the morning and say, Look, go in peace. He said, Not me man. Ha, I'm a Roman. They whopped us good. If they want us out of here let them come and take us out and apologize. And the sergeant told these words unto the magistrates. And then they got a little scared when they heard that Paul and Silas were what? [Romans] Right.

And they came, verse thirty-nine, and besought them. They begged them, they begged them. And brought them out and desired them depart out of the city. And they went out of the prison and went back to the house of Lydia. I told you today you can't fight evil with evil. Paul didn't fight back and say, Look you did this. Now I want you to publish this in all the papers, and want you to do that. No, he just went far enough till he carried out God's Word. And there's a lot here in between the lines that I can't show you right now, but it's there.

They came and besought them, desired them...and they went out of the prison, entered into the house of Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them. Silas and Paul comforted the brethren. Seems to me Paul and Silas need the comforting.



Isn't that beautiful people? Men of God walking forth out of tremendous experiences like this, going right back into the house of Lydia and comforting the people. Comforting.

How would you comfort people? Teaching them the Word, showing them the greatness of the love of God that's been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, showing them remission of sins, forgiveness, all of the rest. That's how you comfort people. Or by speaking in tongues with interpretation, or prophecy. I'll take both. I'll bet they had a fantastic believers' meeting back at Lydia's house that night.

There it is class: A man being called, committed, dedicated, faithful, right to the hilt. I know of nothing bigger in the Word. I know a lot of others just as great. But this, to me, speaks rather currently, rather timely. And I think it's a wonderful, wonderful lesson to this particular Camp on dedication or commitment, dedication and faithful to God and His Word.

And people, that's the only thing I believe will ever save America: the Word.