Praise for the **significant** work of women in the church



INSPIRED REVELATORS (Acts 2:17-18)

- Part of Joel's prophecy of the "last days" (17-18)
 - God's Spirit poured out on "sons and daughters"
 - "Men and women" shall prophecy
- Fulfillment seen in Acts 21:9 & 1 Cor. 11
- Prophecy is a spiritual gift that has ceased (1 Cor. 13:8)
 - Passed through the Apostles (Acts 8:14-25) who are all dead
- NOT replicable but <u>critical</u> in the launch of the church

GENTLE CORRECTOR (Acts 18:24-26)

- Priscilla's knowledge of the way of God...
 - ... allowed her to recognize Apollos' deficiency
 - ... enabled her to help explain more completely
- Her discretion proves her love for truth and her brother
 - Taught him without violating 1 Tim. 2:12
 - Privately to build him up, not publicly to tear him down
- Her small direct effort had a big indirect impact (18:27-28)

VALUED CO-WORKERS (Rom. 16:1-4, 6, 12)

- Phoebe "a servant of the church" and "a helper of many" (1-2)
 - A "deaconess" in action, though not a "Deacon" in office (1 Tim. 3:12)
 - REAL SERVANTS DON'T NEED TITLES, JUST OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE
- Priscilla (again) risked her own neck to save Paul (3-4)
 - ... to the eternal gratitude of the churches where Paul went on to work
- Mary worked hard... (6)
- "Dainty" and "Delicate" doing the difficult (12)
- The Rest of the Story in Philippians 4:2-3

SPIRITUAL INFLUENCERS (2 Tim. 1:5)

- Eunice and Lois modeled sincere, unfeigned faith
 - They passed that faith on to their son/grandson (2 Tim. 3:14-15)
 - He became a "like-minded"/"kindred-spirit" with Paul (Phil. 2:20)
 - He had faith to save himself and his hearers (1 Tim. 4:16)
- Lydia's faith impacted her entire household (Acts 16:14-15)
 - A worshiper and listener with an open heart and obedient spirit
 - The first convert in Europe
 - The beginnings of the commendable church at Philippi (Phil. 1-4)

Women's Work Today

INSPIRING REVEALERS

• Often the first to share the old, old story with precious new souls

GENTLE CORRECTORS

Not showing what you know, but helping others grow

VALUED CO-WORKERS

Help, support, and encourage those who preach and teach

SPIRITUAL INFLUENCERS

Model a faith that will save you and those who observe you

Let's <u>never</u> minimize the <u>significant</u> role godly women have played and <u>continue to play</u> in the Lord's church

- Apollos wouldn't
- Timothy couldn't
- Paul didn't

Thank God for the Eunice, Lois, Priscilla and Lydia in your life

Then thank them

In Christ...

WE ARE ALL ONE

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

(Gal. 3:28)

Are you in Christ?