

Acts 16-18:22, Part One
Opening Europe in the Second Apostolic Mission
Acts 16

I. *The “Apostolic Team”*

- A. Paul and Silas – 15:36-41
- B. Addition of Timothy – 16:1-5
 - Timothy circumcised for the right reason – acceptance as a worker among the Jews (Paul retained his “to the Jew first,” theology).
 - Note the relationship between Paul and Timothy
 - 1 Corinthians 4; Philippians 2:19-22; 2 Timothy 2:2 (apostolic generations and discipleship)
- C. Establishing Ministry in Galatia
 - * “Tradition” and apostolic rule and practice – Acts 16:4; literally, “they traditioned the dogmas;” Luke uses this sense of verbal “handing down” in Luke 1:1-2. The Council’s decision about doctrine and practice is “traditioned” to the Churches. Tradition in the ancient Church meant this is what we believe and this is the action we prescribe.
- D. Addition of Luke – 16:11 (“we”)

II. *The Opening of Europe – Antioch to Philippi*

- A. The refusal of God (if we will hear it) leads to the calling of God (if we will obey it)
- B. “Asia” – today’s Turkey
- C. Macedonia – ancient heart of Greece (Sparta, Athens, and Macedon)
- D. Philippi – A magnificent Roman polis
 - 1. Founded by Philip of Macedon (father of Alexander the Great)
 - 2. Site of Victory for Antony and Octavian over Brutus and Cassius
 - Later Octavian defeats Antony at Actium
 - Settles Roman Army retirees (especially from Antony!) in Philippi
 - Added amenities of Rome – a kind of “Rome away from Rome”
 - Egnatian Way – the Main road to Rome went right through town
 - 3. No synagogue (needed 10 Jewish males), but there was a place of prayer
- E. Church Founded in Philippi
 - 1. Lydia from Thyatira – Acts 16:11-15
 - a. A seller of purple – she was a wealthy business woman; purple was very rare and used in Royal garments; “wearing the purple” was for hundreds of years the description of someone becoming Emperor.
 - b. God-fearer
 - c. Head of her household
 - d. Practiced Hospitality (putting her resources to work; note: Luke 8:1 ff)
 - 2. Slave-girl – Acts 16:16-24
 - a. Python spirit – ventriloquism; she was utterly under the control of the spirit - demons who tell the truth: Mark 1:21-28
 - b. Something like an oracle-fortune teller
 - c. Arrest of Paul and Silas

3. Philippian Jailer – 16:25-34
 - a. Praise and Midnight
 - b. “Saved” – from what? See Acts 12:18-19. Yet the implication is far greater.
 - c. Believing meant being baptized
 - d. Household baptisms in Philippi
 - in v. 34 we see that all in the house “believed;” in v. 15 we hear only of Lydia.
4. Challenge and Release – Acts 16:35-40
 - I’m a Roman!

III. A *Quick Glance at Philippians*

- A. Written from Roman Prison – 1:12-13 (This Church would know how an imprisonment would be to the advantage of the Gospel)
- B. A Church Rooted in the Gospel – 6x in chapter one alone
- C. A Church that Suffered – 1:27-30
- D. A Church that Demonstrated Concern and Maturity – 2:25-30; 4:10-19
- E. A Church Under Threat – 3:1-2
- F. A Church that Understood “Citizenship” – 3:20-21
- G. A Church that Had to Overcome Division and Rancor – 4:1-3
 - Note the presence of Clement (future Apostolic father, bishop of Rome, write of famed epistle to the Corinthians)