



**Acts 16:25** – “But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

Then, it happened: **Acts 16:26-28**: “Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.”

What happened next is the basis for our study. **Acts 16:29-30**: “Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Terrified by his near-death experience, the jailer was thankful to have a second opportunity to live. Some power greater than anything he had ever known had shaken the foundation of the prison—and his life.

A question pressed upon his mind: Was there anything he could do to be saved? This is life’s most important question.

Before we look at what the jailer was told to do, it is important to realize that we cannot save ourselves. We cannot earn our salvation, and we cannot provide a worthy sacrifice for our own sins. Without Jesus, we are powerless sinners, incapable of doing anything to be saved.

**Titus 3:5** – “...he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.”

In writing to the Ephesian Christians, Paul stated this clearly: **Ephesians 2:8-9**: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

In answer to the jailer’s question, Paul and Silas replied - **Acts 16:31-32**: “So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.”

The process of salvation **begins** with hearing the good news about Jesus. The jailer had probably never even heard about Jesus before that night. Therefore, when he was told to believe in Jesus, he had to be taught about who Jesus was and what He had accomplished for him on the cross. Paul explained this when he wrote **Romans 10:17** – “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Our response to Jesus **begins** when we hear the gospel of Jesus Christ:

**Romans 1:16** – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

If we want to be saved, our response to the gospel means we surrender everything to God! This is the part of our salvation that isn’t stressed as much and the area we fall woefully short in.

The Bible teaches us that salvation costs man “**unconditional surrender.**”

**Luke 9:23** – “Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.”

“Surrender” requires man to place Christ above family ties, friendships, financial gain, everything:

**Luke 14:26** – “If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.”

**Philippians 3:8** – “Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ...”

Our surrender to Jesus must be as complete as Paul’s was. How do we surrender to Christ?

The Bible is crystal clear concerning our salvation—to surrender everything to Jesus means we must hear the word of God, believe the word of God, and obey the word of God if we want to be saved! We must obey the gospel of Jesus Christ so that we can be born again spiritually and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit!

**John 3:3-5**: “Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

Over the course of the next few weeks we will examine very carefully what the Bible says about gospel obedience—what is saving faith, what is repentance, what is the great confession, what is baptism—are these absolute requirements or optional for us?

2 Corinthians 13:14

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”

## PRAYERS:

**Peggy Barker** had cataract surgery Tuesday, November 26th, on her other eye.

**Leonard Wilson** will begin IVIG treatments December 5th, & have one every 6 weeks for his immune system.

Those on the prayer list are: **Gladie Kemp, Betty Andrews, David & Brenda McFadden, C.M. Tarwater, R.W. & Betty Gibson, Daniel Barker, Bob Eppes, Judith Stevenson, Billy Baldwin, Virginia Harris, Johnita Burnett, Gary Davis, Gale Lacy, Ethan Bailey, John Chapel, Leslie Mosley, Boyce Jones, Gary Poindexter, Chuck Lemmons, Kevin Beard, Kenneth Dowdy, Anita Trobaugh, Mary Devasier, Donald Davis, Danny Jackson, Mary Ruth Nesler, Rick Armstrong, Lillie Deckleman, Tim Burnette, Joel Harris.**

Nursing Home: **Betty Canard** (Wynne Healthcare); **J.R. McFarland** (Crestpark in Wynne); **Davie Rutherford** (McCrorry)

**SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of **Margie Barker** who passed away Sunday.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION** will be Sunday, December 1st. Please be planning for this.

**LADIES’ DEVOTIONAL** Christmas party will be held in the fellowship room Tuesday, December 3rd, at 6:00 p.m. All ladies are invited. Please bring an ornament.

**ELDERS & DEACONS** will meet in the library Tuesday, December 3rd, at 7:00 p.m.

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be held Saturday, December 21st, at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship room.