

## PRaises WOMEN IN SPECIAL SERMON TO LOCAL MEMBERS

Rev. J. H. West Gives History of Woman's Activity in World Affairs

USHERED IN NATIONAL WEEK'S OBSERVANCE

Local Club Sends Delegation to Hear Sermon—Beautiful Tribute Paid

Rev. J. H. West, pastor of the Brevard Methodist church, delivered a special sermon to the Business and Professional Women's club Sunday night, ushering in the observation of the National Week, observed throughout the nation in honor of the women in business and the professions. Despite the extremely cold weather, as the snow storm from western blizzards sent the thermometer down to a new low, quite a large delegation from the organization was in the congregation.

It was a beautiful tribute that Rev. Mr. West paid to the women who are engaged in business and professional work, and is herewith reproduced in part:

"We frequently hear the following questions concerning almost any organization. For what purpose? To what end? The motto of the Business and Professional Women's Club furnishes a concrete answer to these questions with any others that may be propounded:

"Better Business Women for a Better Business World."

"President Hoover in a message to the National Federation on June 20, 1929, said, 'Women generally have a natural interest in, and vision of social problems. To this your association adds the educational work necessary to help them understand economics as related to business life, thereby rounding out the life equipment of thousands of women engaged in business and the professions. This is a most useful service.'

"Prior to 1919 the Y. W. C. A. carried on a special club work for business women. There were four or five states with independent clubs, but no state organization was functioning. At the close of the World War there was insistent demands for a separate organization. So in July of that year in the city of St. Louis the Federation was formed. For almost 12 years now the National Federation has been the school of hard training, and the temple of promise, and idealism for American business women.

"It was on Monday evening, Feb. 27, 1928, that Brevard women interested in business, and the professions, joined the 55,000 who were already members of the Federation. The local club is to be commended for the very fine work it is doing in the interest of the Girl Scouts. And also for the spirit of cooperation extended to the various other organized groups in all worthwhile service. There is nothing that Brevard needs at this time more than this helpful spirit of cooperation.

Acts 16:14:15 (text).

"If I were charged with the responsibility of finding a person whose character and service reflects the program of work proposed by your organization, I would present to you Lydia, who lived almost 2000 years ago. She is at once by reality and suggestion the incarnation of the proposed activities of the Business and Professional Women's Club. If she lived in Brevard she would no doubt become a member of your organization. And while she is the embodiment of all that is best in your organization, she is a rebuke to all that is less than the best in any organization. At once there is something about her that impels admiration.

"She grips and holds us with her winsome womanliness. A mannish woman always spoils the music and harmony of any occasion. Boyish girls and mannish women are socially, and matrimonially more popular with certain men in every community than are the women of Lydias type. I am about persuaded that it is more difficult for professional women to be womanly than it is for womanly women to be professional.

"But Lydia was winsome and womanly in spite of the fact that she was an ideal business woman. She had a home but it is to be doubted if she was primarily a home maker. It is still an unsettled question as to whether Lydia was married. If all the men who marry would marry Lydias we would have mighty few divorces proceeding. At any rate she was a live wide-awake business woman.

This makes her story sound very modern, for if she lived today she would be regarded as a model business woman.

There was a time when almost the only vocation open to women was that of being a wife, a mother, a home builder, but Christianity has brought her into a larger liberty. There was a time when she almost had to marry in order to have a home, but today this is not necessary; she can earn her own living and have her own home without the responsibility of supporting a husband. Her story is modern again in that she was not only a business woman, but a successful business woman. She was perfectly capable of competing with men in the business world, and so are her sisters today. She knew how to handle a fortune given to her, or to make one herself. But her success had not spoiled her fine womanly qualities. Her battle with the world had not made her coarse, it had not contaminated her soul. She was still religious, for our text says, she was a worshiper of God. The twentieth century business woman has not always done this—she has sometimes lost her faith. Her liberties and contacts have their dangers. Many of the business girls and women of today have temptations that their mothers never

dreamed of. I am praying that our girls and women may never lose their modesty out in the big business world.

"God save our business girls and women from the coarseness of Flapperism. It is a fact that cannot be denied that some business girls and women yield to the temptation of their association and environment, but the vast majority of them have kept their modesty and their religion. An illustration—I know a preacher who has held some of the leading churches of our denomination. He gives this testimony: The majority of members in one of my pastorates was composed of business women and girls, but I have never been the pastor of a church that was better attended, and more liberally supported. The Church of Christ today has no bigger asset than the business and professional women who have held on to their religion in spite of big business.

"It is most interesting to raise the question as to how Lydia came to be a Christian. She, already had religion, but she did not have Christianity; she had no knowledge of Christ, and her opportunity for this knowledge was very meager. There was not even a Jewish synagogue, to say nothing of a Christian church in Philippi. But every Sabbath day there was an insignificant prayer meeting held some distance from the city, by the riverside. It must have been a very tame affair, not very much spiritual life in it, yet Lydia went. In other words, this business woman made a business of her religion. She brought to her religious duties the same devotion and earnestness that she gave to her business. She thus declares that religion is good business for a professional woman.

With week day regularity in matters of business, she made a business of her religion on Sunday. She did not know what was going to happen on this special Sunday, therefore she could not afford to miss. And the thing that happened that day was one of the most far reaching things that could have happened. The thing made her name remembered while the empire of the Caesars lies in the dust and ashes.

"Why did Paul go to Philippi? He went there to help, perhaps primarily to help the man he had seen in a vision of the night, but not a man could be found among those who were at prayer meeting that day. Why did Lydia go to prayer meeting that day? Because she needed help. She needed the Christian religion in her business life. Paul might have said, 'I am not going to hold the prayer meeting because there are no men here'—the mistake of his life.

"Just a brief presentation of the outcome, or results of her conversion:

"Lydia brought to Christ her commercial enthusiasm, her fine-business intelligence, the same devotion and consecration that she had given to her business.

"1—She won her household to the Lord.

"2—She changed her house into a church.

"3—Her home was known as a place of hospitality for Paul and his friends.

"She must have said to Paul and his co-laborers—'You have helped me and I want to help you; make my home your home; you are welcome. Luke says she compelled us. She thus made a distinct contribution to the establishment of Christianity in the Roman Empire.

"4—The church founded in Lydias house became one of the most helpful and famous churches that Paul ever established.

"5—Lydia the business woman became the first convert to Christ in Europe. All that Christianity has done for that great continent had its beginning here. Here is the fountain, the source of the river. That river has spread over Europe, and not only so, but over America. Therefore, the ultimate outcome of Lydias conversion was nothing less than the making of a world.

"Some present-day lessons:

"1—That the biggest business of a business man or a business woman is the business of making this a better world to live in. We are here to make this a better social world, better commercial world, better political world, better moral world, and having a better world in these particulars, the best business world the world has ever seen.

"2—We must not despise the opportunity and the day of small things. The supremely insignificant today may be tomorrow the thing of universal importance.

"It was an ordinary Methodist layman that won the great Spurgeon to Christ, but in doing so he won a mighty army. An ordinary Boston shoe drummer won D. L. Moody to Christ, but in doing so he pushed two continents up closer to God."

RALPH LYDAY CONNECTED WITH SOUTHERN PUBLIC

Ralph W. Lyday, for many years with the Brevard Banking company, is now with the Southern Public Utilities company, in the Brevard office. Mr. Lyday has many friends in the county who will be pleased to know of his association with the Southern Public, especially in view of the fact that this connection means that he will remain in Brevard.

Mr. Lyday is a son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Lyday, of Penrose.

LOCAL COMPOSER'S SONG TO BE PLAYED AT STATE MEET

"Lord I'm Helpless, Poor and Needy," a very popular piano composition by Donald Lee Moore, will be played at the state convention of the Music Lovers Club in Goldsboro, N. C., March 26, on a program composed entirely of North Carolina compositions.

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