

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

TIMOTHY JOINS PAUL AND SILAS

16:1 Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.

Act 16:2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.

Act 16:3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

Act 16:4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem.

Act 16:5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.

Act 16:6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.

THE MACEDONIAN CALL

Act 16:7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.

Act 16:8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

Act 16:9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

Act 16:10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

V1. Backtracking to cities visited during the first missionary journey. Present day Turkey. Timothy and Paul became bonded together. Paul refers to him as his son in the faith. Probably, Paul, in his first missionary journey, about 5 years earlier, met Timothy's mother and his grandmother. Now he finds Timothy matured.

V2 Timothy was well reported by the brethren that were there at Lystra and Iconium. They said, oh he is a fine young man.

V3 Paul later wrote, I have become all things to all men that I might gain the more. All things to all men. And here is **one of those beautiful flexibility things** where Paul can do in order to avert unnecessary strife. He can have Timothy circumcised so that the Jews there, knowing that his father is a Greek, won't be offended. **Cf. Gal. 2:3** re Titus

V4 As they traveled through the cities, they delivered the Jerusalem Council decrees. You don't have to be circumcised! Keep yourself from fornication and from things strangled and you do well. A message of liberty. We're not under the law. We don't have to be circumcised – the very message they were carrying. **Yet Paul had Timothy circumcised. An accommodation to keep people from being offended.**

V5. Beautiful isn't it? The growing church, established in the faith. Increasing in number daily.

V6 When Paul was in Galatia, he wrote to them how that I was with you at the first in great infirmities and weaknesses. I was sick! So sick that he couldn't go on. He wanted to go to Asia. Paul was strong willed. So God just let him get so sick, he couldn't get out of bed.

Vs 7-9 There in a vision in the night, Paul saw a man from Macedonia. He was praying saying come over to Macedonia and help us. Paul wanted to go to Asia. God wanted Paul to go to Europe. God is directing Paul toward Europe. And now by direct revelation, a vision, a man coming to Paul, saying come over to Macedonia and help us. It is quite possible that that man was Luke. Because as Paul now makes preparation to go to Macedonia, Luke joins company with Paul. The story no longer is "they", but it now **becomes we and us, as Luke at this point joins the party.** Timothy has become a part of it. So there are those who believe that it is quite possible that the man he saw in the vision was Luke and that later on he met Luke and it was confirmed.

V10 Notice the we and the us, Luke joins the company.

Introduction: Paul was wondering how the believers were doing in those churches that they had established. He wanted to go visit them, encourage them. So you remember how Barnabas was wanting to take his nephew, John Mark. Paul said no, I don't want that boy. He deserted us on the first journey. Let's not take him. And Barnabas said, well I want to take him. He's my nephew. He's matured and I want to take him. Paul said, no I don't want him to go with us. So the contention was so great that Barnabas took Mark and he went Cypress. And Paul then took Silas, who was one of the leaders of the church in Jerusalem. They together went on through Cilicia and Pamphylia.

Was Paul's decision to have Timothy circumcised a good decision or an undesirable compromise?

Now Paul would be the first to say that circumcision isn't necessary. In chapter 15 there was this big dispute over this because certain Jews from Jerusalem who had come to Antioch, said unless you are circumcised and keep the law of Moses, you can't be saved. Paul had this big dispute with them. They went back to Jerusalem to settle it. And yet in order for peace, Paul is willing to allow Timothy to go through the ritual of circumcision just to keep from having a stir with the Jews.

As Pastor Chuck often said, blessed are the flexible, they shall not be broken. Learn to bend. Rigidity is a terrible thing. It's important that we learn to be flexible. That we can bend when it's necessary. This is one of those circumstances where as Paul wrote to the Romans, live peaceably with all men as much as you are able. **It's not really a compromise.** Just don't offend people if you can keep from it. As much as depends on you live peaceably with all men. So Paul had Timothy circumcised because of the Jews in those quarters.

The importance of looking back (v.6) - . Now as Paul looks back on it he sees the hand of God. He says, well I wanted to go to Asia but the Spirit forbid me. In looking back it's interesting **how that we can see the hand of God in so many circumstances.** That at the time we didn't particularly understand it. And at the time Paul probably didn't understand it. This is God sort of enforcing His will. But later as he thinks about it, he sees how God's hand was there directing him. And forbidding him to go to Asia.

LYDIA BAPTIZED AT PHILIPPI

Act 16:11 Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis,

Act 16:12 and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days.

Act 16:13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there.

Act 16:14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

Act 16:15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

PAUL AND SILAS IMPRISONED

Act 16:16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

Act 16:17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."

Act 16:18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed (DEEPLY TROUBLED), turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

Act 16:19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

Act 16:20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city;

V11 The wind is behind them. It took them only two days! God's will, I mean things are flowing and they arrived there in two day in Neapolis, which was the port city and then eight miles in from there to Philippi.

V12 Macedonia is a Roman colony. Philippi was the site of one of the major battles within the Roman Empire. Brutus and Cassius were defeated by Mark Anthony and Augustus. They made the city of Philippi a Roman colony, everybody who was born in Philippi became a Roman citizen by birth. It was a Roman colony, governed by Rome, directly through their judges appointed by the Roman senate.

V13 If there were ten adult male Jews in the city a synagogue was required. If fewer then they would worship in a designated spot that was usually by a river. Here just some women, not even men mentioned, would gather by the river for prayer on the Sabbath Day.

V14. The Lord opened her heart. It's glorious when God opens our heart to the gospel. It's glorious when the Lord opens our hearts to the Word of God! Such was the case of this notable woman, Lydia.

V15 So a business woman and a great sales person. I mean listen to the pressure she puts on. If you have judged us worthy come and stay at our house. Well, if you don't stay, then you are not judging her worthy. What pressure! A sharp sales person. And Luke says, she constrained or persuaded us. Good business woman.

Vs. 16-17 One of Satan's tactics to hinder the work of God is to become involved in the work of God. A great curse of the church has been its compromise with the world. Satan, first of all tried to destroy the church by a direct frontal assault. Not being able to destroy it by a direct frontal assault, he then became more subtle and he joined the church. Then he began to introduce into the church all of these false doctrines that have plagued the church through the centuries. So it was by this infiltrating that the churches' influence became greatly weakened.

V18-21 They are teaching us things as a Roman citizen we can't observe. What was it? They were teaching that Jesus Christ is Lord and they we must submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. . **Cf. Mk. 5:7-8**

Questions:

1. Was Paul's decision to have Timothy circumcised an undesirable doctrinal compromise? What about Titus in Gal. 2:2? What is the underlying reason in both? How were the reasons reconciled?
2. Can you see this as a desirable objective in complying with God's will?
3. Vs. 6-7 Can you see here an example of the confirming by the Holy Spirit of a decision that we have made?
4. When did Luke join the group on the Second missionary journey.
5. Did Paul do the right thing in v. 18 in commanding the evil spirit to come out of the slave girl – she was continually telling the truth about Paul and Silas being servants of the Most High God!
6. V. 31 *So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."* Do you think the jailer's whole household was saved the moment the jailer believed?
7. Do you often question whether or not you're in God's will when the going gets tough? How are we shown examples of this situation in Acts chapters 15 & 16?
8. Using the Second Missionary Journey, as covered so far how can see the steps one should take in going to a pagan land and establishing a church?

Be flexible but don't compromise with the enemy!

v. 18 Paul, though this women is saying the truth, will not accept the demons' advertising of them. These are the servants of the most high God! Yes, indeed they were. They showed the way of salvation. Yes, indeed they did. It is interesting that even with Jesus, He would not allow the demons to speak. We know who You are, the Holy One of God. And He would command them to be silent. **The Bible asks the question, what fellowship has light with darkness?** And yet there has been that attempt to sort of combine them. And **today there is a strong movement toward ecumenism, in which they are saying that we need to put aside our differences in our doctrinal beliefs, in order that we might unify together. We can't do it.** We cannot compromise the doctrinal purity of the church for the sake of unification. We must maintain as much as possible the doctrinal purity.

Act 16:21 and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."
Act 16:22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods.
Act 16:23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.
Act 16:24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER SAVED

Act 16:25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.
Act 16:26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.
Act 16:27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.
Act 16:28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."
Act 16:29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.
Act 16:30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

V 22-24 Perhaps their hands and their heads too, but at least their feet fastened in stocks in the inner prison. Here they are, directed by the Holy Spirit to come to Macedonia to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, the gospel of peace, the gospel of love, the gospel of grace, the gospel of mercy, and yet here they are in the inner prison in the stocks, their backs throbbing with pain because of the beating that they had received, enough to make you question the calling of God. It would make you question whether or not God was leading you.

V 25 . At midnight, praying and singing hymns to God!! Singing is so important. So they were singing and the prisoners heard them. The Greek language is a little forceful. They listened attentively to them! They were listening, probably wondering, who in the world are these guys, in those conditions, singing?

V 26 Usually they were chained to the wall. A chain would be fastened to the wall and around their wrist. And this earthquake shook these pins in the walls loose so that everyone was free. It shook the doors open.

V 27 This jailer is an interesting character, very callous, hard hearted. These prisoners are turned over to him, evidently suffering. Their backs are bloody. They had had their clothes stripped off that they might be beaten and caned. And their backs rather raw and bleeding. Rather than attending at all to them. He just fastened them in the stocks and then goes to sleep. He's not concerned. But now when the prison is shaken open by the earthquake, the men have been freed, he is ready to commit suicide because under Roman law if prisoners have been entrusted into your keeping and they escape, you have to forfeit your life. So this fellow just figured he would take his own life. He would commit suicide because he figured the prisoners had escaped.

V 28-30 What must you do to be saved? An important question! To this Philippian jailer who wanted to know what he had to do to be saved, Paul answered believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Is it possible that it is that simple? Is it possible that we have sort of complicated the issue by adding so many other requirements? Is it possible that God will save a person by their simple believing in Jesus Christ? That was Paul's answer. **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.** Writing to the Romans (Romans 10:9), Paul said, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Again, very simple. So simple that any child can grasp it and can believe.

Are you in God's will?

Vs, 22-25. Paul and Silas have been faithful to preaching the gospel, but now they are in the inner prison having been beaten!! Can you imagine such a situation and how they may have wondered if they were in God's perfect will. Do you ever feel that way? Notice that in God's economy, the Philippian jailer and his whole family's salvation were at stake!!! Rather than being discouraged, rather than being down and all, they were praying and they were singing praises unto God.

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

V 28-30 An important question! What must you do to be saved? To this Philippian jailer who wanted to know what he had to do to be saved, Paul answered "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved". Is it possible that it is that simple? Is it possible that we have sort of complicated the issue by adding so many other requirements? Is it possible that God will save a person by their simple believing in Jesus Christ? That was Paul's answer. **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.** Writing to the Romans (Romans 10:9), Paul said, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Again, very simple. So simple that any child can grasp it and can believe. Oh, God help us to keep the simplicity of the gospel! And not be caught up in these theological debates and nonsensical issues that they argue over, but just to hold on to the simplicity that is in Christ Jesus!

Am I in God's Will?

So often what we look upon as we are going through a particular experience as some horrible tragedy that we have been forsaken of God. That surely, where is God in this situation? If God loves me why does He allow this to happen? And we have all of these things that so often trouble us in our circumstances that we don't understand. Circumstances that are difficult. That are sometimes painful. And we wonder why do I have to go through this? Here is a case where God knows the heart of this Philippian jailer. He knows his need of salvation. And He knows what it will take to bring him to a faith in Jesus Christ. It will take a couple of prisoners who when put in the direst of circumstances, can still sing praises to the Lord. I'm sure that before he went to sleep he was rather impressed with those guys back there singing. It took an earthquake! I wonder what it takes sometimes to get people to the Lord,

Act 16:31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Act 16:32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

Act 16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Act 16:34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

PAUL REFUSES TO DEPART SECRETLY

Act 16:35 And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go."

Act 16:36 So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace."

Act 16:37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out."

Act 16:38 And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans.

Act 16:39 Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city.

Act 16:40 So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

V31: Notice he didn't say, "Join our church." He didn't give him any list of rules and regulations. He didn't lay any law trip on him. It was very simple! Just "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.*"

V32-33 His heart has changed! It's no longer hard and callous. But he washed their wounds.

V34 He was converted! Now, again how God leads us. How God works! God said, My ways are not your ways. My ways are beyond your finding out. God in His love was reaching the jailer there in Phillipi. So he rejoiced, believing in God with all of his house. Not only him but the whole family was brought to Christ.

V35 Why the order, we don't know. It could be that they realized that that was an injustice that was done to these Jewish men.

V36 Notice that Paul is a man of spirit.

V37 Now to beat a Roman who is uncondemned was a capital crime. These judges could be put to death for that. The Roman citizens were protected by Roman law. If Paul claimed his Roman citizenship here, he probably wouldn't have been thrown in jail and the jailer wouldn't have been saved. So God has His ways of working to bring His truth and His love to those whose hearts He knows, will be open to receive.

V38-39 Would you guys please leave?

SUMMARY: When Paul and Silas and the others came into the city they were faced with the problem of how to start a Christian work. what would you do in a strange, pagan city in which you had never been before? How would you start in trying to propagate the gospel?

- 1. Preach the Gospel!** - Simply proclaiming the revolutionary message about Jesus, the word about Christ.
- 2. Expect God to act!** - They just preached the Word and then they expected God to act.
- 3. Hearts Prepared - God** has prepared people whose hearts are ready to respond to the gospel. (Lydia)
- 4. Spectacular Deliverance** – slave girl
- 5. Violent Opposition** – Arrested, beaten, imprisoned!
- 6. Dramatic Intervention** – Earthquake/ Supernatural timing!
- 7. Operation of body life** begins in the church! - Jailer saved, then his family, along with Lydia and the brethren

That is a principle the early Christians always followed. The minute believers came together they began body life, sharing together one another's burdens, praying for one another, rejoicing together, and living together the life of Jesus Christ. This is the perfect example for the church today!!

SUMMARY – KNOWING GOD'S WILL - Chaps. 15/16

How can I know the will of God for me? Here are some of the ways God guides.

In the understanding of doctrine, he guides by **unanimous agreement**. (Jerusalem Council - putting together the actions of God and the Word of God, – **Acts. 15:6-22**)

In those quiet periods of life, when there is no particular sense of direction from any source, he expects us to **manifest persistent obedience in learning, teaching, and exhorting in the Word**. (continuing the ministry – **teaching and preaching - Acts 15:30-35**)

In relations with other persons, he expects us to **show a responsible concern**. That will often initiate action. (Paul, Barnabas, John Mark – **Acts 15:36-41**)

In irreconcilable practical differences of opinion, he expects **cordial separation**, so that there is **unity of spirit even though there is no longer union of endeavor**. (sharp contentions – **Acts 15:39**)

In customs, rituals, and cultural matters, he expects us to **examine the important principle that is at stake** and to act according to that. (circumcision – **Acts. 16:3**)

In matters of geographical direction, we saw **two ways that he guides**: Either by **denying to us**, or **confirming to us by a sense of peace**, the most obvious and legitimate action to take; or by a direct and obvious interposition of his mind and will, made known through a vision or a call that is unmistakably from God. (**The Macedonian Call**) **Acts. 16:6-10** **Who knows how God is going to guide you?**

That is not so important. You can understand some of the possibilities from our study here. But **the important thing is that, above all, you reckon that, whatever action you take -- wherever you go or whatever you do -- you do it on the basis of dependence upon His power in you, His life in you.**

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

*1 On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

Refrain:

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

*2. O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.*

(Refrain)

*3. In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me.*

(Refrain)

*4. To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.*

(Refrain)

HE'S ALIVE

*The gates and doors were barred and all the windows
fastened down, I spent the night in sleeplessness and rose at
every sound, Half in hopeless sorrow half in fear the
day, Would find the soldiers crashing through to drag us all
away. Then just before the sunrise I heard something at the
wall, The gate began to rattle and a voice began to call,
I hurried to the window and looked down to the street,
Expecting swords and torches and the sound of soldiers feet,*

*There was no one there but Mary so I went down to let her
in, John stood there beside me as she told us were she'd
been, She said they moved him in the night and none of us
knows where, The stones been rolled away and now his body
isn't there. We both ran toward the garden then John ran on
ahead, We found the stone and the empty tomb just the way
that Mary said, But the winding sheet they wrapped him in
was just an empty shell, And how or where they'd taken him
was more than I could tell.*

*Something strange had happened there but what I did not
know, John believed a miracle but I just turned to go,
Circumstance and speculation couldn't lift me very high,
Cause I'd seen them crucify him and then I'd watched him
die, Back inside the house again all the guilt and anguish
came, Everything I'd promised him just added to my shame,
But at last it came to choices I denied I knew his name,
Even If he was alive it wouldn't be the same.*

*But suddenly the air was filled with a strange and sweet
perfume, Light that came from everywhere drove shadows
from the room, Jesus stood before me with his arms held
open wide, And I fell down on my knees and clung to him and
cried, He raised me to my feet and as I looked into his
eyes, Love was shining out from him like sunlight from the
sky, Guilt and my confusion disappeared in sweet release,
And every fear I'd ever had just melted into peace.*

*He's alive, He's alive, He's alive and I'm forgiven,
Heavens gates are open wide.*

*He's alive, He's alive, He's alive and I'm forgiven,
Heavens gates are open wide.*

*He's alive, He's alive, He's alive and I'm forgiven,
Heavens gates are open wide.*

He's alive!