

of Lydia, in Asia Minor. Large fortunes were sometimes made by dyers. An old Greek jingle illustrates this:

"Our dyer was poor, but by dint of his art,
He has dipped all his rags, and made himself smart."

Which worshipped God. The words imply that Lydia was not a Jewess born, but a

proselyte. *Whose heart the Lord opened.* Under the Spirit's teaching, she saw the meaning of salvation and accepted it.

V. 15. *Was baptized;* thus publicly confessing her faith. *Household;* her family, or assistants, or both. *To be faithful;* a true believer. *Come into my house;* a beautiful touch of hospitality. *Abide there;* while at Philippi. *Constrained us;* by earnest entreaty.

APPLICATION

Throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia. v. 6. "So little done, so much to do," was the expression uttered again and again by Cecil Rhodes on his death bed. In the presence of the millions of our fellow-men who have not yet heard the gospel, the same feeling often comes over the heart of Christ's followers. And yet the greatness of the task should not unnervé us and cause us to sit down idly in despair, but should inspire us, as it did the apostle, to continue with earnest effort to spread the gospel over the whole world. When every follower of Christ does his part in this great work as diligently as Paul did his part, it will not be long

"Till each remotest nation
Has learnt Messiah's name."

Forbidden of the Holy Ghost, v. 6. These words indicate in their simple and forcible way the ruling principle of Paul's life—to go or do as God led him. In him we have a beautiful example of what our Christian life should be, just a simple following of God's Spirit every day—to see that God has a will towards me, and through me to the world; to know that I have but to find that will in the impulses within my heart, in the needs of my fellow-men and in the circumstances of my life. To find God's leading and to follow it faithfully—that is the Christian life.

They assayed to go into Bithynia, v. 7. God shows us the way one step at a time. He does not reveal to us the whole course of our life, but shows us the path for each day as it comes. Our business is to do the next duty which God points out, and trust Him for the future.

A vision appeared to Paul in the night, v. 9. Paul's dreams, ideals, and visions were the secret of his greatness. The brute beast

never dreams of better things, and so remains a brute beast to the end. Some men also are content to eat and work and sleep. They never look up to God; they are never visited with divine ambitions and dreams of what they may yet be and do by God's grace. Like the beast of the field they live; like the beast they die, "finished, finite clods, untroubled by a spark." But the great of the earth are those who are discontented with the present: who dream of great things for themselves and the world. Paul, who dreamed of a converted Europe; Columbus of a discovered America; Chatham of a British Empire—these are among the great of the earth, and with them every one may claim kindred, who dreams dreams and sees visions of something greater and better than ever before brought to a home, a church or a country.

Immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, v. 10. We should imitate the courage of the apostle. As soon as the path of duty was made clear, he no longer dreamed about it, he did it. The church and world are in need of those who will boldly and unhesitating enter into any open door of service. As Kingsley has said, we should "do noble things, not dream them all day long."

We spake unto the women which resorted thither, v. 13. These women were richly rewarded for their attendance at this prayer meeting. They heard the gospel from the lips of the great apostle. So we may expect to receive blessing from our diligent attendance on such means of grace. We have the promise that we shall meet in such assemblies with the Lord Himself, and hear Him speak to our hearts. We often miss this great blessing, by keeping away from the gathering of God's people for prayer.