

**LESSON 15: ACTS 15:36-17:15**  
**NOVEMBER 2, 2016**

**OVERVIEW**

- . The Missionaries – Acts 15:36-39
- . From Antioch in Syria to Troas – Acts 15:40-16:10
- . Into Macedonia – Acts 16:11-17:15

**THE MISSIONARIES – ACTS 15:36-39**

- . Paul returns to Antioch following the Jerusalem Council
  - . Barnabas and Silas return with him and they continue to minister to the church at Antioch
  - . Paul shares with Barnabas his calling to return to Galatia
    - . Barnabas wants to include John Mark in the journey
    - . Paul doesn't think Mark is ready which leads to a heated argument
    - . Paul and Barnabas agree to disagree and both go their own way
      - . Barnabas and Mark go to Cyprus while Paul and Silas head north to Syria
  - . Despite differences, the love and respect between Barnabas and Paul continued
    - . Paul never discredited Barnabas
    - . Paul and Mark later became very close

**FROM ANTIOCH IN SYRIA TO TROAS – ACTS 15:40-16:10**

- . Revisiting Syria, Cilicia, Derbe and Lystra – Acts 15:40-16:1
  - . Instead of traveling by boat, they decide to walk
  - . They visited the churches they help plant and shared the Jerusalem Council
- . Timothy's call and circumcision – Acts 16:2-5
  - . Paul finds young Timothy in Lystra
    - . Timothy had a Jewish mother and a Greek pagan father
    - . He was not circumcised
  - . Although the Jerusalem Council confirmed that Christian converts didn't need to be circumcised, Paul was concerned about Timothy's acceptance amongst the hostile Jews in the area
    - . Timothy agrees to be circumcised for expediency

. Troas – Acts 16:6-10

- . As much as Paul wanted to go to Ephesus, he didn't feel as if the Holy Spirit wanted him to go there, just yet
- . Instead he went to Troas, a seaport on the Aegean Sea, which is the major stopping off point on the way to Macedonia
- . Paul ends up spending over two years in Macedonia visiting important places like Philippi and Thessalonica
  - . The churches he helps to plant become pillars of the growing church and the inspiration for three of Paul's future epistles

**INTO MACEDONIA – ACTS 16:11-17:15**

. Philippi – Acts 16:11-40

- . Luke joined the team in Troas as they set sail for Macedonia
- . In Philippi they immediately found receptive hearts and a warm welcome
  - . Initially there were no hostile Jews there to greet them
- . The core of the future church in Philippi was amongst a group of women who met on a regular basis on a riverbank
- . The key personality amongst the group was a woman named Lydia
  - . Lydia owned a purple dye industry
- . God opened her heart immediately to Paul's ministry
- . She and her entire household believed
- . She encouraged the four missionaries to stay in her home
  - . Lydia's home became the first church at Philippi
- . Satanic opposition at Philippi
  - . There was a slave girl in the opposing camp who could foretell the future
  - . At first she was a loud outspoken voice praising the work of Paul
  - . She proclaimed that these men hold the key to salvation
  - . Her slave masters were making a lot of money through her work
  - . Soon Paul realized that she was not of the Holy Spirit but an evil spirit
  - . Through prayer Paul was able to call the evil spirit out of her
  - . With the evil spirit gone she lost her ability to tell the future
  - . Her owners lost their wealth
  - . As a result this group stirred up opposition against Paul claiming he caused financial ruin for these people
  - . An angry mob was stirred up and Paul and his group were thrown in prison without a trial
- . One night, while others in the prison heard Paul's group praying a violent earthquake rocked the area and all the cell doors were thrown open
  - . The other prisoners immediately believed
  - . Paul encouraged the others to remain in their cells
  - . At first the jailer was distraught thinking his prisoners have fled

- . When he saw they all remained in place he was overwhelmed and believed
- . The jailer took Paul and his team to the well to wash their hands then let them go
- . Sensing future danger Paul decides it's time to move on
  - . Luke stays behind at Lydia's house and ministers to the young church
- . The Philippians always occupied a special place in Paul's heart
  - . They never succumbed to Judaizing influences like the Galatians
  - . When Paul wrote them ten years later his letter was permeated with deep affection
  - . This was the only church where Paul consented and received money
- . Paul's letter to the Philippians came on the heels of receiving the last of his financial gifts from them, while in a Roman prison
  - . He encouraged them to share his joy in suffering
- . Thessalonica – Acts 17:1-9
  - . Paul, Silas and Timothy move on to Thessalonica
  - . They stay at the home of Jason, a fellow Jew and relative of Paul
  - . Paul speaks persuasively at the synagogue on three successive Sabbaths
    - . The first week he talks of the foretelling of the Messiah and that he must suffer
    - . The second week he talks of the foretelling that the Messiah must rise again
    - . The third week he proclaims that Jesus is the Messiah
  - . Many locals believe, led by a group of Jews, God-fearing Greeks and many prominent women
  - . When opposition arises, Paul retreats from the synagogue and begins to preach from Jason's home
    - . Many believers start meeting at Jason's home and the church is born
  - . Strong opposition arises which forces Paul, Silas and Timothy to move on
- . Berea – Acts 17:10-15
  - . Instead of hostility, the Jews of Berea greeted Paul with open hearts
  - . Early on there was no opposition and many Jews came to believe
  - . Eventually the angry Thessalonians Jews caught up with them
    - . Seeing the angry Thessalonians made Paul all the more anxious about the church he left behind
    - . He decides to send Timothy back to Thessalonica while he moves on to Athens leaving Silas in Berea
  - . In Athens he gets word from Timothy that all is well in Thessalonica which fills his heart with joy

**NEXT LESSON: NOVEMBER 16, 2016 – ACTS 17:16-18:22**

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## Large Map of Apostle Paul's Second Missionary Journey

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Paul's [second missionary journey](#) began in the spring of 49 A.D. when he set out from [Antioch, Syria](#), to [visit the churches](#) he had established in [Asia Minor](#) on his first journey.

36 Some time later (after staying in the city of Antioch for about three years) Paul said to [Barnabas](#), 'Let us go back and visit [the believers](#) in every town where we preached . . . ' (Acts 15)