

## I. Text:

**Acts 16:1-15** <sup>1</sup> Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, <sup>2</sup> and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. <sup>3</sup> Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. <sup>4</sup> Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe. <sup>5</sup> So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily. <sup>6</sup> They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; <sup>7</sup> and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; <sup>8</sup> and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. <sup>11</sup> So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. <sup>14</sup> A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. <sup>15</sup> And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

When you think of a loyal/faithful friend who do you think of that is to you loyal yokefellow/sunergos Phil. 4:3 – fellow workers like Timothy, Silas, Luke, or Lydia?

## II. Background of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey (Bibleplaces.com Map)



Why do you think God forbid Paul to into Asia Minor (area of the 7 churches of Revelation) and instead directed him and his team to go to Greece (Macedonian Call)?

## III. Overview and practical application

1. **(Acts 16:1-5)** The Fruitful Reunion (Revisit of the churches from the 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey)
2. **(Acts 16:6-10)** The New Calling (God bars Paul and his team from Bithynia and sends them to Macedonia/Greece.)
3. **(Acts 16:11-15)** The Continued Harvest (Lydia and others are saved and baptized)

Practically we should be inspired:

1. To **SIGN UP** and join God's evangelistic/gospel team like Silas, Timothy, and Luke
2. **ANSWER THE CALL** to the ministry God has called us like Paul answered the Macedonian Call
3. Listen, believe, serve with a **WORSHIPFUL & HOSPITABLE HEART** like Lydia

## IV. Main Points:

### I. (Acts 16:1-5) The Fruitful Reunion (Revisit of the churches from the 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey)

#### A. 4 Examples of Timothy (Acts 16:1-5)

1. **Timothy was a genuine disciple.** There was real fruit from the 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey – the likes of Timothy – “a disciple” **μαθητής** *mathetes*: a disciple (learner, follower, worshiper) **Origin** **μανθάνω** *manthano*: to learn, **root** **μαθ-** *math* (one who is educated, learning, receiving instruction (in Jesus day disciples were learners/students of a rabbi (teacher) whose goal it was to master everything the rabbi knew and taught until they in term were ready to teach/be a rabbi and have their own students/learners/followers. So when **Mt. 28:18-20** (the great commission) says “Go make disciples, baptize them, teach them everything I (Jesus) has commanded us” we can say a Christian disciple is one who follows and learns from Jesus, identifies themselves as a disciple/student of Jesus through baptism, and whose goal/mission is to learn and obey EVERYTHING Jesus commands – this is the essence of what it means to be a true Christian – someone who pursues loving, knowing, serving, worshipping, and LEARNING/OBEYing Jesus as their lifetime pursuit.

2. **Timothy was well-spoken/respected among the church/brethren.** One of my favorite passages is **1 Tim. 4:12-16** <sup>12</sup> Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. No doubt that Timothy in order to gain a good reputation in the church indeed was a spiritual pacesetter, example, and leader in the church by his speech, life, love, faith, and purity. Leaders lead from the front, and they think, speak, and act Biblically so that other Christians esteem, respect, and want to emulate their Christ-like example.

3. **Timothy was willing to GO with Paul as a missionary.** One of the reasons I respect missionaries so much is not only their sacrifice to give up the comforts and securities of the USA, not only their selflessness to forsake many things for themselves in light of their passion to reach lost people from foreign countries with the gospel, but also their courage and boldness to sometimes go to dangerous places / risking their own lives / in order for new people to be saved... in order to win people from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation (**Rev. 5:9, 14:6**).

4. **Timothy was a good churchman** – he was a good worker, servant, and volunteer who faithfully delivered the decision/decrees of the Jerusalem Council. \*\*\* And the result of faithful leaders, workers, and servants like Timothy is the church great stronger and the church grew in numbers... key word DAILY. I think because the work, service, and outreach of the church was daily not weekly (**1 Tim. 3:15**). I think we need to reevaluate at TBC – is our church just Sundays and Wednesdays. Are we just “on” or friends on the weekends, or is the church daily meeting/fellowshipping, daily serving/meeting practical needs, daily outreaching/evangelizing? I’m thankful for TBC but I think we have results commensurate to our prayer life, holy living, and obedience in evangelism. I think we have weekly results at this point and through our 16 years have weekly outcomes vs the early church had DAILY results and outcomes because they had a daily mindset and commitment and therefore God gave the increase and blessed the early church with DAILY results/outcomes. The Acts era churches did not have buildings, publishing, media, internet, marketing, or amazing tech – but they did have amazing eternal fruit that has reached us some 2000+ years later because they had amazing love, amazing commitment, amazing faithfulness, and amazing hard workers like Timothy.

**How can you be a better disciple, example, ambassador, and churchman/churchwoman for Christ?**

### II. (Acts 16:6-10) The New Calling (God bars Paul and his team from Bithynia and sends them to Macedonia/Greece.)

#### A. 3 Examples of Paul and his missionary team (Acts 16:6-10)

1. **Paul and His missionary team were in tune with the Holy Spirit (prayer warriors)-** The Holy Spirit “did not permit them”) – when He said NO when God forbid Him to go into Bithynia. (Perhaps God spared Paul’s life knowing dangers there - What ifs are usually not good - but there are a few interesting IF this would have happened this would have happened (but didn’t) **Mt. 11:21/Luke 10:13** IF miracles in Tyre and Sidon like Chorazin and Bethsaida – they *would have* repented long ago. And **Mt. 11:23** IF miracles that occurred in Capernaum had occurred in Sodom it would have remained to this day. Or **Matt. 26:24** It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.” **Luke 16:30-31** they will not believe even if someone rises from the dead. Jesus made legitimate offer of the Kingdom but it was delay because Israel rejected (**Mt. 23:37, John 5:40**) only God KNOWS all mysteries, all knowledge, and all possibilities/scenarios and for His own reasons like here HE says NO and will likely explain to us later WHY but for know we must just trust Him. (**Col. 2:3 / Dt. 29:29**)

2. **Paul had a vision of a Macedonian man asking them to come HELP them and interprets it.** Paul concludes that God had called US (Luke, Silas, Timothy, Paul) to preach the gospel to the Greeks. We would counsel people hear to be very careful about dreams, visions, extra “words” of knowledge, prophecy, or tongues because 1. God warns about the abuse of these gifts – pride/glorious going to us, employing them for “look at me, see how spiritual or important I am” 2. God says 3 gifts / 4 by implication with cease with the maturity of the church in **1 Cor. 13:8** – prophecy, knowledge, and tongues/by extension interpretation of tongues. Why these gifts ceasing – so that we don’t get puffed up/prideful, clamoring over experience rather than truth/doctrine/obedience, but also so Satan can’t manipulate, fool us, confuse us with a false word. – just finished reading Jeremiah this week in my Bible read through – repeatedly God through Jeremiah condemns priests who were lying and telling the people falsehood/lies through false prophecies, dreams/visions that were not from God. So today if you have a feeling, dream, vision – make sure you test it much prayer, much Scripture, and much counsel to make sure its from God. God would never tell you something that goes against His own Word. What is your calling in life? What has or IS God calling you to do for His name, in His church, and for His glory – TODAY!

3. **Paul moves out in faith and obedience right away.** Word in text is “immediately” we sought to go, they put out to sea, make a straight course to their destination. What has God called you to do. What are you gifted at doing, What do you desire to do (God-given desire), what opportunities to serve are available to you currently/right now, what has God blessed with fruit/results from your utilizing your spiritual gifts in the past? What do you think/feel (be careful with that word) after you have prayed a considerable amount about direction etc. What does the Word or council from your spouse, Elders, and godly friends say – where are all the major lights GREEN – go, move out, with haste – God speed! (Like **Acts 15:29** “Farewell” Greek word – **ῥώννυμι** *rhonnumi*: to strengthen, be strong... “Be strong, move out with speed” (God’s Speed).

**What can we learn from the example of Paul or his missionary team members – Silas, Timothy, and Luke?**

### III. (Acts 16:11-15) The Continued Harvest (Lydia is saved & baptized)

#### A. Listen, believe, serve with a WORSHIPFUL & HOSPITABLE HEART like Lydia

##### The river outside of Philippi:

1. A place of prayer (outdoors / beautiful and quiet setting to talk to God)
2. A place to assemble/worship (10 Jewish men required to form a synagogue)
3. A place to listen, and respond to the gospel (Lydia) (balance of God opening her heart and Lydia listening/believing the gospel)
4. A place to be baptized (the first command a new Christian should obey from their new Lord – Mt. 28:18-20)
5. A place to start serving (if faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay – hospitality... prevailing on people with kindness/generosity – meeting the practical needs of shelter and food). See also Jmac’s Acts Commentary on “God’s Sovereignty in Salvation” (1994). (Vol. 2, pp. 9495). Moody Press.

**Hospitality - φιλοξενία** *philoxenia*: love of strangers  
Origin: **φίλος** *philos*: beloved, dear, friendly  
**ξένος** *xenos*: foreign, a foreigner, guest

## V. Application: Offering Hospitality to one another (Romans 12:10-13, 1 Tim. 3:2, 5:9-10, Titus 1:7-9, Heb. 13:2, 1 Pet. 4:9)

**What’s one way you and your family can improve your hospitality and obey all the “hospitality” commands in Scripture?**



# TRUTH BIBLE CHURCH



## FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SEEKING TO...

### LOVE GOD SUPREMEPLY

**Matthew 22:37-38** <sup>37</sup> And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." <sup>38</sup> "This is the great and foremost commandment.

### SERVE PEOPLE SINCERELY

**Matthew 22:39** <sup>39</sup> "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

**John 13:34-35** <sup>34</sup> "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

### REACH THE LOST URGENTLY

**Matthew 28:19-20** <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

# Acts 16:1-15

16:1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, 2 and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4 Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe. 5 So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.



# Acts 16:1-15

6 They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; 7 and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; 8 and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. 11 So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis;



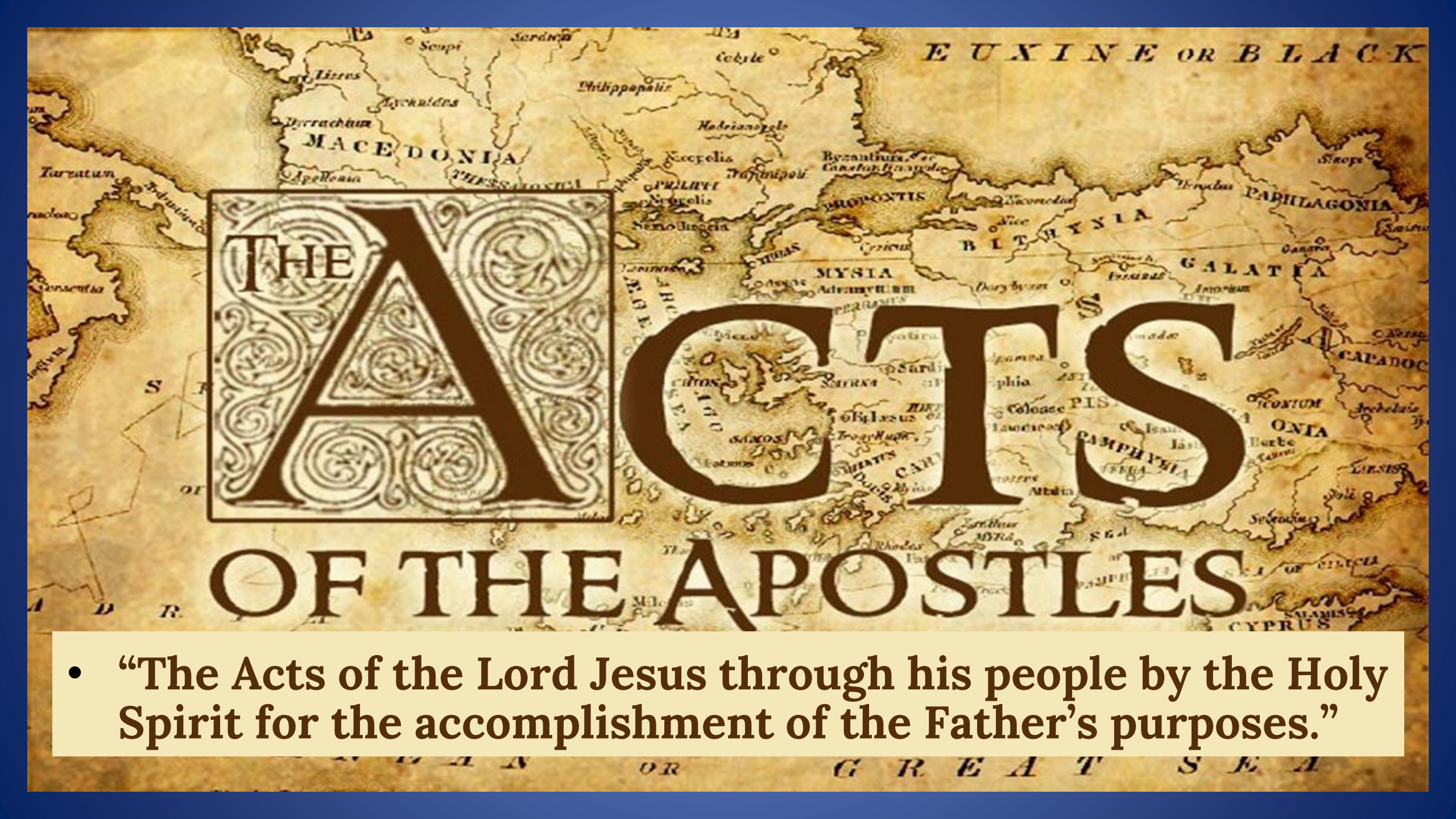


# Acts 16:1-15

12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. 14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.







# THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- “The Acts of the Lord Jesus through His people by the Holy Spirit for the accomplishment of the Father’s purposes.”



# Paul & Barnabas Division (who was right?)

1. Barnabas' perspective: Remember, Focus, and Thank the Lord for the Positives rather than the Negatives of those you love the most (Love is a Decision)
2. Paul's perspective: He was principled, duty/loyalty/faithfulness focused, and completion oriented (trust/confidence go along way with people)
3. God used the division to double the missionary output (raised up new ministry partners – Silas, Timothy, Luke, Lydia)
4. God wrote “the rest of the story” and enabled both of the Apostles to finish well (martyrdom) including John Mark (helped Paul at the end of his life, was Peter's son in the faith, wrote the gospel of Mark)
5. God continues to use all of us **DESPITE ourselves** - our many differences, opinions, sins/times of rebellion, and failures even as Christians. God doesn't give up on us – we are still useful to the Kingdom!



# 4

## How do you grow in your fellowship with God?

Tonight before you go to bed:

1. Ask God to reveal any sins in your life.
2. List your sins on a piece of paper. Be completely honest as this is just between you and God.
3. Remember that resentment, hatred, and bitterness are sins. *Read Ephesians 4:31,32*

You may have been hurt at sometime in your life. Unforgiven hurt can set us up to become slaves of resentment, hatred, and bitterness. We tend to hold on to the wrongs done to us by others which will ultimately poison all of our relationships. The only way to be free of this bondage is to forgive (by an act of the will, release the offending person). Since Christ was willing to forgive our offences, who are we to refuse to forgive those who have offended us? What is to be gained by clinging to our hurt and bitterness? Are you willing to obey?

List people who have offended you. If you have anyone to forgive, write (for each person):  
**Lord, I choose to forgive** \_\_\_\_\_ (name of person) **for** \_\_\_\_\_ (list what the person did that hurt)  
**even though it made me feel** \_\_\_\_\_ (painful memories or feelings) \_\_\_\_\_.

5. After completing your list, write over it the promise of I John 1:9.
6. Thank God for the forgiveness He has provided for you through what Christ did on the cross.
7. Tear up the list and throw it away.



# At all times... we must remember what lasts – what's really important

(Missionary William Borden – no reserve, no retreat, no regrets)

- ▶ We must choose Love and Relationships over church Events or check the block Christianity
- ▶ New Converts, Baptisms, & Members being discipled more important church Attendance (how big is your church)
- ▶ Bible–Driven/Jesus–Driven VS being Culture Driven, Flesh Driven, Feelings Driven, or Circumstances Driven
- ▶ Success in God's Eyes way more important than being successful in Man's eyes or your own eyes.
- ▶ Holiness/Righteousness/Godliness/Christ-likeness more important than human status (position, possessions, power)
- ▶ Your devotional life with God (Word and Prayer – actually knowing the Word and living it) more important than education, diplomas, and degrees
- ▶ Your marriage and relationship with your kids more important than having a certain job, title, or earning power.
- ▶ How you will be rewarded for all eternity by God in heaven is way more important than all your stuff/material things, accolades/achievements of men, or anything accomplished that is merely temporary here on earth



# THE 2ND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

(FINDING AND UTILIZING  
FAITHFUL SERVANTS  
LIKE SILAS, TIMOTHY,  
LUKE, AND LYDIA)

- **Acts 16:1-15**
- Timothy in Derbe/Lystra
- The Macedonian Call
- Lydia's Conversion in Philippi





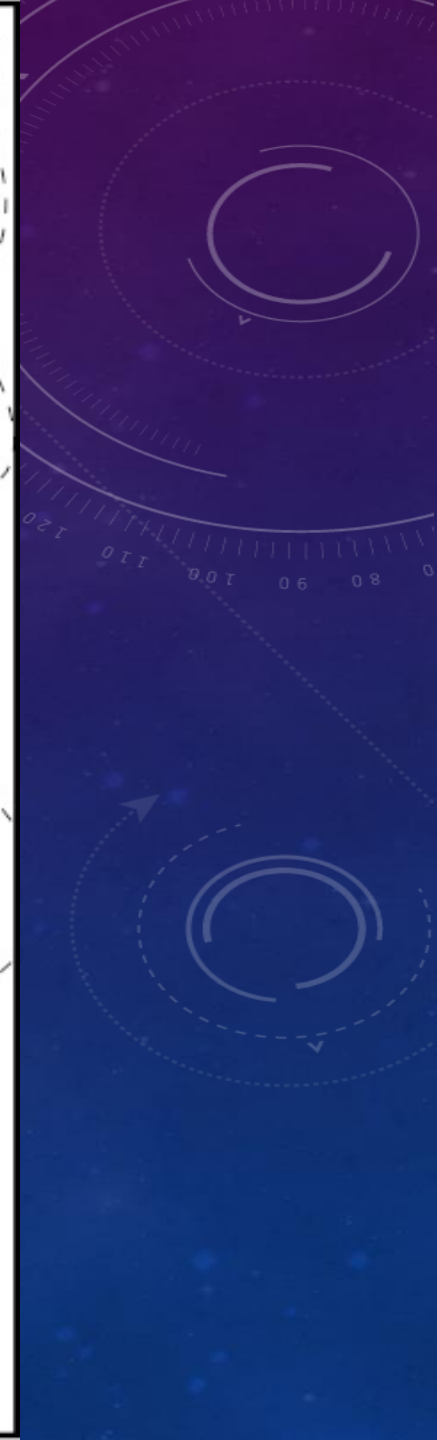
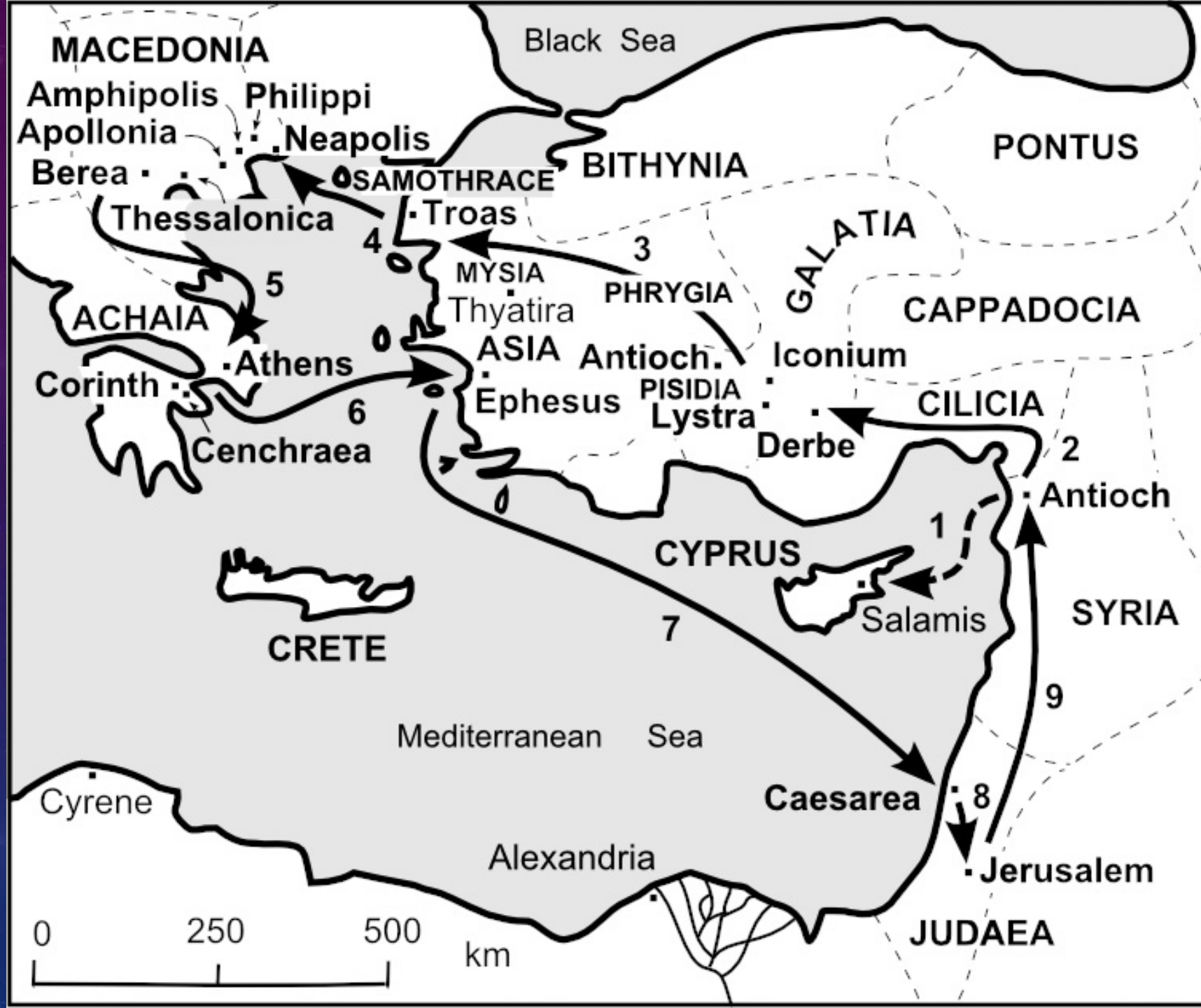




## Paul's Second Missionary Journey (A.D. 50 - 53)

PASSAGE	CITY VISITED	DATE*
Antioch, Syria	Acts 15:35	Summer A.D. 50
Derbe, Galatia	Acts 16:1-5	Summer A.D. 50
Lystra, Galatia	Acts 16:1-5	Summer A.D. 50
Troas, Asia	Acts 16:7-10	October A.D. 50
Samothrace, Thrace	Acts 16:11	October A.D. 50
Neapolis, Macedonia	Acts 16:11	October A.D. 50
Philippi, Macedonia	Acts 16:12-40	Until December A.D. 50
Amphipolis, Macedonia	Acts 17:1	December A.D. 50
Apollonia, Macedonia	Acts 17:1	December A.D. 50
Thessalonica, Macedonia	Acts 17:1-9	December A.D. 50 - May
Berea, Macedonia	Acts 17:10-14	51
Athens, Achaia	Acts 17:15-32	May - July A.D. 51
Corinth, Achaia	Acts 18:1-17	August A.D. 51
Cenchreae, Achaia	Acts 18:18	Sept. A.D. 51 - March 53
Ephesus, Asia	Acts 18:19-21	March A.D. 53
Caesarea, Palestine	Acts 18:22	March A.D. 53
Antioch, Syria	Acts 18:22	March A.D. 53

\* William M. Ramsay. St. Paul The Traveller and Roman Citizen. Kergel. 2001. p. 303.





Today, we will see 3 sections that all can be mini-sermons – that show us how God uses normal people like us to do great things for His church, His name, His Kingdom, His will, and His glory

1. **The Fruitful Reunion** (Revisit of the churches from the 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey)
2. **The New Calling** (God bars Paul and his team from Bithynia and sends them to Macedonia/Greece.)
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## 1. The Fruitful Reunion (Acts 16:1-5)

### (Revisit of the churches from the 1st Missionary Journey)

- Acts 16:1-5 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, 2 and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4 Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe. 5 So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.





THE BIBLE  
EXPOSITION  
COMMENTARY  
NEW TESTAMENT

VOLUME I

MATTHEW—GALATIANS

WARREN W.  
WIERSBE

A New Helper (16:1–5) Paul and Silas approached their destination from the east, so they came first to Derbe and then to Lystra, just the reverse of the first journey (Acts 14:6–20). The preachers went from church to church, delivering the decrees and helping establish the believers in the faith. The result was fruit from the witness of the believers so that the churches increased in number daily (see Acts 2:47). It was certainly a most successful tour, but I wonder if any of the believers asked about Barnabas. And what did Paul tell them? Perhaps the best thing that happened at Lystra was the enlistment of Timothy to replace John Mark as Paul's special assistant. Timothy was probably converted through Paul's ministry when the apostle first visited Lystra, for Paul called him "my beloved son" (1 Cor. 4:17) and "my own son in the faith" (1 Tim. 1:2). Timothy's mother and grandmother had prepared the Acts 15–16 way for his decision by being the first in the family to trust Christ (2 Tim. 1:5). Young Timothy undoubtedly witnessed Paul's sufferings in Lystra (Acts 14:19–20; 2 Tim. 3:10–11) and was drawn by the Lord to the apostle. Timothy was Paul's favorite companion and coworker (Phil. 2:19–23), perhaps the son Paul never had but always wanted. Because he had a good report from the churches (1 Tim. 3:7), Timothy was ordained by Paul and added to his "team" (1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6). Paul's next step was to have Timothy circumcised, an action that seems to contradict the decision of the Jerusalem Conference. However, there was an important spiritual principle behind Paul's decision. The decision at the Jerusalem Conference was that it was not necessary to be circumcised in order to be saved. Paul did not allow Titus to be circumcised lest the enemy think he was promoting their cause (Gal. 2:1–5). The battle in Jerusalem was over the truth of the gospel, not over the fitness of a man to serve. Paul's concern with Timothy was not his salvation but his fitness for service. Timothy would be working with both Jews and Gentiles in the churches, and it was essential that he not offend them. That was why Paul had Timothy circumcised (see 1 Cor. 9:19–23). Again, it was not a matter of Timothy's salvation or personal character, but rather of avoiding serious problems that would surely become stumbling blocks as the men sought to serve the Lord (Rom. 14:13–15). It is a wise spiritual leader who knows how and when to apply the principles of the Word of God, when to stand firm and when to yield. In the years that followed, Timothy played an important part in the expansion and strengthening of the churches. He traveled with Paul and was often his special ambassador to the "trouble spots" in the work, such as Corinth. He became shepherd of the church in Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3) and probably joined Paul in Rome shortly before the apostle was martyred (2 Tim. 4:21).

THE  
MACARTHUR  
STUDY BIBLE



NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE

**16:1 Derbe and Lystra.** *See note on 14:6.*

**a certain disciple ... Timothy.** A young man (late teens or early 20s) of high regard, a “true child in the faith” (1 Tim. 1:2; cf. 2 Tim. 1:2), who eventually became Paul’s right-hand man (1 Cor. 4:17; 1 Thess. 3:2; Phil. 2:19; see *Introduction to 1 Timothy*). In essence, he became John Mark’s replacement. After being commissioned by the elders of the local church (1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6), he joined Paul and Silas.

**his father was Greek.** The grammar likely suggests his father was dead. By being both Jew and Gentile, Timothy had access to both cultures—an indispensable asset for missionary service.

**16:3 circumcised him.** This was done to aid his acceptance by the Jews and provide full access to the synagogues (*see note on 6:9*) he would be visiting with Paul and Silas. If Timothy had not been circumcised, the Jews could have assumed he had renounced his Jewish heritage and had chosen to live as a Gentile.

**16:4 the decrees.** The determinations of the Jerusalem Council (*see notes on 15:23–29*).



# 4 Examples of Timothy (Acts 16:1–5)

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# 4 Examples of Timothy (Acts 16:1–5)

2. Timothy was well-spoken/respected among the church/brethren. One of my favorite passages is 1 Tim. 4:12-16

<sup>12</sup> Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

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### 3. Timothy was willing to GO with Paul as a missionary.

One of the reasons I respect missionaries so much is not only their sacrifice to give up the comforts and securities of the USA, not only their selflessness to forsake many things for themselves in light of their passion to reach lost people from foreign countries with the gospel, but also their courage and boldness to sometimes go to dangerous places / risking their own lives / in order for new people to be saved... in order to win people from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation (Rev. 5:9, 14:6).

# 4 Examples of Timothy (Acts 16:1–5)

**4. Timothy was a good churchman** – he was a good worker, servant, and volunteer who faithfully delivered the decision/decrees of the Jerusalem Council. \*\*\* And the result of faithful leaders, workers, and servants like Timothy is the church great stronger and the church grew in numbers... key word **DAILY**. I think because the work, service, and outreach of the church was daily not weekly. I think we need to reevaluate at TBC – is our church just Sundays and Wednesdays. Are we just “on” or friends on the weekends, or is the church daily meeting/fellowshiping, daily serving/meeting practical needs, daily outreaching/evangelizing? I’m thankful for TBC but I think we have results commensurate to our prayer life, holy living, and obedience in evangelism. I think we have weekly results at this point and through our 16 years have weekly outcomes vs the early church had DAILY results and outcomes because they had a daily mindset and commitment and therefore God gave the increase and blessed the early church with DAILY results/outcomes. The Acts era churches did not have buildings, publishing, media, internet, marketing, or amazing tech – but they did have amazing eternal fruit that has reached us some 2000+ years later because they had amazing love, amazing commitment, amazing faithfulness, and amazing hard workers like Timothy.



# Why was Timothy circumcised?

- ▶ With Timothy's father likely dead, and having been a Gentile in any case, Paul assumed the role of a father and took Timothy and circumcised him. Some have sharply criticized Paul for doing so, accusing him of falling into the same heresy he fought at the Jerusalem Council. But such criticism could not be further from the truth. Nowhere is it stated or implied that Paul circumcised Timothy so that he could be saved. The text clearly says that Paul circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. Circumcision was the *sine qua non* of Judaism. *Had Timothy not been circumcised, the Jews would have assumed he was renouncing his Jewish heritage and choosing to live as a Gentile. Paul's circumcision of Timothy had nothing to do with salvation; he did it for expediency's sake, to avoid placing an unnecessary stumbling block in the way of Jewish evangelism. Timothy's circumcision granted him full access to the synagogues he would visit with Paul and Silas.*
- ▶ Far from lapsing into legalism, Paul was being consistent with a principle he would later express in 1 Corinthians 9:19–22: For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more. And to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law, though not being myself under the Law, that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some.

## 2. The New Calling (Acts 16:6-10) (God bars Paul and his team from Bithynia and sends them to Macedonia/Greece.)

- Acts 16:6-10 6 They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; 7 and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; 8 and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.





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A New Vision (16:6–40) In this section, we see three wonderful “openings.” God opened the way (vv. 6–12). After visiting the churches he had founded, Paul tried to enter new territory for the Lord by traveling east into Asia Minor and Bythina, but the Lord closed the door. We don’t know how God revealed His will in this matter, but we can well imagine that Paul was disappointed and perhaps a bit discouraged. Everything had been going so smoothly on this second journey that these closed doors must have come as a great surprise. However, it is comforting to know that even apostles were not always clear as to God’s will for their ministries! God planned for the message to get there another time (Acts 18:19–19:41; see 1 Peter 1:1). In His sovereign grace, God led Paul west into Europe, not east into Asia. It is interesting to speculate how world history might have been changed had Paul been sent to Asia instead of to Europe. At Troas, Paul was called to Macedonia by a man whom he saw in a night vision. “Nothing makes a man strong like a call for help,” wrote George MacDonald, and Paul was quick to respond to the vision (compare Acts 26:19). Note the pronoun we in Acts 16:10, for Dr. Luke, who wrote the book of Acts, joined Paul and his party at Troas. There are three “we” sections in Acts: 16:10–17; 20:5–15; and 27:1—28:16. Luke changed from “we” to “they” in Acts 17:1, which suggests that he may have remained in Philippi to pastor the church after Paul left. The next “we” section begins in Acts 20:5 in connection with Paul’s trip from Macedonia. Luke devoted a good deal of space to Paul’s ministry in Philippi, so perhaps he was a resident of that city. Some students think Luke may have been the man Paul saw in the vision. From Troas to Neapolis, the port of Philippi was a distance of about 150 miles, and it took them two days to make the journey. Later, the trip in the opposite direction would take five days, apparently because of contrary winds (Acts 20:6). Philippi lay ten miles inland from Neapolis, and the way Luke described the city would suggest that he was indeed one of its proudest citizens.

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**16:6 Holy Spirit ... Asia.** Paul was not allowed to fulfill his intention to minister in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) and to such cities as Ephesus, Smyrna, Philadelphia, Laodicea, Colosse, Sardis, Pergamos, and Thyatira.

**16:7, 8 Mysia ... Troas.** The NW part of the province of Asia Minor.

**16:7 Bithynia.** A separate Roman province NE of Mysia. The Spirit did not permit them. Once the Holy Spirit had providentially stopped their travel N, they had nowhere else to go but Troas, a seaport on the Aegean Sea.

**16:9, 10** This was the second of 6 visions received by the apostle (cf. 9:3–6; 18:9, 10; 22:17, 18; 23:11; 27:23, 24).

**16:9 Macedonia.** The region located across the Aegean Sea on the mainland of Greece. The cities of Philippi and Thessalonica were located there. Most significantly, going there was to take the gospel from Asia into Europe.

**16:10 we.** A change from the third person pronoun to the second person indicates that Luke joined up with Paul, Silas, and Timothy (see Introduction: Author and Date).



# God sometimes says No before He says Yes

God usually answers with Yes, No, or Wait...some have said Wait the hardest, but I think it's the NO. Have you ever wondered why God says "No" sometimes? No to a urgent prayer request for someone's healing (my mom dying of cancer), No to a job opportunity or no to a desire to walk through an open door to serve the Lord in some way (no to enjoying or exceling in football despite a lot of hard/investment, no to a good desire to plant a church in California after seminary), no to continuing a life, way of living, or path you thought was good for you and your family (no to me Pastoring at Saysf, no to my desire to speak at youth conferences or camps, no to my premonition/although I don't like the word in that its mystical/rather just a strong feeling from my youth - that I would be part of something big, important, desire to be part of a movement that makes an impact on an area, people, time period, or country). (No because God know perfectly/better than me - my mom is fully healed and enjoying heaven, ministry not sports is what has eternal value, God perhaps knew that I would have failed at the California church plant and never would have tried again... plus its California! - heard this week of my former church 300-500 people who merged with a larger church 500+ who had over 70 families move out of state, about that many funerals so that money is tight. God knew. God knew that my calling was TBC not Saysf, Maryland not Colorado, better husband and father of 7 without all the travel and responsibility of a large or well known ministry. God knows best and so I must trust Him with the Yes but also with the Nos.

# 3 Examples of Paul and his missionary team:

1. Paul and His missionary team (“did not permit them”) were in tune with the Holy Spirit (prayer warriors)– in tune with the Holy Spirit – when He said NO when God forbid Him to go into Bithynia. (Perhaps God spared Paul’s life knowing dangers there – What ifs are usually not good – but there are a few interesting IF this would have happened this would have happened (but didn’t) **Mt. 11:21 / Luke 10:13** IF miracles in Tyre and Sidon like Chorazin and Bethsaida – they *would have* repented long ago. And **Mt. 11:23** IF miracles that occurred in Capernaum had occurred in Sodom it would have remained to this day. Or **Matt. 26:24** It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." **Luke 16:30-31** they will not believe even if someone rises from the dead. Jesus made legitimate offer of the Kingdom but it was delay because Israel rejected (**Mt. 23:37, John 5:40**) only God KNOWS all mysteries, all knowledge, and all possibilities/scenarios and for His own reasons like here HE says NO and will likely explain to us later WHY but for know we must just trust Him. (**Col. 2:3 / Dt. 29:29**)



# 3 Examples of Paul and his missionary team:

## 2. Paul had a vision/dream of a Macedonian man asking them to come HELP them.

Paul concludes that God had called US (Luke, Silas, Timothy, Paul) to preach the gospel to the Greeks. We would counsel people hear to be very careful about dreams, visions, extra “words” of knowledge, prophecy, or tongues because 1. God warns about the abuse of these gifts – pride/glory going to us, employing them for “look at me, see how spiritual or important I am” 2. God says 3 gifts / 4 by implication with cease with the maturity of the church in **1 Cor. 13:8** – prophecy, knowledge, and tongues/by extension interpretation of tongues. Why these gifts ceasing – so that we don’t get puffed up/prideful, clamoring over experience rather than truth/doctrine/obedience, but also so Satan can’t manipulate, fool us, confuse us with a false word. – just finished reading Jeremiah this week in my Bible read through – repeatedly God through Jeremiah condemns priests who were lying and telling the people falsehood/lies through false prophecies, dreams/visions that were not from God. So today if you have a feeling, dream, vision – make sure you test it much prayer, much Scripture, and much counsel to make sure its from God. God would never tell you something that goes against His own Word. What is your calling in life? What has or IS God calling you to do for His name, in His church, and for His glory – TODAY! (Perhaps its helping with Awana, youth, children’s ministirs that need some volunteers for this year currently)

## 3 Examples of Paul and his missionary team:

**3. Paul moves out in faith and obedience right away.** Word in text is “immediately” we sought to go, they put out to sea, make a straight course to their destination. What has God called you to do. What are you gifted at doing, What do you desire to do (God-given desire), what opportunities to serve are available to you currently/right now, what has God blessed with fruit/results from your utilizing your spiritual gifts in the past? What do you think/feel (be careful with that word) after you have prayed a considerable amount about direction etc. What does the Word or council from your spouse, Elders, and godly friends say – where are **all the major lights GREEN** – go, move out, with haste – God speed! (Like “Farewell” Greek word – means “Be strong, move out with speed” (God’s Speed)).



# Dr. Luke joins the Apostle Paul in Acts 16:10

- ▶ Verse 10 is the first of the “we” passages in Acts. Luke, the writer of Acts, has now joined the missionary team. Like Timothy, he was to be Paul’s faithful friend and loyal companion for the rest of the apostle’s life.

### 3. The Continued Harvest (Acts 16:11-15) (Lydia and others are saved and baptized)

- Acts 16:11-15 11 So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. 14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.



# Philippi



## Krenides River

Philippi apparently had only a small number of Jewish inhabitants and no synagogue. Consequently Shabbat worship was held outside the city on the Krenides River. Here Paul met a group of women to whom he preached the gospel. Lydia, a merchant trading purple cloth, believed Paul's message and was baptized with members of her household. Subsequently Paul went and lived at her home ([Acts 16:15](#)).

## Acropolis

Founded in the 4th c. B.C. and renamed after King Philip of Macedon, Philippi was an important outpost on the Egnation Way. Two important battles were fought here in 42 B.C. resulting in the defeat of Cassius and Brutus, conspirators in the assassination of Julius Caesar. After these battles, Philippi became a Roman colony encompassing 700 square miles.







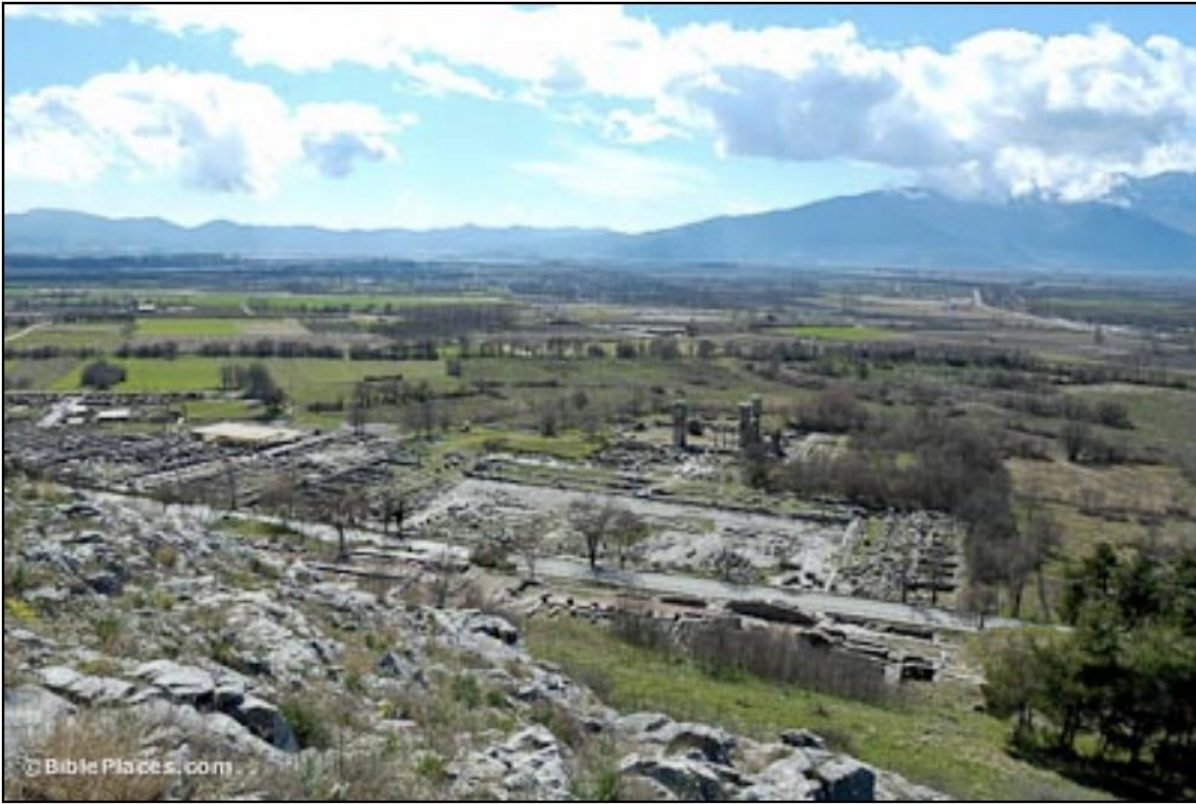












## Excavations

Archaeological work has revealed a large and well-preserved forum, a theater, the alleged jail of Paul and several Byzantine churches, including one of the earliest churches known in Greece. The number of churches in the city in the Byzantine period indicate Philippi's importance to Christians at this time. A series of earthquakes apparently destroyed many of the buildings and probably contributed to the city's decline.





## Philippian Jail

This traditional place of Paul and Silas's imprisonment is of dubious authenticity, but it remembers the attack on these men and their subsequent flogging and imprisonment. In the course of the night, a violent earthquake shook the prison and the jailer feared that all might have escaped. After learning that none had fled, the Philippian jailer put his faith in Christ and was baptized with his family.



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Philippi was a Roman colony, which meant that it was a “Rome away from Rome.” The emperor organized “colonies” by ordering Roman citizens, especially retired military people, to live in selected places so there would be strong pro-Roman cities in these strategic areas. Though living on foreign soil, the citizens were expected to be loyal to Rome, to obey the laws of Rome, and to give honor to the Roman emperor. In return, they were given certain political privileges, not the least of which was exemption from taxes. This was their reward for leaving their homes in Italy and relocating elsewhere. God opened Lydia’s heart (vv. 13–15). Paul and his friends did not plunge immediately into evangelizing the city, even though they knew God had called them there. No doubt they needed to rest and pray and make their plans together. It is not enough to know where God wants us to work; we must also know when and how He wants us to work. The Jewish population in Philippi must have been very small since there was no synagogue there, only a place of prayer by the river outside the city. (It required ten men for the founding of a synagogue.) Paul had seen a man in the vision at Troas, but here he was ministering to a group of women! “It is better that the words of the law be burned than be delivered to a woman!” said the rabbis, but that was no longer Paul’s philosophy. He had been obedient and the Lord had gone before to prepare the way. Lydia was a successful businesswoman from Thyatira, a city renowned for its purple dye. She probably was in charge of a branch office of her guild in Acts 16:37 Philippi. God brought her all the way to Greece so that she might hear the gospel and be converted. She was “a worshipper of God,” a Gentile who was not a full Jewish proselyte but who openly worshipped with the Jews. She was seeking truth. Paul shared the Word (“spoken” in Acts 16:14 means personal conversation, not preaching), God opened her heart to the truth, and she believed and was saved. She boldly identified herself with Christ by being baptized, and she insisted that the missionaries stay at her house. All of her household had been converted, so this was a good opportunity for Paul and his associates to teach them the Word and establish a local church. (We will deal with “household salvation” when we get to Acts 16:31.) We must not conclude that because God opened Lydia’s heart, Lydia’s part in her conversion was entirely passive. She listened attentively to the Word, and it is the Word that brings the sinner to the Savior (John 5:24). The same God who ordained the end, Lydia’s salvation, also ordained the means to the end, Paul’s witness of Jesus Christ. This is a beautiful illustration of 2 Thessalonians 2:13–14.



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**16:11 Samothrace.** An island in the Aegean Sea about halfway between Asia Minor and the Greek mainland. They stayed there overnight to avoid the hazards associated with sailing in the dark. Neapolis. The port city for Philippi.

**16:12 Philippi.** See Introduction to Philippians. Located 10 mi. inland from Neapolis, Philippi was named for Philip II of Macedon (the father of Alexander the Great). a colony. Philippi became a Roman colony in 31 b.c., so it carried the right of freedom (it was self-governing and independent of the provincial government), the right of exemption from tax, and the right of holding land in full ownership.

**16:13 to the riverside.** Evidently, the Jewish community did not have the minimum of 10 Jewish men who were heads of households required to form a synagogue. In such cases, a place of prayer under the open sky and near a river or sea was adopted as a meeting place. Most likely this spot was located where the road leading out of the city crossed the Gangites River.

**women who met there.** *In further evidence of the small number of Jewish men, it was women who met to pray, read from the OT law, and discuss what they read.*

**16:14 Lydia ... from the city of Thyatira.** Her home city was located in the Roman province of Lydia, thus the name “Lydia” was probably associated with her place of origin.

**seller of purple.** “Purple” fabrics. Because purple dye was extremely expensive, purple garments were usually worn by royalty and the wealthy. As a result, Lydia’s business turned a nice profit, which enabled her to have a house large enough to accommodate the missionary team (v. 15) and the new church at Philippi (v. 40).

**who worshiped God.** Like Cornelius, she believed in the God of Israel but had not become a full proselyte (cf. 10:2).

**The Lord opened her heart.** This is another proof of the sovereignty of God in salvation (*see note on 13:48*).

**16:15 household.** *See note on 11:14. Cf. v. 31.*

# The river outside of Philippi:

1. A place of **prayer**
2. A place to assemble/**worship** (10 Jewish men required to form a synagogue)
3. A place to listen, and respond to the **gospel** (Lydia)  
(balance of God opening her heart and Lydia listening/believing the gospel)
4. A place to be **baptized**
5. A place to start **servicing** (if faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay – hospitality... prevailing on people with kindness/generosity – meeting the practical needs of shelter and food)

▶ **Hospitality** - φιλοξενία *philoxenia*: love of strangers

Origin:

- ▶ φίλος *philos*: beloved, dear, friendly
- ▶ ξένος *xenos*: foreign, a foreigner, guest



# God's Sovereignty in Salvation (Jmac Acts Commentary)

- ▶ Remembering God's sovereignty in salvation is the foundation of a proper perspective on evangelism. Salvation does not depend on clever evangelistic strategies, or the skill of the preacher, or a masterful presentation. It is not a human work at all; it is God's work. "I planted," Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth" (1 Cor. 3:6-7).
- ▶ In 1 Corinthians 2:1-4, Paul described his evangelistic approach to the Corinthians:
  - ▶ When I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.
- ▶ Although an accomplished scholar, adept at handling the Scriptures, Paul recognized that mere human persuasiveness saves no one. The other early evangelists also knew that truth; one searches the evangelistic messages in Acts in vain for any sort of clever manipulation. Instead, they are filled with interpretation and application of Scripture, and the proclamation of the gospel (cf. 2:14ff., 41; 3:12ff.; 5:42; 8:4-5; 13:15ff.; 16:30-32; 17:10-12).

# God's Sovereignty in Salvation (Jmac Acts Commentary)

- ▶ Many in our day foolishly act as though God were wholly dependent on them to reach the lost. Nothing could be further from the truth. A. W. Tozer points out:
- ▶ Probably the hardest thought of all for our natural egotism to entertain is that God does not need our help. We commonly represent Him as a busy, eager, somewhat frustrated Father hurrying about seeking help to carry out His benevolent plan to bring peace and salvation to the world; but as said the Lady Julian, "I saw truly that God doeth all-thing, be it never so little." The God who worketh all things surely needs no help and no helpers.
- ▶ Too many missionary appeals are based upon this fancied frustration of Almighty God. An effective speaker can easily excite pity in his hearers, not only for the heathen but for the God who has tried so hard and so long to save them and has failed for want of support. I fear that thousands of young persons enter Christian service from no higher motive than to help deliver God from the embarrassing situation His love has gotten Him into and His limited abilities seem unable to get Him out of. (*The Knowledge of the Holy* [New York: Harper & Row, 1975], 41)
- ▶ The most important element of any gospel presentation is clarity of content. To present the gospel clearly requires invoking the power of the Spirit and leaving the results to God.



# Practically we should be inspired:

1. To **SIGN UP** and join God's evangelistic/gospel team like Silas, Timothy, and Luke
2. **ANSWER THE CALL** to the ministry God has called us like Paul answered the Macedonian Call
3. Listen, believe, serve with a **WORSHIPFUL and HOSPITABLE HEART** like Lydia

# SO WHAT?

## Application



Rom. 12:10-13 <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; <sup>11</sup> not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; <sup>12</sup> rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, <sup>13</sup> contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing **hospitality**.

1 Tim. 3:2 <sup>2</sup> An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, **hospitable**, able to teach,

1 Tim. 5:9-10 <sup>9</sup> A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, <sup>10</sup> having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown **hospitality** to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work.

Tit. 1:7-9 <sup>7</sup> For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, <sup>8</sup> but **hospitable**, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, <sup>9</sup> holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. Vo

Heb. 13:2 <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show **hospitality** to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. ted herself to every good work.

1 Pet. 4:9 <sup>9</sup> Be **hospitable** to one another without complaint.