

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
Acts of the Apostles – Chapters 16 & 17
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RECAP CHAPTERS 15

Salvation is by grace through faith, plus nothing.

Acts 15:36-41 (KJV) *And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.*

39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

Acts 15:36 begins the 2nd of Paul's Missionary Journeys.

Take this to be a disagreement, not a falling out.

2 Timothy 4:9-12 (KJV) *Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.*

- 1) Never allow a disagreement to distract you from the work and testimony of Jesus.
- 2) Understand that living in Harmony and Unity does not mean we agree on everything all the time.
- 3) God moves us on purpose in seasons

Further evidence of reconciliation between Paul and John Mark in Colossians 4:7-11

Key Phrase: **GOSPEL RESPONSE**

Summary of Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36 – 18:22)

5 years AD 50-54

Approximately **3,000** miles

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|-----------------|------------|
| 1) Lystra | 5) Berea |
| 2) Troas | 6) Athens |
| 3) Philippi | 7) Corinth |
| 4) Thessalonica | 8) Ephesus |

Acts 16:1-3 (KJV) *Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.*

Timothy was not circumcised for salvation, he was circumcised so as not to be a **distraction** from the Gospel.

I. Paul's sharing the Gospel was led by the Holy Spirit.

A. There are places Paul is led to go and places he is told not to go.

1) They were **forbidden** by the Spirit to go further into **Asia**.

Acts 16:6-8 (KJV) *Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia. After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.*

Be careful and sensitive to what God says, more than what we want.

2) They were **dispatched** to **Macedonia**.

Acts 16:9-12 (KJV) *And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.*

B. **Procrastinating** sharing the gospel can cause people to get **hurt**, or **delay** help to a hurting people.

Acts 16:9 (KJV) *And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.*

II. Lydia's heart was opened to the Gospel by the Holy Spirit.

One of the interesting notes is that she was found by the riverside with only a group of women.

Acts 16:13 (KJV) *And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.*

A. Jewish law required a minimum of **10** Jewish men present for scripture to be read.

Acts 16:14 (KJV) *And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

B. Lydia was undeterred and still prayed, seeking God. (A Jewish Proselyte)

Acts 16:15 (KJV) *And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*

C. Lydia loved God, but the Gospel instructed that the **only way** to the God the Father, was through Jesus Christ, the son.

John 14:6 (KJV) *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

D. The core message of the Gospel has not changed. Jesus is the only way to eternal life for the world.

IV. The Jailor's **life** was spared to **receive** the Gospel by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 16:28-30 (KJV) *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, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*

A. Life **crisis** can lead people to seek Jesus.

Acts 16:31-32 (KJV) *And they said, 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.*

B. Heads of households set the **example** for their kindred and acquaintances to receive the Gospel.

Acts 16:33-34 (KJV) *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.*

C. Salvation leads to a **response** of reconciliation and selfless service.

Good works don't lead to salvation, but salvation leads to good works.

SIDE NOTE: When they were released Paul made a point of declaring his Roman citizenship

CHAPTER 17

V. The Thessalonians have a **mixed** response to the Gospel.

Acts 17:1-3 (KJV) *Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.*

A. The Gospel makes **sense** and is the only logical **conclusion** when we study the Bible.

Acts 17:4 (KJV) *And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.*

B. The Gospel still requires a **response** of **belief** or **non-belief**.

Acts 17:5-9 (KJV) *But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus. And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things. And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.*

C. There will always be those who oppose the Gospel for **power**, **prestige**, **philosophy**, and **prosperity**.

VI. The Bereans have an open response to the Gospel, but are negatively influenced.

Acts 17:11-12 (KJV) *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.*

A. Take notice again of the inclusion of women all throughout the early church expansion.

Bereans were Bible Studiers!

Acts 17:13 (KJV) *But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.*

B. Saul left Jerusalem to seek out Christians to persecute. The Jews in Thessalonica followed them to Berea to persecute them.

VII. Athens had philosophers and academia who wanted to debate the Gospel as another potential religious option.

Acts 17:18-21 (KJV) *Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)*

VIII. Corinth included people who chose to both accept and ignore the Gospel.

Paul lived and taught in Corinth with Timothy and Silas for one year and six months.(Acts 18:11)

Acts 18:12-17 (KJV) *And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat, Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law. And when Paul was now about to open his mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews, If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O ye Jews, reason would that I should bear with you: But if it be a question of words and names, and of your law, look ye to it; for I will be no judge of such matters. And he drave them from the judgment seat. Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things.*

Did Gallio really not care? Or just not want to pick sides?

Acts 18:22 (KJV) *And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch.*

Acts 18:22 effectively ended the 2nd Missionary Journey in Antioch

Next Week Begin 18:23-28, 19, 20, 21:16