

RELIGION



Elder
Richard Wayne
Wood

Sunday
School Lesson

Lydia: Called to Service

Scriptures: Acts 16:11-15, 40; 1 Corinthians 1:26-30

By the end of this lesson, we will:

- *Consider how Lydia used her gifts and her place in society to support Paul's ministry;
- *Repent of times we have looked down on others who have not had the same opportunities or advantages;
- *Serve others joyfully through whatever means are at our disposal.

Background: The Book of Acts follows the Apostles Peter (chapters 1-12) and Paul (chapters 13-28) and highlights their ministries and their daily lives. Acts could more properly be called "The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles" since it's the work of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles that is most significant. The Holy Spirit directing, controlling and empowering ministry is what strengthened the church and caused it to grow in numbers, spiritual power and influence. The Holy Spirit indeed directed Paul to the care of Lydia.

Lesson: Paul and his companions intended to go to Asia and minister after having already been in conflict with the local church. The Holy Spirit intervenes and directs them to Macedonia, a Roman colony (verses 6-10). They stopped at Philippi, a leading city of Macedonia. The city did not have a synagogue, which meant there were less than ten Jewish men who were heads of household, which is the requirement to form a synagogue. Absent the synagogue, on the Sabbath Paul and friends head to the riverside "where women were gathered to pray, worship, and recite from Old Testament Scriptures. Paul and his companions began to preach Christ to the women (verses 11-13).

Among the women was "A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabric, a worshiper of God, was listening ..." Lydia's status is worth mentioning here. Because purple dye was very expensive, purple garments were usually worn by royalty and the wealthy. The success of Lydia's business enabled her to have a house large enough to accommodate Paul and his friends. "... and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul." Lydia and her entire household were baptized. The Spirit's guidance of Paul resulted in a place for Paul and friends to stay. Continued reading will reveal that Lydia became one of Paul's financial supporters and was a loyal helper in his ministry - which often resulted in his arrest.

Paul and Silas are arrested for casting out a demon from a slave girl - the entire jail was shaken (read it), souls were saved and Paul and Silas were directed to leave town. Upon release from jail, they visit Lydia's house, now used as a church "and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed (verse 40).

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside" Isaiah 29:14.

Paul is quoting Old Testament prophecy and speaking to all the "called." Lydia was rich, but most converts were poor and working class. Paul says that the message of the prophet is a call to today - formal education, political power, and economic status are not what puts you ahead in the kingdom of God. God disdained human wisdom. God chose the things that are not to bring to nothing the things that are (verses 26-28).

"But of him are ye I, Christ Jesus" ... all the riches of salvation exist in Christ Jesus - we owe all to him. No saved sinner can boast that he has achieved salvation by his intellect. The qualities that belong to the believer are through the rework of Christ on the cross. Wisdom is gained through spiritual discernment through God's Word. Righteousness is accredited to the believer from

See Lydia on B3

Local pastor compiles 30-day inspirational book 'I Needed That'

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Pastor Camilla Washington of Whole Man Ministries has written her second book titled "I Needed That," a compilation of daily devotionals written with women specifically in mind. It is a 30-day de-

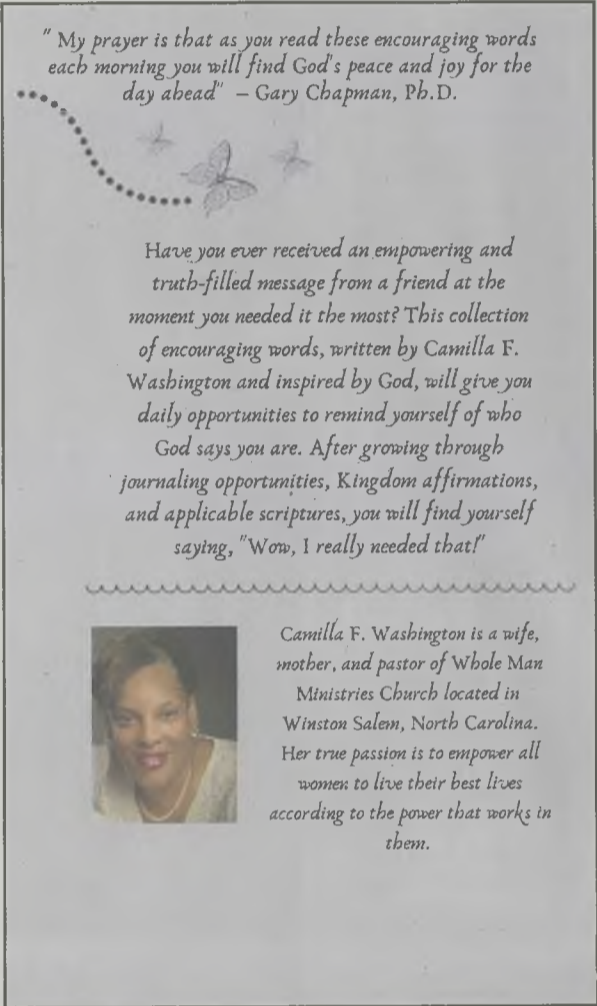
make sure that everything and everybody is in place, yet we forget to take care of ourselves. This book is written to encourage, empower, and motivate women to live their best life, even amid a pandemic," said Pastor Camilla.

The reviews are in,

book is a compilation of daily messages that God has used to empower me to live my best life. During busy days, I often felt pulled in all directions; I needed something to ground me, give me stability, and show me that there is more to each day than

that compels you to walk into your destiny. I knew that these words that God had delivered to me were also for the masses of women daily trying to be everything to everybody.

"My prayer is that this book will give you greater clarity and peace to live



votional, written not just to women of faith, but to all women.

The book's foreword is written by Dr. Gary Chapman, the author of New York Times bestseller "The 5 Love Languages."

Pastor Camilla said, "I was elated that Dr. Chapman endorsed the book. I wrote this with all women in mind. Women are nurturers by nature and want to

several young ladies have gotten copies and have expressed their appreciation for the book. One woman said, "Each message spoke directly to me and my day; I find myself saying, I needed that!"

It is Pastor Camilla's desire that this book gets in the hands of every woman. The book was written during the pandemic and Pastor Camilla said, "This

meeting the requirements of my family, friends, and the world.

"As I began to write what was given to me by God, I was inspired to share with other women from all walks of life. I wrote this book for the extraordinary woman; it is for the daughter, mother, niece, sister, or friend you are or will become as you take on each inspiration

your best life every day. And, at the end of each day, I hope you say with me, 'I needed that!'"

The book can be purchased by contacting Pastor Camilla at Whole Man Ministries or going to Amazon.com. Pastor Camilla can be reached at 336-785-2080 or at www.wholemanministries.com.

Have a Story Idea?

Let Us Know

News@wschronicle.com

RELIGION CALENDAR

*Please call ahead to make sure your event is still happening. We will post cancellations/postponements announcements when received.

Thursdays and Saturdays Free Meals

Christ Rescue Temple Church, 1500 North Dunleith Ave., will serve hot meals as part of the People Helping People Feeding Program. Meals will be served every Thursday and Saturday from noon until 1 p.m. at the church's location. For more information, call 336-722-9841.

Sundays Virtual worship services

Green Street United Methodist Church, 639 S. Green St., invites you to join online worship services on Sundays at 11 a.m. The service, which is available via Facebook and YouTube, is a celebration of the diversity of the human family. Online viewers will discover a no-frills service that is thoughtful, personal, and deeply spiritual. Green Street practices the radical welcome of Jesus Christ. Individuals of every denomination, sexual orientation, gender identity, and race/ethnicity are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Visit www.greenstreetumc.org or email admin@greenstreetumc.org for more

information.

NOW Zoom services

New Birth Worship Center (NBWC) in East Bend has gone virtual. Please join Dr. James L. E. Hunt, Senior Pastor on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. on Zoom webinar. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84789021891> or Dial-In: 1 301 715 8592 ID Mtg. #: 84789021891. In addition, Sunday School is taught by Deacon James Henry at 9 a.m. via telephone conference call #: 1 917 900 1022 ID#: 868433#.

All are welcome to join us for Zoom (virtual) Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Our Pastor, Dr. Hunt, will be the teacher. The Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89195349778> or Dial-In Mtg #: 1 301 715 8592 ID#: 89195349778#.

For additional information, please call 336-699-3583 or visit www.newbirthworshipcenter.org or visit our Facebook page.

Feb. 28

First Waightown Baptist Church Live stream
First Waightown Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, will live stream its service at 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, at www.facebook.com/FirstWaightown and on its web-

site, www.firstwaughtown.org, click on the virtual messages link on the homepage. Senior Pastor Dr. Dennis W. Bishop will continue the series "Suggestions for How to Survive a Storm." The scriptural reference is Acts 27:29-32 and vs. 40-41.

Feb. 28

The Forsyth County Missionary Union
The Forsyth County Missionary Union monthly meeting will be held virtually on Sunday, February 28. Seniors will convene at 3 p.m. and youth at 1:30 p.m. The host church will be Providence Baptist, Kernersville, N.C. Rev. Keith Vereen is the pastor. The Mini Rally and Black History Program will be held also.

How to submit items to the Religion calendar:
The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 p.m. to have all calendar items submitted for that week's paper. Send your calendar items to news@wschronicle.com. You can also drop them off, Monday through Friday before 5 p.m., or mail your items to Winston-Salem Chronicle, 1300 E. Fifth St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101; or send them via our website, www.wschronicle.com.