

## *Lydia Discussion*

*Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.*

*Lydia is described as “a worshiper of God.” What about Judaism would appeal to a Greek or Roman?*

*The passage states, “The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.” How did that manifest itself?*

*Lydia seems to be relatively affluent and in charge of her household, so it is likely that she is a widow. How did she become important to the development of the church in Philippi?*

*The “members of her household” mentioned were probably servants, not her children. Is it reasonable that she would have become a mother-figure to the young woman delivered of a demon by Paul?*

*If a young woman like this one had presented herself to your church for membership, what would have been the response?*

*How did the Lord arrange for a diverse congregation in the church of Philippi?*

*Paul left Philippi after a relatively short time of ministry. Following the imprisonment, embarrassed that they flogged a Roman citizen, the town’s officials asked him to leave. Why do you think he agreed to do so?*

*Paul’s letter to the church at Philippi does not highlight a lot of problems as did letters to other churches. But Paul states, “I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.” What do you think might be behind that?*

*This church was generous and of sound doctrine. What responsibility do church leaders have for the outcome of a particular church?*

*Paul warns of false teachers in Philippians 3:2 (apparently Judaizers) and of those “whose god is their belly” in 3:18 (apparently libertines). What can a false teacher or false example do to a church?*

*Some preach the gospel out of envy or rivalry because Paul is in prison. Of this Paul says that whatever the motive, the important thing is that the gospel is preached. Why the different approach from that to the false teachers?*