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## Paul—Acts 16

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey: Converts in Philippi

#### I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 01. 16:1... a certain disciple was there, named Timothy**—“Honoring God, a young disciple who was Paul's companion in many of his journeyings. His mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, are mentioned as eminent for their piety ([2Ti 1:5](#)). We know nothing of his father but that he was a Greek ([Act 16:1](#)). He is first brought into notice at the time of Paul's second visit to Lystra ([Act 16:2](#)), where he probably resided, and where it seems he was converted during Paul's first visit to that place ([1Ti 1:2](#); [2Ti 3:11](#)). The apostle having formed a high opinion of his 'own son in the faith,' arranged that he should become his companion ([Act 16:3](#)), and took and circumcised him, so that he might conciliate the Jews. He was designated to the office of an evangelist ([1Ti 4:14](#)), and went with Paul in his journey through Phrygia, Galatia, and Mysia; also to Troas and Philippi and Berea ([Act 17:14](#)). Thence he followed Paul to Athens, and was sent by him with Silas on a mission to Thessalonica ([Act 17:15](#); [1Th 3:2](#)). We next find him at Corinth ([1Th 1:1](#); [2Th 1:1](#)) with Paul. He passes now out of sight for a few years, and is again noticed as with the apostle at Ephesus ([Act 19:22](#)), whence he is sent on a mission into Macedonia. He accompanied Paul afterwards into Asia ([Act 20:4](#)), where he was with him for some time. When the apostle was a prisoner at Rome, Timothy joined him ([Phi 1:1](#)), where it appears he also suffered imprisonment ([Heb 13:23](#)). During the apostle's second imprisonment he wrote to Timothy, asking him to rejoin him as soon as possible, and to bring with him certain things which he had left at Troas, his cloak and parchments ([2Ti 4:13](#))” [*Easton's Bible Dictionary*].
- 02. 16:10... And after he had seen the vision, immediately we**—“Luke introduces himself into the narrative by the pronoun 'we'; he was a physician (Col 4:14) and a Gentile (Col 4:11, 14); it is possible that this means that Luke had been preaching the gospel in those regions and that he was happy to join the company with Paul. Luke accompanied Paul into Macedonia, and was with him at Samothrace, Neapolis, and Philippi. The way Luke introduces himself with the pronouns 'we' and 'us' shows that he was a preacher of the gospel as well as a physician” [H. Leo Boles, *A Commentary on Acts of the Apostles*, p. 255].
- 03. 16:13... by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made**—“The fact that these brethren encountered a group meeting on the sabbath day indicates the worshippers were Jews (or proselytes). That they met by the river, and not in a synagogue, may suggest how sparse Hebrew males were in this city. It took a minimum of ten Jewish men to constitute a synagogue. Luke declares they sat down and started speaking to these devout ladies. This would be the commencement of Christianity in Europe” [Wayne Jackson, *The Acts of the Apostles: From Jerusalem to Rome*, p. 201].
- 04. 16:25... And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God**—“Never before had such sounds at midnight been heard from that inner dungeon. Bound, fettered, tortured, the spirit still had liberty, could pray, and praise God. God heard them, too, for there was a **great earthquake**. See [Act 4:31](#). It was God's angel to

loose their bonds, open the prison doors, and magnify their work” [B.W. Johnson, *The People’s New Testament*].

**II. Chronology.**

**BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Church.**

**III. Summary.**

Chapter 15 ends with two missionaries going out into the mission field their separate ways because of a difference of opinion about whether or not to take John Mark along. Luke, the inspired historian, follows the work done by Paul and Silas in this, Paul’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey. They went about confirming the churches (15:41), or we might say **STRENGTHENING** the churches. A couple of remarkable things to notice in chapter 16 are to be found in verse 5. Here we see the churches: (1) being established in **THE FAITH**; and (2) increasing in number **DAILY!** How wonderful! What if the same could be said of this particular congregation? Then there is also that “Macedonian Call,” received by Paul: **Come over into Macedonia and help us.** Though not by an inspired vision, that is a call that is repeated many times today, only with a changed place name, **BUT**, sadly, it goes unanswered in so many instances. We read also about the remarkable conversions of Lydia and of the Philippian Jailer.

**IV. Outline.**

1. At Lystra, Timothy joins Paul and Silas in the work (Acts 16:1-4).
2. **DAILY** additions to the church (5).
3. The Holy Spirit directs them to Troas (6-8).
4. The Macedonian Call (9-11).
5. Paul and Silas come to Philippi (12).
6. The conversion of Lydia (13-15).
7. Paul sets free a damsel from an evil spirit (16-18).
8. Paul and Silas are imprisoned (17-24).
9. In prison they sing praises and pray (25).
10. Prison doors are opened (26-28).
11. Conversion of the Philippian Jailer (29-34).
12. Paul declares his Roman citizenship (35-39).
13. Paul and Silas visit Lydia, then leave (40).

**V. Questions.**

**True or False**

01. \_\_\_\_\_ The magistrates at Philippi came to understand that they had made an error by imprisoning Paul.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul was always in control of his travel plans.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ There is nothing to indicate that any preaching was done to the jailer.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Luke was with Paul and Silas at Philippi.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ The damsel with the evil spirit hurled insults at Paul and his company.

**Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)**

06. \_\_\_\_\_ Who is described as: **WELL REPORTED OF BY THE BRETHREN**: (a) Luke; (b) Silas; (c) Paul; (d) Timothy.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ In relation to **WHEN** he heard the gospel, **WHEN** was the jailer baptized: (a) the same day; (b) the same hour; (c) neither a nor b.

08. \_\_\_\_\_ In this reading, who asked: WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED: (a) Lydia; (b) the magistrates; (c) Timothy; (d) the jailer.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ What word(s) describe(s) the way in which Paul responded to the MACEDONIAN CALL: (a) reluctantly; (b) immediately; (c) with hope.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul and Silas' prison SINGING took place when: (a) the third hour of the day; (b) at noon; (c) at midnight.

**MATCHING**

- |             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| A. BITHYNIA | E. TIMOTHY          |
| B. SILAS    | F. PHILIPPI         |
| C. LYDIA    | G. THE JAILER       |
| D. THYATIRA | H. DAMSEL'S MASTERS |

11. \_\_\_\_\_ Had a Greek father.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul was not allowed to go there.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Constrained Paul to stay.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Hit in the pocketbook.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Home of Lydia.

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week's handout*

**ANSWERS to Acts 15 Questions...** [(1) False, Acts 15:37; (2) False, Acts 15:8-9; (3) True, Acts 15:27; (4) True, Acts 15:10; (5) True, Acts 15:25; (6) c, Acts 15:39; (7) c, Acts 15:30; (8) b, Acts 15:28; (9) b, Acts 15:24; (10) b, Acts 15:21; (11) Peter, Gentiles, hear, gospel, Acts 15:7; (12) go, again, brethren, Lord, they, do, Acts 15:36; (13) Yoke, Acts 15:10; (14) Paul, Barnabas, Acts 15:26-27; (15) sentence, Acts 15:19.]

**VI. Lessons & Applications.** The following material comes from Jack Wilhelm's *RSVP Newsletter*...

1. **Salvation requires that an honest soul come in contact with the saving word of God.** God in His providence, will open doors of opportunity.
  - 1) There is indication in this story that God expedited Paul's journey to get to Philippi in Macedonia, as shown by:
    - 1- The control of the Holy Spirit that prevented detours (vv. 6-7).
    - 2- The vision of the man of Macedonia with the plea to come (v. 8).
    - 3- The nature of the transportation:
      - 1] A ship was readily available, which seems more than coincidence (vv. 10-11).
      - 2] The wind was with them (v. 11). They were able to go a straight course, not being blown off course, and cover a distance in two days (vv. 11-12) that took them five days when they made the trip later the other way (20:6).
  - 2) John 7:17—There must be a will to know.
  - 3) God got the message and the sinner together with the Ethiopian (Acts 8) and Cornelius (Acts 10); so also with Lydia and the Jailer.
  - 4) Hebrews 4:12—The word is a discerner. Have you ever wondered why the preacher preached on a matter you had been curious about? God's word fits our needs. We must be sure we love and want the truth (2 Ths 2:10-12).
2. **We learn how a local congregation can be started in any new community.**

- 1) When Paul came to Philippi, there was no church. When he left it was there and later helped him greatly in his work (Phil 1:5; 4:15).
  - 2) How did it begin? The gospel was preached, people were saved by their obedience to it (cf., Acts 2:47).
  - 3) Faithful Christians moving to a new community do not have to start a new denomination or join an existing one that does not follow the Bible. They can worship and teach others. The result today can be the same, Luke 8:11.
3. **We learn that the good one does is not always immediately appreciated—it may even be misunderstood totally and cause opposition.** Notice verses 18-24. Who would have thought that Paul's rehabilitation of this damsel could have been so misunderstood? We must not be weary in well doing (Gal 6:9). Paul was doing what he taught. Cf., 1 Pet 2:20-25; 4:14-16. Such suffering helps one be like Christ.
4. **We learn that a Christian's faithfulness in adversity is a powerful influence.**
- 1) Paul and Silas could still sing and pray (v. 25) without bitterness, even after being falsely accused and beaten (vv. 21-23). They were not in a comfortable position for worship (v. 24), and the hour was not ideal (v. 25).
  - 2) Paul's controlled, calm behavior (v. 28) impressed the jailer (29-30).
  - 3) When Christians calmly, faithfully, consistently do right, the world will notice.
5. **We learn that one cannot be saved without faith (Acts 16:31).** Belief is the beginning point for salvation (Jn 20:30-31). Many other passages teach its necessity: John 3:16; Heb 11:6; Jn 8:24, et.al.
6. **We learn that one cannot be saved by faith ALONE.**
- 1) Faith was not all the jailer was taught. They spoke the word to him (v. 32), so he would know what to believe (Rom 10:17).
  - 2) What he heard and believed prompted him to repent (shown by his washing their stripes to soothe them rather than beating them, v. 33). and to be baptized, even at the inconvenient hour (v. 33).
  - 3) The subsequent obedience of the man after believing coincides with other scriptures: James 2:24; Acts 22:16; 2:38-41.
7. **We learn that life is a sacred gift from God (Acts 16:28).**
- 1) In Matthew 6:25 Jesus reasoned that God gave us our life, the greatest of all gifts; surely He will give us the lesser things needed to sustain it.
  - 2) In Ephesians 5:29, we see that man is not to hate his own flesh, but nourish it and cherish it.
  - 3) Philippians 1:21-24 helps us to see that Paul left the matter of whether (and when) his life would end up to God.
8. **We learn that there is power in the gospel to change our lives and our destinies.**
- 1) When this chapter began, what type of man was the jailer?
  - 2) When he despaired of his life and wanted to end it, what was his state?
  - 3) When the story ended, what type of person was he? He was a rejoicing man in a happy, Christian household (v. 34).
  - 4) What made the difference?

**VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.**

A A K E E R G A W F H R I E J L C M B V  
 B H X J U I S V S C H E I M G V H M D W  
 H U A I D Y L T Z I M X V A D D N A P A  
 W A S H E D U I Q R D U S O F R P Y Q Z  
 G R H C D U M M T C E M W N O Y R I A S  
 E Z U T E F D O H U C A X U P W R H C Q  
 D H W E L H O T E M R C Y E E G E O M H  
 I E S P I T T H F C E E C B B C U U J P  
 S M E L V T M E A I E D I V V D C B B F  
 R E P R E D F U I S S O O G J V I I R R  
 E H I X R I E S T E M N H T T O S K O P  
 V T R W E S R S H D C I M K C B O R C X  
 I T T V D R U Y A H S A T Y M R E F Y J  
 R A S D Z H B P C E W O L S C R A I X N  
 I E L X J J M B L W R I T E X M D X K F  
 U B P C Q Y O I L E A C F E R Z Q R O C  
 T A R I T A Y H T D H D N G W S L Z E B  
 E A E L B U O R T Y L G N I D E E C X E  
 J K J S O O T H S A Y I N G C L N L R V  
 O G J P W P G S O W J J Q U L F S V T X

*[The words (or word locaters) listed below are to be found in the text of our lesson. They also are found in the puzzle above. This is just one more way to reinforce what you have studied from the text. Why not read the whole verse where the word is found one more time as you do the puzzle? Thank you for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. Let's desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow (1 Pet 2:2). DRL]*

**Acts 16**

Timotheus, 1  
 a Greek, 1  
 circumcised, 3  
 delivered, 4  
 decrees, 4  
 the faith, 5  
 increased, 5  
 daily, 5  
 vision, 9  
 Macedonia, 9

help us, 10  
 river side, 13  
 Lydia, 14  
 Thyatira, 14  
 soothsaying, 16  
 exceedingly trouble, 20  
 beat them, 22  
 washed, 33  
 stripes, 33