

“16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: 17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation. 18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.” (Acts 16:16-18)

### Introduction

Lydia and her household had been baptized and she constrained the missionaries to stay at her house for a time. Her house evidently became a center of activity for the new converts and Paul and Silas continued to evangelize the city. The events of this sermon took place shortly after the conversion and baptism of Lydia. I suppose that the missionaries and others continued to frequent the place of prayer on the riverside and were successful in making new converts.

### I. The Unequal Yoke.

#### A. God does not need the testimony of devils.

1. 2 Cor. 5:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 1 ¶ Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
2. Jesus, Himself, refused such witness:
  - a. Mr 1:34 And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.
  - b. Lu 4:41 And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.

#### B. Satan has gained a great victory when people are convinced there is no difference between the people of God and the people of the devil.

1. To achieve this end Satan transforms himself into an angel of light and his ministers into minister of righteousness.

2. 2 Cor. 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.
3. But I do not want to dwell on this.

**II. The Bondage of the Devil** Do not give place to the devil. How do we do this: be rebelling against Christ.

- A. This poor girl could not help herself, nor can anyone else whose bondage may not be a plain as this. Jesus said it plainly: John 8:31-36 the Road to Freedom.
  1. Continuing in the word:
  2. True discipleship; not just the appearance.
  3. Truth: God reveals His secrets, His covenant.
  4. This makes you free.
- B. The ungodly are taken captive by the devil at His will. 2 Thess 2: 24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. 1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. 9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.
- C. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft; the devil is where there is rebellion against God and His truth. Here is a warning for those who name the name of Christ:
  1. Do you think that you do not need to put off the old man with his deeds? Is that optional for you? Col. 3:1-17
    - a. Mortify: by yielding to Christ.
    - b. The word of Christ dwelling richly: Using the means

(1). Church sermons and studies; private devotions; sacraments; fellowship with faithful Christians.

(2). Meditating and study. Do not be content with a form of knowledge.

2. There is only one way: the name of Jesus: His authority and power. Don't take God's name in vain, or the name of Christ. If you are stubborn about going your own way, then call it that, don't wrap your rebellion in the name of Jesus. Like Saul "I have done everything God commanded."

III. A Holy Annoyance: Grieved Paul Great inward pain. He was not impatient; he put up with the annoyance for many days. Then Christ demonstrated His power and the Gospel's power by moving Paul to do this mighty miracle. I will make some applications in terms of this holy annoyance.

- A. You and I ought to have a holy annoyance when the devil comes clothed in the garments of righteousness. We must not tolerate it.
- B. We must maintain the purity of the Gospel and the fine distinctions that are the difference between life and death.
- C. Real motives: to steal the lambs from the flock; to pick off the weak and the feeble; underneath the shine robe of white is the devil, an instrument of cruelty. He hates to be exposed and he hates preachers that expose him.
- D. You cannot wait until your opinion becomes popular If it isn't important, then quit your bellyaching and serve people; quit trying to ride both sides of the questions. Get in or get out.
- E. Romans 6:12,13, 16. To whom. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.