

ACTS CHAPTER 16

The first missionary journey finished about 5 years before the second missionary journey began.

THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY



Paul's Second Journey: About 3 years => **Ac.15:36** to **Ac.18:23** => (C. A.D. 49A.D. - 52A.D.)

Background - **Acts 15:1-39**

It began from Antioch.

1. Paul first made a tour of the churches of Syria and Cilicia. - **Act 15:41**

Then he re-visited the churches in the regions of Derbe, Lystra, Iconium and Pisidian Antioch.

2. Derbe and Lystra - **Act 16:1-3**
3. Phrygia and Galatia - **Act 16:4-6**
4. Opposite Mysia - **Act 16:7**

There followed a period when he could not see his way clear before him. That time of uncertainty ended with the vision at Troas.

5. Passed by Mysia to Troas. then through Samothracia (Saniothrace) and Neapolis to Philippi - **Acts 16:8-40**

From Philippi he moved on to Thessalonica and Berea.

6. Through Amphipolis and Apollonia to Thessalonica - **Act 17:1-9**
7. Berea (Beroea) - **Act 17:10-13**

From there he went to Athens and then on to Corinth where he spent about eighteen months.

8. Paul sent to coast, then to Athens - **Acts 17:14-34**
9. Corinth - **Acts 18:1-17** (*Thessalonians is written*)

From Corinth he travelled to Jerusalem by way of Ephesus and finally back to Antioch, his starting point.

10. Cenchrea (Cenchreae) - **Act 18:18**
11. Ephesus - **Act 18:19-21**
12. Caesarea, Jerusalem. and Antioch - **Act 18:22**

The great step forward is that with this journey Paul's activity passed beyond Asia Minor and entered Europe.

When Paul and his traveling companions (Silas, Timothy and Luke) crossed the Dardanelles, from Turkey into Greece – Asia into Europe - they changed the whole course of Western Civilization!

TIMOTHY - A SON IN THE FAITH

Acts 16:1-5

"Paul arrived at Derbe and Lystra and, look you, there was a disciple there called Timothy. He was the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was Greek. The brethren in Lystra and Iconium were witnesses to his worth. Paul wished him to go out with him and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in these places, for they all knew that his father was Greek. As they made their way through the cities they handed over to them the decisions which had been arrived at by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem, that they should observe them. The churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number every day."

At Derbe and Lystra

1) He came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. 2) The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. 3) Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4) As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. 5) So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

Paul began this by returning to the churches through Syria and Cilicia (**Acts 15:40-41**) to strengthen them.

Iconium, Lystra, Derbe: worshiped as gods; then stoned to death...

These were the Galatians of Paul's later letter...

He arrives in Derbe,

- had great success on his first missionary journey (**Act 14:20-21**),

and then in Lystra,

- where a crowd tried to honor Paul and Barnabas as pagan gods on the first missionary journey (**Act 14:8-20**).

Timothy

It was natural that Paul should be looking for someone to take (John) Mark's place.

Well aware of the necessity of training a new generation for the work that lay ahead.

Either during his first visit or during the time since then, a young man named Timothy had become a Christian.

Convert from previous visit (16 years old?) **Act 14:7**.

Had a believing Jewish mother but an unbelieving Greek father.

Paul circumcised Timothy

BUT -- Paul had just won a battle in Jerusalem which determined that circumcision was not necessary for Christian converts.

Why circumcise Timothy?

not for the sake of his salvation (Paul would never do so)

for the sake of less hindrance in ministry among the Jews.

The reason was that Timothy was a Jew and Paul had never said that circumcision was not necessary for Jews.

"By Jewish law Timothy was a Jew, because he was the son of Jewish mother, but because he was uncircumcised he was technically an apostate Jew.

If Paul wished to maintain his links ministry in and with the synagogues (which he used as his insertion point during his firsts journey), he could not be seen to company with apostasy."

Paul would do things for the sake of love, to reach others, that he would not do for the sake of trying to please God through legalism.

It was the Gentiles who were freed from the ceremonies of the Jewish way of life.

Paul circumcised Timothy so as not to offend Jewish prejudices; something he would not have done if he were a Gentile, like Titus.

It was for their ministries sake (Paul's and Timothy's) that they wanted him accepted by the Jewish audiences.

Timothy was the son of a mixed marriage.

The strict Jew would refuse to accept that as a marriage at all;

if a Jewish girl married a Gentile boy or a Jewish boy married a Gentile girl, he would regard that Jewish boy or girl as dead.

Sometimes a funeral was actually carried out.

By accepting the child of such a marriage as a brother Jew, Paul showed how definitely he had broken down all national barriers.

Timothy had had a good mother and a good grandmother.

2 Tim. 1:5 *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.*

His mother Eunice (2 Tim 1:5) as well as her mother, Lois, had instructed Timothy in Scriptures from infancy.

2 Tim. 3:15 *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

His mother was Jewish but his father was a Greek, yet brought up in the Scriptures.

Timothy was in a very special relationship to Paul.

Timothy: from this time on, closely associated with Paul

Two of Paul's letters addressed to him:

1 Tim. 1:2 *Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.*

1 Tim. 1:18 *This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;*

2 Tim. 1:2 *To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*

In 6 of Paul's Epistles, Timothy is joined in salutation.

Timothy was with Paul on his 2nd missionary journey:

- ...at Ephesus during the days of strife;
- ...with him on last journey to Jerusalem;
- ...with him on his first imprisonment;
- ...Paul sent for him in the loneliness of his 2nd imprisonment;
- ...his son, his child, his comrade in the fight..

When he wrote to the Philippians he said that there was no one whose mind was so much at one with his own (Philip.2:19-20).

Philip. 2:19-20 *But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. [20] For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.*

When Paul wrote to the Corinthians he called him his beloved son.

1 Cor. 4:17 *For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.*

He would become Paul's messenger and proxy to the various churches.

1 Thes. 3:2-6 *And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: [3] That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. [4] For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. [5] For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain. [6] But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:*

He was at Rome with Paul when the apostle was in prison.

Philip. 1:1 *Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:*

Philip. 2:19 *But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.*

Col. 1:1 *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,*

Philemon 1:1 *Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,*

It seems very likely that Paul saw in Timothy his successor when he had to lay down his work.

Happy indeed is the man to whom it is given to see the result of his training in one who can take up the burden when he lays it down.

Paul's work was successful;

his interest was in strengthening the churches, and strong churches will naturally increase in number daily.

Paul planted the seed – started the Churches but the day to day growth came from within the young Churches themselves and

New, young in the Lord leaders Paul trained and left behind.

THE GOSPEL COMES TO EUROPE

Acts 16:6-10

"They went through the Phrygian and Galatian territory, but they were prevented by the Holy Spirit from speaking the word in Asia. When they had gone through Mysia they tried to go into Bithynia; and the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to do so. So they passed by Mysia and came down to Troas. During the night a vision appeared to Paul. A man from Macedonia stood and urged him, 'Cross over into Macedonia and help us.' When he saw the vision he immediately sought to go forth into Macedonia for we reckoned that God had called us to tell the good news to them."

Paul is directed to Macedonia while in Troas

6) Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7) When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8) So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

9) During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10) After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

All doors seemed shut to Paul.

After strengthening the churches in the region, Paul seeks to go next to the immediate west, but, he was barred from the Roman province of Asia by the Holy Spirit;

6] Galatia = Iconium, Lystra and Derbe in this province.

it contained Ephesus and all the recipients of the letters to the seven churches in the book of the Revelation.

Then, Paul seeks to go north, but is again prevented by the Holy Spirit. Bithynia, too, was shut to him.

7] Bithynia - southeast shore of Sea of Marmora, South shore of Black sea.

Paul is being guided by hindrance; the Holy Spirit often guides as much by the closing of doors as He does by the opening of doors.

In Troas, God makes Paul's direction clear:

in a vision, Paul is "invited" to Macedonia, westward across the Aegean Sea.

This moves him from the continent of Asia to the continent of Europe; this was the first missionary endeavor to Europe.

8] Alexandria Troas, port on coast of Mysia, 30 miles south of the Dardanelles.

9] Macedonia is across the Dardanelles; it is in Greece; it is what we would call Europe. The Dardanelles is the classic dividing line between Asia and Europe.

Paul wanted a few cities in the Asian region;

God wanted to give him the continent Europe for Christ.

How did the Holy Spirit send his message to Paul?

It may have been by the word of a prophet;

it may have been by a vision;

it may have been by some inner and inescapable conviction.

It also be that what kept Paul from journeying into these provinces was ill-health, that thorn in his flesh.

What makes that quite likely is that in Ac.16:10, suddenly and without warning, there emerges a "we" passage.

The shift from they to we in verse 10 probably means that Luke joined the band of missionaries in Troas;

The story begins to be told as a 3rd person account where the writer is a researcher but then suddenly becomes a 1st person account where the writer is a participant.

Luke appears in the account as an eye-witness and a companion of Paul.

Luke was a doctor.

What is more likely than that he met Paul then because Paul needed his professional services, having fallen ill and being unable to make the journeys he would have liked to make?

NOTICE: If so, Paul took even his weakness and his pain as a messenger from God.

It was the sight of a man from Macedonia which finally gave Paul his guidance.

- Some think it was Luke, who may have been a Macedonian, in the vision.

In Col_4:14 Luke is distinguished by Paul from those "of the circumcision" (Aristarchus, Mark, Jesus Justus). Epaphras, Luke, Demas form the Gentilegroup.

Col. 4:14 *Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.*

That Luke was the man in the vision is pPure (fanciful) guess work and speculation.

- Some think the man in the vision was Alexander the Great had succeeded in conquering the world.

The full name of Troas was Alexandrian Troas after Alexander. Just across the sea was Philippi, called after Alexander's father. Farther on was Thessalonica called after Alexander's half-sister.

The district was permeated with memories of Alexander; and Alexander was the man who had said that his aim was "to marry the east to the west" and so make one world.

It may well be that there came to Paul the vision of Alexander, the man who had conquered the world, and that this vision gave Paul a new impulse towards making one world for Christ.

How would Paul know and recognize the long dead Alexander without an introduction by someone else?

Why would God use the lost Alexander to deliver His message to Paul?

Even more fanciful guess work and speculation.

- Some think the man in the vision was the Philippian jailor

Which is way Paul and Silas did not flee when the earthquake broke their bonds – Paul, because of the vision knew God had something greater in store...

Still based on fanciful guess work and speculation.

Scripture does not say who the man was and in the end it does not matter much...

Ac.16:11-15 EUROPE'S FIRST CONVERT

When we had set sail from Troas we had a straight run to Samothrace. On the next day we reached Neapolis and from there we came to Philippi which is the chief city of that section of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We spent some days in this city. On the Sabbath day we went outside the gates along the riverside where we believed there was a place of prayer. We sat down and were talking with the women who met together there. A woman whose name was Lydia, who was a purple seller from the city of Thyatira, who revered God, listened to us. God opened her heart so that she gave heed to the things said by Paul. When she and her household had been baptized she urged us, 'If you judge me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay there.' And she pressed us to do so."

Paul in Philippi The conversion of Lydia

11) From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. 12) From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

13) On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. 14) One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15) When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

11] Samothracia: highest in elevation of northern Aegean islands, mid-way between Troas and Philippi.

Neapolis--the modern Kavalla was the seaport of Philippi, 10 miles inland favorable wind: 2 days; later it took 5 days.

12] Paul always focused on strategic centers.

(He arrives about 20 years after the foundation of the church at Jerusalem.)

Paul's general strategy was to plant churches in the major cities of regions; he knew that it was easier for the gospel to spread from these centers than to these centers.

Philippi had a long history.

Once it had been called Crenides which means "The Springs."

Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander, had fortified it as a barrier against the Thracians and had given it his own name.

At one time it had possessed famous gold mines, but by Paul's time these were worked out.

Later it had been the scene of one of the most famous battles in the world, when Augustus won for himself the Roman Empire.

Philippi was the scene of decisive battle ending the Roman republic, 42 B.C.

Brutus & Cassius, murderers of Julius Caesar, defeated by the combined forces of Mark Antony and Octavian, who later became Emperor Augustus.

Because of their assistance, Octavian granted Roman citizenship to these Philippians when he became emperor.

First of the district, a city of Macedonia, a colony (Amphipolis had been chief city, still a rival).

[Note Paul's ellipsis:

Philip. 3:20 For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:]

Philippi was a Roman colony.

Roman colonies were usually strategic centers.

In them Rome planted little groups of army veterans who had completed their military service.

They wore the Roman dress, spoke the Roman language and used the Roman laws no matter where they were.

Nowhere was there greater pride in Roman citizenship than in these outposts of Rome.

Lydia and "the Channel"

Note: It was through a women's prayer group that the gospel entered Europe!

In Philippi there was no synagogue from which to start.

13] Ten adult male Jews needed to make a synagogue; otherwise, usually met near a body of water for prayer, fellowship, worship, ritual washings, etc.

"Had there been ten Jewish men, they would have sufficed to constitute a synagogue. No number of women would compensate for the absence of even one man necessary to make up the quorum of ten."

The fact that the Jews had no synagogue and met by the river means that there were not many Jewish men in Philippi.

Where the Jews were unable to have a synagogue they had a place of prayer and these places of prayer were usually by the riverside.

On the Sabbath Paul and his friends took their way there and talked with the women who met in that place.

The extraordinary thing about Paul's work in Philippi is the amazing cross-section of the population that was won for Christ.

Anyone who was a seller of purple dealt in a valued commodity; the dyes for making purple were expensive and highly regarded.

Lydia came from the very top end of the social scale; she was a purple merchant.

14] Celebrated purple dye was made from the murex, a shellfish. (Ref. By Homer)

Thyatira: inscriptions of the guild of dyers have been found at Thyatira. (Thyatira was one of the cities Paul had to omit on his way to Troas.)

The purple dye had to be gathered drop by drop from a certain shell-fish and was so costly that to dye a pound of wool with it would take the equivalent of about \$500+ .

Thyatira was well known as a center for this purple dye and fabric made from it; this is also one of the seven churches addressed in (**Revelation 2:18-29**).

Lydia, wealthy woman and merchant prince that she was, was won for Christ.

Before Lydia was converted (as demonstrated by her baptism), the Lord opened her heart - and absolute essential, because as Jesus said, no one can come to Me unless the Father who send Me draws him .

John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

Therefore, the most important element in evangelism is imploring God through prayer to open hearts, for without this there can be no genuine conversion.

15] "Constrained" - only here and at Emmaus Road...

Note the victory:.

Philip. 1:3 *I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,*

Philip. 4:15 *Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

The hospitality of Lydia is touching and worthy of our emulation.

Her immediate reaction was to offer the hospitality of her house to Paul and his friends.

When Paul is describing the Christian character he says that the Christian should be "given to hospitality" (Rom.12:13).

Romans 12:13 *Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*

When Peter is urging Christian duty upon his converts he tells them, "Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another" (1Pet.4:9).

1 Peter 4:9 *Use hospitality one to another without grudging.*

A Christian home is one with an ever-open door.

Why Doesn't God Guide like in the Book of Acts?

Paul must have been puzzled:

Quarreling with Barnabas, he parted from him (a Jew) and took Silas (a Gentile) with him.

He wanted to preach the Gospel, so he passed through Syria and Cilicia, and came to Derbe and Lystra, and there he met Timothy (son of a Jewish mother and Greek father; circumcising him. Timothy was able to work with both Jews and Gentiles).

He wanted to go on to proconsular Asia, and he could not do it.

He was sick, he was ill, an infirmity of the flesh was upon him and he could not go.

It was necessary to that he should take another direction and he went into Galatia and preached there.

Then he turned back again.

There was no reason that he could understand.

Then he felt the lure of Bithynia; he would go there.

No, he must go west and on he went, perplexed.

Then came the vision of the man of Macedonia; (and when he talked it over with Luke in later days, and Luke would write the story with hindsight.)

So – we have

- Paul a Jew and Roman citizen
- Timothy a circumcised Jew with a Gentile father
- Silas, a Jew and Roman citizen ???
- Luke, a gentile

Being directed by God, through circumstances to meet up with Timothy and Luke (Gentile links), Paul and Silas (Jews) enter Europe (modern Greece) where the Jewish presence is minimal.

The Spirit forbade him preaching in Asia.

The guidance of the Holy Spirit is validated by the results:

Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth.

The leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit was subsequently recognized by these men:

..not always by flaming visions;

..not always through voices and words articulate in human ears;

- but by circumstances,
- by commonplace things,
- by difficult things,
- By disappointing things.

The man the Spirit will guide is the man who is in an attitude in which it is possible for the Spirit to guide him.

...an attitude of a life lived for Christ;
Walking in the Light
of loyalty to the Lord,
faith in the guidance of the Spirit, and
constant watchfulness.

It is the one who is watching for the Lord who sees the Lord.

It turns out that the Lord is still leading and guiding as He did in Acts...

THE DEMENTED SLAVE-GIRL

Acts 16:16-24

"When we were on our way to the place of prayer, it happened that a certain slave-girl who had a spirit which made her able to give oracles met us. By her soothsaying she provided much gain for her owners. As she followed Paul and us she kept shouting, 'These men are the slaves of the most high God and they are proclaiming the way of salvation to you.' She kept doing this for many days. Paul was vexed at this and he turned and said to the spirit, 'In the name of Jesus Christ I order you to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour. "When her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone they laid hands on Paul and Silas and dragged them to the city square to the magistrates. So they brought them to the chief magistrates and said, 'These men, who are Jews, are disturbing the whole city and are proclaiming customs which it is not right for us who are Romans to receive.' The crowd came together against them. The chief magistrates tore off their clothes and ordered them to be scourged with rods. When they had laid many blows upon them they threw them into prison with instructions to the jailor to guard them securely. When he received such an order he flung them into the inner prison and secured their feet in the stocks."

A demon-possessed slave girl follows Paul

16) Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. 17) This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." 18) She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

If Lydia came from the top end of the social scale, this slave-girl came from the bottom.

She was what was called a Pytho,

16] "A spirit, a Python" - Python = (Greek mythology) serpent destroyed by Apollo, who was hence called Pythius;

a priestess at the famous temple at Delphi was called the Pythoness.

Term Python became equivalent to soothsaying demon (today's "channel", et al.)

She was Apollo's "channel" (nothing "new" about the "New Age.")

She was a person who could give oracles to guide men about the future.

2 Cor. 2:11 *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

1 Tim. 4:1-3 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; [2] Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; [3] Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. .*

She was mad

Ancient world had a strange respect for mad people because, they said, the gods had taken away their wits in order to put the mind of the gods into them.

She was probably also gifted with a natural turn for ventriloquism.

She had fallen into the hands of unscrupulous men who used her misfortune for their gain.

17] Occult is always motivated by self-interest.

It is characteristic of men that if their pockets are touched they are up in arms.

It is every man's duty to ask himself,

"Is the money I am earning worth the price?"

Do I earn it by serving or by exploiting my fellow men?"

Often, the greatest obstacle to the gospel of Christ is selfishness and greed.

This girl, through demon possessed, was a source of profit for her owners as a fortune teller, because demons would give her supernatural insight into the lives of others.

Much of what fortune-tellers and psychics do is a money-making sham; but when it is true and of supernatural origin (as opposed to clever, insightful guessing), there is no doubt that it is inspired by demons.

Because demons are created beings, not “gods” themselves, we surmise that

they can not read minds,

nor actually foretell the future;

but they can read and predict human behavior, and

can attempt to steer events towards a previously predicted conclusion.

The demon-possessed slave girl “preaches” for Paul, giving a demonic “testimony” to their divine credentials and the message that they preach, and she did this for many days.

Why was Paul greatly annoyed?

Didn't he appreciate the free “advertising”?

No, because he didn't appreciate and would do nothing to give validation to the demonic source,

He (and we) could do quite nicely without demonic approval of his ministry.

Even “truth” is used to “suck them in”;

soon it is mixed with error,... etc.

Note that her statements were true.

The occult is always motivated by its own self-interests (here her owners monetary gain).

Here even more insidious is that the occult is an arm, an agency, an organization which is under Satan's command.

The damage here is taking a bit of truth and slowly turning off course.

A half truth allowed to propagate is often more dangerous than a full lie. It often goes unchallenged, infecting everyone not on alert to the lies it carries with it....

Paul casts the demon out of the slave girl

18] “Annoyed” = deeply troubled.

Paul knew that a man is identified by both his friends and enemies, and could do without a demonic “letter of reference.”

On each previous occasion (Mark & Luke), Jesus commanded the acknowledging demon to silence.

Jesus, often told demons to be silent, even when they were telling the truth about Him.

Matthew 8:28-34 *And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. [29] And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? [30] And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. [31] So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. [32] And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters. [33] And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils. [34] And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts.*

Mark 3:11-12 *And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God. [12] And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.*

Jesus cast out demons with His own authority;

Paul is careful to speak to demons only in the authority of Jesus Christ.

The idea behind “that very hour” is that the demon came out immediately;

Jesus warned that some demons would be more difficult to cast out than others (Matthew 17:21).

Paul and Silas are arrested, beaten and imprisoned for delivering the slave-girl from her demonic possession

19) When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. 20) They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar 21) by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

22) The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. 23) After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24) Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

When Paul cured her of her madness, these men felt not joy at a fellow-creature's restoration to health but fury that their source of revenue was gone.

They were astute men.

They played on the natural anti-semitism of the mob; and

they appealed to the pride in things Roman which was characteristic of a Roman colony

Their charges are vague, simply accusing Paul and Silas as being troublemakers,

but the charges stick under the assumption that Paul and Silas are not Roman citizens, and therefore have few (if any) civil rights.

they succeeded in having Paul and Silas arrested.

Outright violence demonstrates that one of the enemy's strongholds was being attacked (2 Cor 10:4; Eph 6:10).

2 Cor. 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Eph 6:10-13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Astrology, horoscopes, Ouija, Tarot, Palm reading, Tea leaves, etc ARE NOT INNOCENT FUN even if they are false – they give place to the Devil...

Eph 4:22-32 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. 25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. 26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Eph 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

Eph 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Not only were they arrested; after being severely beaten, they are imprisoned in maximum security conditions; they were put in the inner prison in the stocks.

22] The lectors who attend on the praetors carried rods or staves for the purpose, and were called rod-bearers (2 Cor 10:3-4).

2 Cor. 10:3-4 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: [4] (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

It may be that not only their feet but their hands and their necks also were held in the stocks.

“These stocks had more than two holes for legs, which could thus be forced apart in a such a way as to cause the utmost discomfort and cramping pain.” Tertullian said, “The legs feel nothing in the stocks when the heart is in heaven.”

The tragic thing is that Paul and Silas were arrested and maltreated for doing good.

Whenever Christianity attacks vested interest trouble follows.

Paul and Silas were singled out not only because there were the leaders of the evangelistic group, but also because they were the most obviously Jewish.

“Anti-Jewish sentiment lay very near the surface in pagan antiquity.”

Why?

Satan had lost. Jesus, Messiah had come – It was finished...Sin had been paid for, the path to our Salvation and Satan's fate is sealed.

Anti-Semitism today is Satan's desperate effort to stop Christ's 2nd coming.

Mat 23:37-39 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! 38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. 39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Zec 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Zec 13:8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

Zec 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

Hos 5:15 I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

THE PHILIPPIAN JAILOR

Acts 16:25-40

"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. Immediately the doors were opened and everyone's bonds were loosed. When the jailor woke up and saw the doors of the prison standing open he drew his sword and he was going to kill himself, for he thought that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted to him, 'Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.' He called for a light and rushed in. He fell in terror before Paul and Silas and brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus and you and your house will be saved.' And they spoke the Lord's word to him together with all in his house. And that very hour he took them and washed their veils and he and his household were immediately baptized. He brought them into his house and set a meal before them and he rejoiced with all his house when he had believed in God. When day came the chief magistrates sent their officers saying, 'Let these men go.' The jailor brought the message to Paul, 'The chief magistrates have sent word that you are to be released. So now, go out and go your way in peace.' But Paul said to them, 'They beat us and they put us into prison although we never had a trial and we are Romans. And now are they going to put us out secretly? Certainly not! Let them come themselves and bring us out.' The officers told the chief magistrates what Paul had said. They were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. So they came and requested them and brought them out and asked them to leave the city. When they had come out of prison they visited Lydia. They saw the brethren and exhorted them and went away."

Lydia came from the top end of the social scale,

the slave-girl from the bottom,

the Roman jailor was one of the sturdy middle class who made up the Roman civil service; perhaps a retired Roman soldier, settled in Philippi, a Roman colony

in these three the whole gamut of society was complete.

The conversion of the Philippians jailer

25) About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26)

Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. 27) The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28) But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"

29) The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30) He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31) They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." 32) Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.

25] They sing Praise - Adoration and worship === Not, "deliver your servants." etc.

Cf. Ps 113; 115:11; 116:3,4,15,17; 118:6, 29; 114:7.

Psalm 113:1-9 Praise ye the Lord. Praise, O ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. [2] Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore. [3] From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised. [4] The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. [5] Who is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high, [6] Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth! [7] He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill; [8] That he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people. [9] He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord.

Psalm 115:11 Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord: he is their help and their shield.

Psalm 116:3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.

Psalm 116:4 Then called I upon the name of the Lord; O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Psalm 116:17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.

Psalm 118:6 *The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?*

Psalm 118:29 *O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

Psalm 114:7 *Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;*

A concert that was so successful that it brought the house down!

Other prisoners “attentively listening...”

Suffering is part of the program (Phil 1:29).

Philip. 1:29 *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;*

Note that Paul and Silas.

(i) could sing hymns when held fast in the stocks in the inner prison at midnight.

Though they have been arrested, beaten, and imprisoned for doing good, Paul and Silas are filled with joy, and sing praises to God.

Anyone can be happy in pleasant circumstances,
real joy comes only from within, and
is a gift available to Christians at all times.

“Instead of cursing men, they blessed God.”

The one thing you can never take away from a Christian is God and the presence of Jesus Christ.

When you acknowledge and trust God there is freedom even in a prison and even at midnight there is light.

They viewed their trouble as God’s planning and His work and so, they...

(ii) were quite willing to open the door of salvation to the jailor who had shut the door of the prison on him.

There was never a grudge in Paul's nature.

He could preach to the very man who had fastened him in the stocks.

(iii) could stand on their dignity.

In God’s timing, they claimed their rights as a Roman citizen.

To scourge a Roman citizen was a crime punishable by death.

God will often bless you with a position and standing – not for your sake alone but to use as a tool to accomplish his will and purposes.

If God has provided you with an advantage in the world, use it – be sure it is used for Him in His plan and not just for your own pleasure and gratification.

But Paul was not standing on his dignity for his own sake but for the sake of the Christians he was leaving behind in Philippi.

He wanted it to be seen that the Christians were not without influential friends.

This was a district where earthquakes were common.

This earthquake was clearly supernatural;

not only because of its timing and location, but in the way that everyone’s bars and chains were loosed.

The door was locked by a wooden bar falling into two slots and the stocks were similarly fastened.

The earthquake shook (bounced) the bars free and the prisoners were unfettered and the door was open.

We will see that the earthquake had absolutely nothing to do with freeing Paul and Silas from prison;

but it had everything to do with the salvation of a certain jailer and his household.

The jailor was about to kill himself

Roman law said that if a prisoner escaped the jailor must suffer the penalty the prisoner would have suffered.

27] Certificate of Debt—prison guards were responsible for the sentences of their prisoners, if one escaped, they would have to pay the debt.

When prisoners were done with their time, the court would sign their Certificate of Debt as "Paid in Full" (Tetelestai).

Col 2:13-14 *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;*

Thus, this jailer was going to kill himself as he thought all the prisoners were gone, and thus, he himself would have to fulfill all their sentences!

Paul assures the jailer that no one has escaped.

It would have been easy for Paul and Silas to flee,

God had instigated another miraculous jailbreak;

but to them, the lives of others had greater importance than their own personal freedom and comfort.

The jailer is so impressed by Paul and Silas (from their ability to take joy even in misery to their compassion on him) that he instantly wants the kind of life that Paul and Silas have.

This is what God intends our lives to be like;

natural magnets drawing people to Him;

our Christian living should make others want what we have with God.

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

30] "Sirs" = "Lords..."

Jailer is the first male convert in Philippi, the first in Europe.

[Was he the Macedonian in the vision?]

Paul's answer is a classic statement of the essence of the gospel:

...believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.

BELIEVE is an overworked, misunderstood word today.

At its weakest – it is mental assent

At its fullest – it caused change actions and attitudes

IF YOUR BELIEFS DO NOT CAUSE OR CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS, THEN YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE OR CONSIDER YOUR BELIEF TO BE IMPORTANT...

1Co 15:1-4 *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

Php 3:12-15 *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 3:15 *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.**

This is salvation by grace alone, received by faith alone.

Some have worried that Paul's invitation to salvation here is too easy, and would promote an "easy-believism" and a "cheap grace"; and

some refuse to preach repentance, claiming that this text declares it is not necessary.

Notice the humble repentance of the jailer (fell down trembling),

29] Irony: stocks become their throne; their jailer lies suppliant at their feet!

the full idea of the word believe (pistis: to trust in, rely on, and cling to); and

the command to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ).

The jailor.

You and your household seems to be a specific promise for that Philippians jailer;

but it is a promise that may become ours should the Holy Spirit make it alive to us.

However, the jailer's household was not saved merely because he was;

Paul came spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

Household is saved when they believe. (Not just saved because he was; they were saved because they all believed.)

The jailer ministers to Paul and Silas

33) At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34) The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

The jailor immediately proved his conversion by his deeds.

No sooner had he turned to Christ than he washed the wealts upon the prisoners' backs and set a meal before them.

Unless a man's Christianity makes him kind it is not real.

Unless a man's professed change of heart is guaranteed by his change of deeds it is a spurious thing.

The same jailer who had been punishing them was now ministering to Paul and Silas, caring for their wounds and feeding them (a true demonstration of repentance).

The jailer and his family saw no reason to delay baptism;

they were baptized that very night (remember all this began around midnight).

Paul and Silas return to the prison; the next day they are freed by the magistrates

35) When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men." 36) The jailer told Paul,

"The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace."

Paul and Silas do leave the prison (in the protective custody of the jailer) to minister to the jailer's family;

but they returned there willingly to spare the jailer certain death.

This kind of treatment (arrest, beating, imprisonment) with a quick release is customary in society which recognize few rights for their citizens;

it serves to terrorize the population into submission.

The politicians do what they desire by instinct: try to make their problem go away quietly by sweeping it under the rug.

Paul and Silas reveal their Roman citizenship

37) But Paul said to the officers: "They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out."

38) The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. 39) They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city.

Because Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they had recognized civil rights, which were grievously violated;

upon learning of their citizenship, the magistrates are filled with fear, it was a grave offense to treat Roman citizens as Paul and Silas had been treated.

37] Roman citizens were entitled to trial, and

should never have been beaten or imprisoned without due process.

Imprisoning Romans without due process exposed all the involved magistrates to jail or worse!

All this discomfort and cruelty could have been avoided is they had revealed their Roman citizenship earlier. **WHY NOT?**

It is possible that they didn't have the opportunity,

They were in the hands of an out of control mob when the charges were made against them.

It is more likely that the Holy Spirit was directing them to not reveal it until a certain time.

Our rights are not as important as our obedience to the will of God;

God may ask us to lay down our rights for the good of another (like the Philippians jailer).

God's timing is an important part of His will ...

Paul and Silas leave Philippi on their own terms

40) After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them. Then they left.

They agree to go, but only after they had seen the brethren and encouraged them.

40] "Brethren": ...results of the women witnessing?

Letter to Philippians, written from Paul's Roman prison, is full of triumph, encouragement, etc.

[Paul left Luke behind here; rejoins in the 20th chapter.

We get these inferences from the use of pronouns, but it doesn't show in the English.]

How God Guides

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Solution</u>
Understanding doctrine	Unanimous agreement
No sense of direction	Persistent obedience
Relations with others	Responsible concern
Irreconcilable differences	Cordial separation
Customs, rituals	Important principle
Directions to take	Sense of Peace
Major change	Vision or call

The guidance of the Spirit was recognized

...not always by flaming signs and visions;

...not always by the Spirit speaking words into human ears;

but by circumstances,

by commonplace things,

by difficult things,

by disappointing things.

The man the Spirit will guide is the man who is in an attitude in which it is possible for the Spirit to guide him.

an attitude of life lived in Christ;

walking in the light...

of loyalty to the Lord,

faith in the guidance of the Spirit, and

constant watchfulness.

It is the watcher for the Lord who sees the Lord.