

—THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER

Acts 16 : 25-40. Study Acts 16 : 16-40—Memory Verses, 29-31.

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

25 And at midnight Paul and Si'las 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 Si'las,

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.

35 And when it was day, the magistrates sent the serjeants, saying, Let those men go.

36 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.

37 But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Ro'mans, and have cast us into prison ; and now do they thrust us out privily ? nay verily ; but let them come themselves and fetch us out.

38 And the serjeants told these words unto the magistrates : and they feared, when they heard that they were Ro'mans.

39 And they came and besought them, and brought *them* out, and desired *them* to depart out of the city.

40 And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lyd'ia : and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Not many days after Paul and Silas came to Philippi, they were cruelly beaten with rods, and then put into prison, for curing a poor girl who had an evil spirit, and who earned much money for her masters by fortune-telling.

But about midnight, in the prison, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the other prisoners were listening, when suddenly there was a great earthquake which shook the very foundations of the prison, and immediately all

the doors opened of their own accord, and the chains that fastened the prisoners to the walls, were loosened. The keeper of the prison, wakening out of his sleep, and seeing the doors wide open, drew his sword, and would have killed himself, thinking that his prisoners had all escaped ; but Paul called out, " Do thyself no harm : for we are all here."

Then the jailer called for lights, and sprang into the place where Paul and Silas were, and trembling with fear, fell down at their