

## Lesson I.

## PAUL AND SILAS AT PHILIPPI

January 4, 1903

Acts 16 : 22-34. Study Acts 16 : 16-34—Memory Verses, 29-32.

**Golden Text**—Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.—Acts 16 : 31.

22 And the multitude rose up together against them : and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely :

24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God : and the prisoners heard them.

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken : and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm : for we are all here.

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang

in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved ?

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes ; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

When Paul and Silas were preaching in Philippi there was there a poor slave-girl who was said to have the power of telling fortunes by an evil spirit. In this way she made much money for her cruel and greedy masters.

Several times as Paul and Silas were on their way to the river-side to worship, the poor girl followed them, calling after them with so much noise, that one day Paul turned and said to the spirit of evil, "Come out of her." and it at once obeyed him.

But when her masters saw that the girl was cured, and knew that now she would make no more money for them, they were furious. So they dragged Paul and Silas before the police, saying angrily, "These Jewish fellows are upsetting all our Roman customs ! Let us be rid of them !"

Hearing this the magistrate rushed upon the missionaries, and tearing off their clothes, gave orders that they should be beaten and put in prison.

Now when the jailer was told that these were dangerous men, he shut Paul and Silas in the darkest part of the jail, fastening their feet in such a way that they could neither lie down nor stand.

But instead of trying to break loose Paul and Silas prayed and sang praise to God, and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly at midnight there was a great earthquake, so that the walls of the prison were shaken and everyone's chains fell off.

Now the jailer hearing the noise awoke with a great start and finding the doors open, he drew his sword to kill himself, knowing that he would be punished if the

*as told by Robinson  
Philippians*