

Jesus Christ's work through the Apostles to the Uttermost

Paul's second missionary Journey

"... and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judae'a, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." **Acts 1:8**

Introduction: Acts chapter 16 marks the beginning of Paul's second missionary journey. Silas is now Paul's partner in the ministry. From this point forward Paul will be dealing with many places we find in the New Testament Epistles (Philippi, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus etc....) In the middle of this particular chapter we find Paul and Silas singing in Jail.



The Discipling of others v1-5

The Direction of the Holy Spirit v6-10

The Detention of Paul and Silas v11-24

The Deliverance of God v25-40

I. The Discipling of others v1-5

A. The Disciple Described v1,2

1. "Then came he to Derbe and Lystra:"

- a. "And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead." **Acts 14:19** – The first time Paul came through here they stoned him.
- b. What would it take to dissuade you and I from serving the Lord?
- c. What are willing to do to serve the Lord?

2. *“and, behold, a certain disciple was there...”* – Paul was not just concerned with seeing folks saved but understood this matter of discipleship.
 - a. There are people at Sharon Baptist Church that God would have to take that next step of faith in obedience to Him. – Perhaps that would be full time service.
 - b. **Mark 3: 14,15** *“¹⁴And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, ¹⁵And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:”*
 - c. **Acts 1: 1,2** *“¹The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus **began** to do and teach, ²Until the day in which he was taken up, **after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles [the sent ones] whom he had chosen:”***

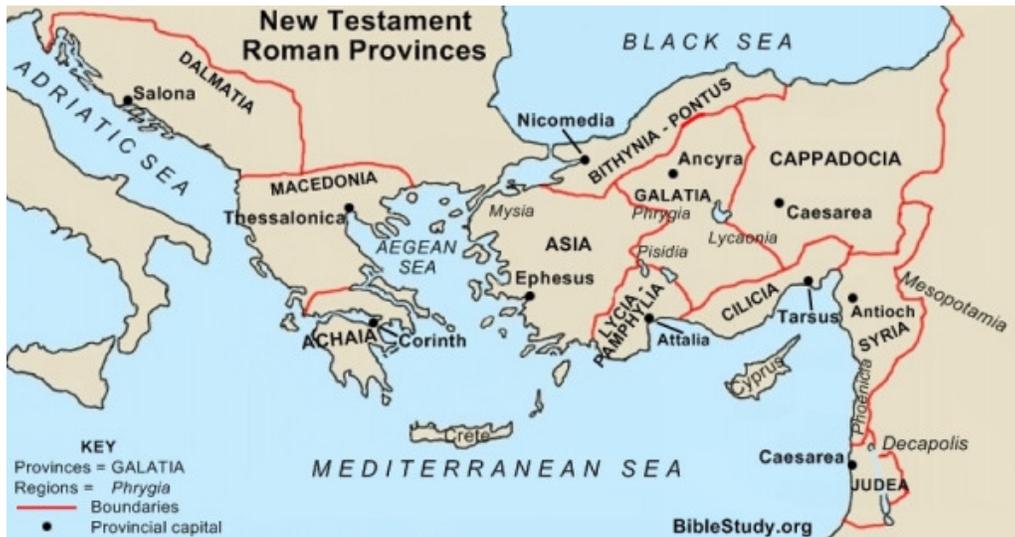
3. Introduction to Timothy – *“Timotheus”*

- a. His name means – ‘one that honors God or is dear to God or one who is honored by God’ – Are you one that honors God or is honored by God?
- b. His mother was a Jewess (*“and believed, but...”*)
- c. His father was a Greek - Not much is known of Timothy’s Father leads us to believe that He **perhaps** was not saved.
- d. *“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”* **2 Timothy 1:5** – **Godly heritage seems to stem from the mother’s side.**
- e. God can use folks that come from differing family backgrounds.
- f. *“well reported of by the brethren”* – What is your testimony around the brethren?

B. The Disciple Dedicated v3, 4

1. **Notice the exhorting unto good works** – *“Him would Paul have to go forth with him;”*
 - a. **Paul was propelling Timothy forward** - There is a need in discipleship to help propel people forward.
 - b. **Jesus was propelling Phillip forward** - **John 6: 5,6** *“And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.”*
 - c. **God was propelling Abraham forward** **Genesis 22: 1,2** *“...Take now thy son, thine only son...”*
 - d. Who are you propelling forward?

2. Notice the dedication to the Gospel – “and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.” I Corinthians 9: 19-23



II. The Direction of the Holy Spirit v6-10

A. Detouring of the team v6-8

1. v6 “forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,”
2. v7 “they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.”
 - a. Where their people in Asia Minor that needed the Gospel?
 - b. Where their people in Bithynia that needed the Gospel?
3. We can gather from this that we need to be Spirit led in our endeavors.
4. (Matthew 16:18) “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**”
5. God alone knows His plan from beginning to end (**Acts 15:18**), which includes all of the moving pieces.
6. **Ephesians 1:9-12** *Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: ...according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: ...*
7. This does not mean that we sit around say “I am waiting to be directed by the Holy Spirit to hand a tract out...”
8. Example: “I’ve got the wrong job”

B. Decision to Obey v9,10

1. Vision in the night
 - a. Man of Macedonia
 - b. Request for Help
 - c. Completion of the Bible will mark completion of direct revelation (**Acts 18:9, Book of Revelation**)
2. Venturing into Macedonia
3. *"immediately **we** endeavoured"* – change from 'they' to 'we' indicates Luke's accompaniment
4. They purposed in their heart to: (1) '**go into Macedonia**', (2) '**preach the gospel**'
5. Long before the Macedonian call they were willing and seeking.
6. Two ways to seek God's will: **God's Word, Prayer**
7. In the context of prayer notice: **Matthew 7:7,8** *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."*

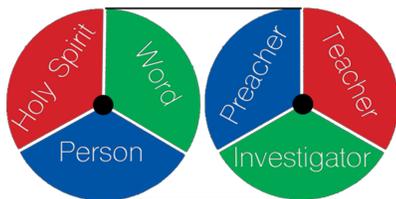
III. The Detention of Paul and Silas v11-24

A. Philippi

1. v11 '*Samothracia*' – an island in between Troas and Neapolis
2. v11 '*Neapolis*' – a port town in Macedonia
3. v12 '*Philippi*' – *"which is the chief city" "and a colony"* – city center and a Roman colony, occupied by Roman citizens
4. v12 *"we were in that city abiding certain days"* – Notice that there is the price of time to serve God.
5. *"we went out of the city by the river side"* – Open air meeting places to pray and speak were not uncommon particularly by water for 'ceremonial cleansing'
6. *"we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither."* – personal evangelism
7. It is certainly evident that there were not enough Jewish men (10 required) to constitute a Synagogue

B. Purple (Lydia)

1. Lydia – Seller of purple
2. Notice the steps
 - a. **She 'heard'** v14 – That presupposes a preacher.
 - b. **She understood** '*whose heart the Lord opened*' v14 – Operation of the Holy Spirit
 - c. **She believed** (faith) '*attended unto the things which were spoken*' v14
 - d. **She was baptized following salvation** v15
 - e. **She saw her household saved as well** v15
 - f. **She was changed** '*if ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*' V15



The wheel on the left represents what needs to be present and involved in the salvation of a person. Those are: **The Holy Spirit, The Word of God, and The Person** (the Soul-Winner).

The Holy Spirit: “...he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:” (John 16:8, John 6:44, John 6:65, John 3:5)

The Word of God: “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

The person: “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14)

The wheel on the right represents what a Soul-Winner needs to be:

A Preacher: One who proclaims the Gospel message.

A Teacher: One who can defend the truth, explain the truth, and correct false assumptions or doctrine.

An Investigator: One who asks fact finding questions to determine a person’s understanding of the Gospel message.

C. Possession

v16 *“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:”*

1. Make note that in witnessing, you will see people in all kinds of situations.
2. Make note also that in witnessing you are engaging in the front lines of spiritual warfare.
3. Notice the **façade of agreeance**. **v17** *“These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation”*
4. Notice the **frequency of attack**. **v18** *“And this did she many days.”*
5. Notice the **familiarity of worldly values**. **v16,19** *“which brought her masters much gain,”*
“And when the masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paula and Silas.”
6. **Ephesians 2: 1-6**

D. Prison

1. **Maligning before the magistrates v19-21**

- a. Their **motivation** was loss of gain

“No small part of the opposition to the gospel arises from the fact that, if embraced, it would strike at so much of the dishonorable employments of people, and make them honest and conscientious.” –

Albert Barnes

- b. Their **method** was to charge them with maliciousness
 - c. They **mentioned** several things – **v20** *“being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city”*
v21 *“teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.”*
2. **Multitudes that rise up together v22** – make note of the unity against Jesus Christ
 3. **Merciless sentence they receive v23,24**
 - a. “Often, before a time of deliverance, there is a time of waiting. Roman imprisonment was usually preceded by being stripped naked and then flogged, -a humiliating, painful, and bloody ordeal. The bleeding wounds went untreated as prisoners sat in painful leg or wrist chains. Mutilated, bloodstained clothing was not replaced, even in the cold of winter.” “Unbearable cold, lack of water, cramped quarters, and sickening stench made sleeping difficult and waking hours miserable. Because of the terrible conditions, many prisoners begged for a speedy death. Others simply committed suicide, but Paul and Silas did not respond like most prisoners. – Dr. Paul Chappell
 - b. Our trials and tribulations afford us a unique opportunity to give glory to God and be a greater witness for Jesus Christ.

4. **Midnight Praises unto God v25**

“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.”

- a. Notice the **period** of time – At midnight
- b. Notice the **praying** to God - **James 5:13**
- c. Notice the **praising** of God
- d. Notice the **prisoners** witness – *the prisoners heard them*

Those that were jailors were considered to have no feelings whatsoever. They would be used to exercise great punishment upon the prisoners they were given and would be indifferent to the humanity of the people they had charge over. The stocks described here are wooden and bound by iron and would provide a torture of their own.

- e. How do you and I handle the adversity the Lord allows into our lives? This jailor could not be reached perhaps but through this amazing incident.
- f. An example of praising the Lord – **Psalm 103: 1-22**

IV. **The Deliverance of God**

A. **Shaking of the foundations v26**

1. *“great earthquake”*
2. *“the foundations of the prison were shaken”* -but the edifice did not fall.
3. This was a miraculous work of God, no doubt in answer to prayer, in vindication of His servants, and as testimony to their witness. God would be glorified in all of this.
4. More than just the foundations of this building were shaken, the people were shaken!

B. **Setting free of the captives v26**

1. *“all the doors were opened,”*
2. *“every one’s bands were loosed.”*
3. **Isaiah 61:1**
4. In reality the captives are set free here, every prisoners bands were loosed, and all doors were opened, but we will see in just a few verses, that spiritually some will be set free as well.
5. **In the book of John, we find seven miracles that demonstrate Jesus’ power over all things:**

- a. **John 2** – Water into wine
 - b. **John 4** – Healing of the nobleman’s son
 - c. **John 5** – Healing of the impotent man
 - d. **John 6** – Feeding of the 5000
 - e. **John 6** – Walking on Water
 - f. **John 9** – Healing of the blind man
 - g. **John 11** – Raising of Lazarus from the dead
6. **Jeremiah 32:27** *“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?”*

C. Supposing the worst v27-29

1. **Prison Keeper’s life** - *“And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open...”*
 - a. What is your life bound up in?
 - b. **John 6:26,27** *Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.*
2. **Prison Keeper’s lost hope**
 - a. **Acts 12:19** *And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode.*
 - b. At the end of this temporal world, without God there is no hope.
 - c. By contrast - **Psalms 31:24** *“Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.”*
3. **Prison Keeper’s light**
 - a. v28,29 *“But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in,...”*
 - b. From despair to disbelief – *If this man had missed this light there may not have been another.*
 - c. What could cause these men to be so different than the rest? Paul and Silas did not flee, for some reason the prisoners did not flee.

- d. *“...and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,”* – No doubt fear and conviction setting in
- e. *“Those that have sin set in order before them, and are made to know their abominations, cannot but tremble at the apprehension of their misery and danger.”* – **Matthew Henry**
- f. **Titus 2:12-14** *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

D. Salvation of some v30-34

- 1. **The Question**, *“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”*
- 2. **The Response**, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.”*
 - a. **Salvation by faith** – *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,...”*
 - b. **Salvation offered to all** – *“...and thy house.”*
- 3. **The Instruction**, *“And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.”*
- 4. **The Action**, *“And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”*

V. The Declaration of Injustice v35-40

A. Command for release v35,36

- 1. *And when it was day, the magistrates sent the serjeants, saying, Let those men go. And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: now therefore depart, and go in peace.*
- 2. There is conjecture about what changed the mind of the Magistrates.
- 3. The *“serjeants”* were so named in the Greek as ‘rod-bearers’ and would be those who enforced the rulings of the Magistrates.

B. Charge of Injustice v37,38

1. *“But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out. And the serjeants told these words unto the magistrates: and they feared, when they heard that they were Romans.”*
2. The Magistrates had operated ‘above’ the law by rendering judgment without a fair trial.
3. The name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is worth standing for and the local church is worth standing for as well.
4. As Christians we should be the finest citizens in our land.
5. **Romans 13:1** *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*
6. *“As Christians, therefore, are to be subject to God, so they are to honor “God” by honoring the arrangement which he has instituted for the government of mankind.”* -Albert Barnes

C. Change of Sentence v39,40

1. *“And they came and besought them, and brought them out, and desired them to depart out of the city. And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.”*
2. Here in the United States we have the right to vote, which will make an impact concerning this nation.
3. Paul here not only brought glory to God, but paved the way for these new Christians to form a local New Testament church.
4. *“...they comforted them, and departed.”*