



## Welcome Visitors

We here at the Biddeford Church of Christ pray your visit with us today is enjoyable and uplifting. Please stay around after services so that we can get to know you better. We all strive to put Christ first in our lives and make the

## This Week's Events

**Today:** Life Groups

**Wednesday 8/10/16** Bible Study  
7 - 8 pm (Biddeford)

**Thursday 8/11/16** Bible Study  
6 - 7 p.m. (Sanford)

**Saturday 8/13/16** Men's Breakfast

**Sunday 8/14/16** Potluck

## Happy Birthday!

August 5 - Dennis Godin

August 9 - Lloyd Small

August 19 - Sonny Witham

August 25 - Marion Goodwin

## Next Week's Service Schedule

Song Leader - Antonio Balsamo

Opening Prayer - ???

Lord's Supper - Larry Butler, Chris Stephenson, James Butler

Prayer - Joe Romano

Scripture Reading - Abe Damuth

Greeter - Linda Barnes

Communion Prep - Brenda Butler

## Praise Him! Praise Him!

*But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*

*Acts 16:25*

The above verse, when read by itself, appears to be far from challenging. Praying and singing, well that's just normal Christian behavior. Things change though, once that verse is placed in the context of Paul and Silas's reality. As they were traveling doing mission work, a "certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination" pestered them (Acts 16:16-17). As the story goes, Paul commanded the spirit to leave the girl in the name of Jesus Christ, which in turn removed any opportunity for her masters to make a profit (Acts 16:18-19). Thus, they brought Paul and Silas before the magistrates.

*And when they had laid stripes on them, they threw them into prison...*

*...he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.*

*Acts 16:23-24*

Stripped of their clothes, they were punished. What does it mean when it says "laid stripes on them"? In v22 we are repulsed at the idea that they were "beaten by rods." It was the job of the "lictor" (a bodyguard to magistrates), who carried the rods in a bundle, to carry out the punishment and that they did. Humiliated, and now with open wounds, they are cast into prison and fastened to stocks (Acts 16:24). All this was because they were talking about Jesus and His amazing redemptive work. But such abuse was not new to the apostle Paul. In Acts 14:19 he was

stoned and presumed dead while serving Christ and His church.

*I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.*

*Psalm 9:1-2*

What do you think of when you hear the word praise? Like Paul and Silas, we praise Him with the songs we sing and in the prayers we offer. One of the Hebrew meanings of praise is to make a show, to boast, to rave, to celebrate. What did Paul and Silas have to celebrate? As we sang before the lesson, Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus our blessed redeemer! Sing, O earth His wonderful love proclaim! Jesus is worthy of it and we should know that people are listening. Strengthen me Lord to always sing your praise.

*Dennis*

## Sermon Notes

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