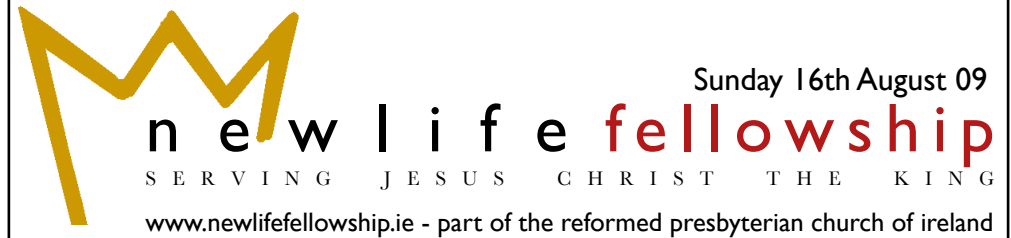




3. And the Lord opened her heart Acts 16:11-15

- 18 years after Jesus had died, the gospel is proclaimed in Europe
- 1. God goes to great lengths to bring the gospel to a person**
 - Paul & Lydia both away from home
 - Lydia - a commercial traveller
 - Paul was kept on course for Philippi by God's intervention.
 - Thankfulness - What lengths did he go to to bring the gospel to you?
 - Challenge – Why did God bring you here today?
 - 2. Being religious and being a Christian aren't the same thing**
 - Lydia was religious, a church-goer, believed in the one true God
 - Lydia still needed God to rescue her
 - Being religious is not enough
 - Religion is all about 'doing'
 - Christianity is all about 'done' – Jesus has done it all
 - 3. Christian conversion starts with God**
 - v14 "The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message"
 - God ensures that the message comes home.
 - A great truth that gives hope
 - A great truth that removes complacency
 - 4. Christian conversions aren't all the same**
 - Diversity - Lydia's conversion was not the same as Paul's
 - Unity - Every conversion involves repentance and trust.
 - 5. Christian conversion displays itself to the world**
 - Becoming a Christian is an internal change, but it displays itself externally.
 - 2 ways
 - a) Identification with God's people**
 - v15 "When she and the members of her household were baptized"
 - Baptism is a picture of two inner realities. It is God's visual promise to us that
 - We do belong to him
 - We have been made clean
 - b) Serving Christ and his Church**
 - v15 "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.'
 - Genuine conversion displays itself in this selfless service.
 - She put her resources at the disposal of King Jesus.



Sunday 16th August 09

n e w l i f e f e l l o w s h i p

S E R V I N G J E S U S C H R I S T T H E K I N G

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Notices

Tuesday Prayer time for Go Team at Mark & Judith's
Sun 23rd Church Lunch after the service - get to meet the Go Team

Sun 23rd - Fri 28th Aug - Letterkenny Go Team
6 young people coming to work here for the week, distributing a magazine around Letterkenny and doing other outreach work.

Covenanter Youth Summer Conference

Sat 29th August - What's the deal with Church Membership?
3pm - 11-15 years @ Ballyclabber - Robert McCollum
3pm - 16+ @ Portrush - Prof Robert McCollum
7pm - Everyone @ Ballyclabber - Prof Robert McCollum

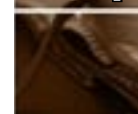
Young Adults' Weekend - 11th-13th September - Annalong, Co Down

Speaker - Rev Andrew Lucas on Ruth
Application Forms available - need to be in by 30th August

Scotland Holiday Conference 2010

Application forms are available for the holiday Conference in Gartmore, Scotland 2010. Please consider going to this conference as it will be an ideal opportunity to see some of the Covenanter sites, as well as enjoy great teaching, and get to know other Christians.

Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, and to find answers to your questions the Bible and Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

Sunday 23rd - Philippians - A heart set free (Acts 16:16-24)

Opening Psalm: 105:6-11

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie
Oversight elders: William Lynch 048 7139 8002 Robert Tait 9101668 Colin Tait 9147352