

Week 18 Geography (4); Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey
July 1st 2023

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Background:

Paul and Barnabas had returned to Antioch/Syria from their first visit to Phrygia, Antioch/Pisidia and beyond. The Council of Jerusalem had taken place and its letter to the believers had been delivered to Antioch/S. Judas and Silas (who we meet here for the first time here) are there, encouraging and strengthening the believers. Paul and Barnabas had remained in Antioch/S teaching and preaching the Word of the Lord. "After some days" Paul wants to get going again, and this is where we pick up the story of his Second Missionary Journey. This week we will follow the first section of this journey, accompanying him as far as Philippi.

Scripture:

Please read Acts 15:36 – 16:15; 1 Peter 1: 1, 2

Resources:

Note the various regions referred to in Acts 15 – 16



For information on Neapolis read the entry on the Roman History website:

<https://romanhistory.org/settlements/neapolis>

For information on Philippi read the entry on the World History Encyclopedia website:

<https://www.worldhistory.org/Philippi/>

and the Bible Odessey website:

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/places/main-articles/philippi/>

For information about the "purple cloth" referred to in Acts 16: 14 see the entry on Tyrian Purple on the World History Encyclopedia website:

https://www.worldhistory.org/Tyrian_Purple/

Questions for discussion:

1. Acts 15: 36-40

Was Paul unreasonable in not giving John-Mark a 2nd chance; thereby causing a rift between himself and Barnabas?

How should we apply this event to church life today?

2. Acts 16: 1-5

It would appear that Timothy was an asset to the churches in Lystra and Iconium, yet Paul takes him as a team member and they travel together as far as Berea (Acts 17: 13-14). Was Paul reasonable in depriving the churches in Lystra and Iconium of Timothy?

How should church administrators apply Paul's decision today?

3. Acts 16: 6-7

Why does Luke write about both the Holy Spirit *and* the Spirit of Jesus? What's the difference?

(Note there are only four other similar references: Rom 8:9 = Spirit of Christ; Gal 4:6 = Spirit of God's Son; Phil 1:19 = of Jesus Christ; 1 Pet 1:11 = of Christ)

4. Why might Paul, Silas and Timothy have been forbidden to preach in the very large area of Phrygia, Bithynia and Asia (see map) ? What might 1 Peter 1: 1-2 indicate?

5. Acts 16: 7

We might conclude from the text that Paul had no firm plans having been prevented from going into Asia and Bithynia, but as there was a main Roman road to Troas it might not be unreasonable to assume that he just followed the road while waiting for a plan to develop or be revealed. What should our approaches be when faced with brick walls in our journey through life?

6. Acts 16: 11-12

What made Paul head for Philippi instead of stopping in Neapolis?

(See information on the websites listed under Resources above)

7. Acts 16: 13-14

What is suggested by the statement that "the women met by the river for prayer" in Philippi? Why does Luke mention this?