

Bible Study

Gods Word in Focus



Week Forty Eight

Acts of the Apostles

Acts 16:1-40

TIMOTHY JOINS PAUL AND SILAS

With this chapter we find Paul on his second missionary journey that began in [Ac 15:40](#) with Paul and Silas passing through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening churches along the way. In Derbe and Lystra, Paul enlisted a young disciple named Timothy who would become a life-long fellow-worker in the kingdom. His mother was a believing Jew (cf. [2 Ti 1:5](#)) but his father was Greek, so with many Jews in the region Paul had Timothy circumcised. As Paul's company traveled through Phrygia and Galatia, they delivered the decrees from the apostles and elders in Jerusalem and strengthened the churches

THE MACEDONIA CALL

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit they found themselves in Troas, where Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia asking for help. Concluding that the Lord was calling them to preach the gospel there, Paul's company left Troas accompanied by the author of Acts himself, as indicated by the first person pronoun plural "we"

THE CONVERSION OF LYDIA

From Troas to Samothrace and then Neapolis, the company finally arrived in Philippi. A major city of Macedonia and Roman colony, it marked Paul's first ministry on the European continent. On the Sabbath Paul and his companions went down to the river where women were praying. As Paul spoke, a religious business woman of Thyatira named Lydia listened. The Lord opened her heart to heed Paul, which resulted in her and her household being baptized. She then persuaded Paul and his companions to stay at her house

THE CONVERSION OF THE JAILER

Paul and his company were soon followed by a slave girl possessed by a spirit of divination that made money for her owners through fortune telling. For days she cried out, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." While true, it annoyed Paul (probably because it was not of her own free will) and he cast the spirit out in the name of Jesus. This greatly angered the girl's masters, who had Paul and Silas beaten and imprisoned. At midnight while Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns, a great earthquake shook the prison and broke free their chains. Assuming all had fled, the jailer was about to kill himself when Paul stopped him. When the jailer asked what he must do to be saved, Paul and Silas told him to believe on the Lord Jesus, and then proceeded to teach him and his family the word of the Lord. That same night, the entire family was baptized. In the morning, the magistrates sent word to release Paul and Silas, but Paul demanded a personal release as they were Roman citizens who were beaten and imprisoned without trial. Scared, the magistrates came and pleaded with Paul and Silas to leave the city, which they did after a short visit to Lydia's house to encourage the brethren. Note that the author's return to the use of "they" indicates that Luke stayed behind in Philippi