

Study 1. The First Missionary Journey continued

READ: Acts 13: 13-31; 38-45; 50-52
and 14: 1-28



KEY VERSE: Acts 14: 27

“And when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.”

After spending some time on the island of Cyprus, Paul and his party set sail from Paphos and landed at Perga. (See map, Study 2) At this point John Mark took his leave of Paul and Barnabas, and went home to Jerusalem. This decision, on the part of Mark, had repercussions at a later date, as we shall see.

The story now centres on several towns.

1. ANTIOCH in PISIDIA

Paul was invited to address the Jews in their synagogue service. It was a great opportunity to tell them about the Lord Jesus. He made it clear to them that **“through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins”**. (Acts 13: 38) Many people, especially the Gentiles (i.e. non-Jews) were very eager to hear more, and when the next Sabbath day came around, **“almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God”**. (Acts 13: 44) The Jews were extremely enraged at the idea that Gentiles, whom they totally despised, could be saved on exactly the same terms as Jews. Their jealousy was so great that they stirred up opposition against Paul and Barnabas, and had them driven out of the area. (v. 50) But their visit was not a failure - the Gospel had been preached, people had believed, and a Christian church had been formed - something which did not exist there previously!

2. ICONIUM

Here Paul and Barnabas followed their usual pattern of using the Jewish synagogue as their starting point. (Acts 14: 1) At Iconium, there were also numerous converts, both Jewish and Gentile. Once again it was the Jews who stirred up trouble,

and after an outburst of violence, the missionaries moved on to Lystra. We should understand that the message itself was ‘good news’, offering forgiveness of sins through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. But when people refused to believe in Him they often became very opposed, not only to the message, but also to those who preached it.

3. LYSTRA

Here the instantaneous healing of a lifelong cripple made a tremendous impression upon the local people. They shouted, **“The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!”** (Acts 14: 11) In their misguided enthusiasm, they were preparing to offer sacrifices in honour of Paul and Barnabas! Only with difficulty were they restrained from doing so. Paul and Barnabas urged them to **“turn from these useless things to the living God”**. (v. 15) Once again it was the unbelieving Jews who caused trouble. Paul was stoned, and left for dead. Thankfully, he survived! The next day he and Barnabas moved on to Derbe.

4. HOMEWARD BOUND!

After a successful time of preaching the gospel at Derbe, the two preachers returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch. In each place they encouraged the Christians in their new found faith, and also strengthened their church life, by appointing elders in each church. (Acts 14: 22 & 23)

After a brief visit to Perga, they embarked for Antioch, in Syria. They had set out from Antioch, perhaps a year earlier.

What stories they would have to tell! They were careful, however, not to talk about what THEY had done, but about what GOD had done! (See Key Verse) In particular, they told how large numbers of non-Jews had responded to the message and had been saved on the very same terms as Jews! The great **“whosoever”** of John 3: 16 was proving to be a reality in the experience of many, both Jews and Gentiles!

Study 1. The First Missionary Journey continued

1 "JOHN, DEPARTING FROM THEM, RETURNED TO JERUSALEM." (ACTS 13: 13)
 a. Suggest **TWO** possible reasons why John Mark, who had been "their assistant", (13: 5) decided to leave Paul and Barnabas.

 b. According to Acts 15: 36-39, what after-effects did his departure have for Paul and Barnabas?

 c. Suggest some factors which could cause a Christian **TODAY** to give up serving the Lord.

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2 ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VISIT OF PAUL AND BARNABAS TO ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA:-
 a. To what building did they go?
 b. What day of the week was it when they went there?
 c. What **TWO** parts of the Scriptures were read on this occasion?

 d. What were Paul and Barnabas invited to do?
 e. Which one of them accepted the invitation?

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3 READ AGAIN ACTS 13: 38 & 39. THESE VERSES CONTAIN THE CLIMAX, OR MAIN POINT, OF PAUL'S 'SERMON'.
 a. Explain why "the forgiveness of sins" is available to us **ONLY** through "this Man" - the Lord Jesus Christ.

 b. To be "justified" means to be "declared righteous" by God. What makes it possible for God to justify sinners?

4

4 THROUGHOUT THIS STUDY WE NOTICE THAT MOST OF THE OPPOSITION AND VIOLENCE CAME FROM JEWS WHO REFUSED TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, OR MESSIAH. (ACTS 13: 45, 50; 14: 2, 19) WHY WERE THEY SO OPPOSED TO WHAT PAUL AND BARNABAS PREACHED?

2

5 A. AT LYSTRA, HOW DID THE LOCAL PEOPLE REACT TO THE HEALING OF THE CRIPPLE?

 B. WHY DID PAUL AND BARNABAS RESTRAIN THEM FROM OFFERING SACRIFICES?

3

6 A. ON THE RETURN 'LEG' OF THEIR JOURNEY, IN WHAT WAYS DID PAUL AND BARNABAS HELP THE NEW CHRISTIANS?

 B. MENTION SOME WAYS IN WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN HELPED, IN YOUR LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN.

 C. ON RETURNING TO ANTIOCH, IN SYRIA, WHAT DID PAUL AND BARNABAS DO?

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This study sheet belongs to:

Study 4. The Second Missionary Journey completed

READ: Acts 17: 1-34 and 18: 1-17, 22



KEY VERSES: 1 Corinthians 15: 3 & 4
“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

For Paul and Silas personally, the good thing about the earthquake was that they were released from prison! After a brief visit to Lydia and the other converts, they went on to Thessalonica.

1. THESSALONICA

Here Paul followed his normal pattern of speaking first to the Jews in their synagogue. The Old Testament was his ‘textbook’, as he tried to convince his hearers that Christ had to suffer, die and rise again. Paul’s argument was that Jesus is the Christ; He is the fulfilment of all the Old Testament promises and prophecies. Some Jews were persuaded and believed. In addition, many Greeks and leading women of the city became Christians, and a church came into being. Unbelieving Jews, however, succeeded in stirring up opposition, and for a time it looked as if a riot was breaking out. The Christians managed to get Paul and Silas away to Berea under cover of darkness.

2. BEREA

Unafraid, Paul and Silas went to the synagogue. Here, the Jews were more fair-minded than at Thessalonica. They listened carefully to this new message, and spent time every day searching their Old Testament Scriptures to find out if these things were really true! What a good example for us! Let us, as Christians, allow the Bible - the Word of God - to be the standard by which we test what we are taught! Opposition again came from unbelieving Jews who travelled down from Thessalonica, and incited the crowds. It was time, once again, to move on!

3. ATHENS

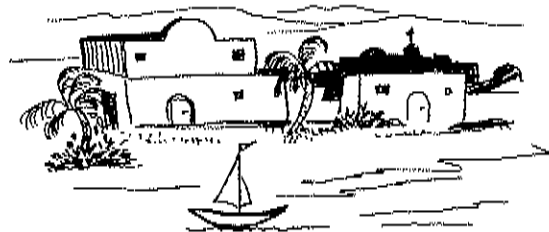
Athens was the heart of Greek culture and learning, a place where multitudes of gods were worshipped. Paul was deeply stirred when he saw that **“the city**

was given over to idols”. (v. 16) As he spoke each day in the marketplace about **“Jesus and the resurrection”** (v. 18), he met some philosophers who were eager to know more about **“this new doctrine”**. (v. 19)

They invited Paul to come to the famous Areopagus, or Mars’ Hill - the meeting place of a very powerful and respected Court, or Council, which was made up of men of the highest rank.

Paul gave a great address to all present. (See vs. 22 - 31) He spoke about God as the Creator, and exposed the foolishness of making an idol to represent Him. He emphasized the need for all to repent, in view of the fact that the world’s future Judge - the Lord Jesus - had been raised from the dead.

That was too much for most of them! The idea of a person being raised from the dead caused them to mock, and to reject the message. Only a few of Athens’ clever philosophers became believers in the Lord Jesus.



4. CORINTH

This busy seaport was the last main stopping point on this journey. Here, the missionaries remained for eighteen months. It was a very immoral place. But once more the gospel proved its power to save people from lives of sinfulness. (See 1 Corinthians 6: 9-11) It was at Corinth that Paul met Aquila and Priscilla who became his faithful helpers in the work of the Lord.

Eventually Paul arrived back in Antioch, from which he had set out several years before. In spite of all he had suffered he had great joy in knowing that many people had been saved, and new churches had been formed. That made it really worthwhile!

NewLife WorkSheet

Study 4. The Second Missionary Journey completed

1 A. EXPLAIN IN WHAT WAYS THE JEWS AT BEREA WERE MORE "FAIR-MINDED" (NOBLE) THAN THOSE IN THESSALONICA.

B. IN WHAT WAYS HAVE THEY GIVEN US A GOOD EXAMPLE.

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2 AT BOTH THESSALONICA AND BEREA, THE JEWS, WHO WOULD NOT BELIEVE THE GOSPEL, STIRRED UP TROUBLE. (SEE ACTS 17: 5, 8, & 13)

- a. Why do you think they did so?
- b. Suggest some reasons why people in your neighbourhood do not believe the gospel.
- c. Write out, from **John 8: 24**, the warning given by the Lord Jesus to those who refuse to believe in Him.

4

3 FIND ANSWERS TO THESE POINTS REGARDING PAUL'S VISIT TO ATHENS:-

- a. These two men arrived in Athens after Paul.
- b. Two kinds of philosophers Paul spoke to.
- c. The name of the place where Paul gave his address.
- d. The inscription on the altar.
- e. A man and a woman who believed and became Christians.

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4 ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS REGARDING AQUILA AND PRISCILLA:-

- a. Why had they recently moved from Rome to Corinth?
- b. In what way was it to Paul's advantage to stay with them?
- c. Why do you think Paul worked at his trade? (**Acts 20: 33-35** may help you with your answer!)

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5 THE KEY VERSES WERE WRITTEN BY PAUL TO THE CHURCH AT CORINTH; THEY SUM UP WHAT HE HAD PREACHED.

- a. Write the THREE things which happened to the Lord Jesus, according to these verses.
- b. Explain clearly why these events, which happened so long ago, are important to us.

4

6 A. WHAT WERE THE LASTING RESULTS OF 'THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY'?

B. IS THERE A NEED FOR CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES TODAY? GIVE REASONS FOR YOUR ANSWER, SUPPORTED, WHERE POSSIBLE, BY BIBLE REFERENCES.

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100

Total marks for this Unit

Return your study sheets to:

25

Total marks for this study

This study sheet belongs to:

Study 2. The gospel reaches Europe

READ: Acts 15: 36-41, 16: 1-12



KEY VERSE: Acts 16: 10

“... immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

After some time, Paul was eager to undertake another 'missionary journey'. He wished to visit again the churches, which had been established on the previous journey. It was at this point that he and Barnabas had a sharp disagreement; this resulted in Paul choosing a new partner, Silas by name. With the approval of the church at Antioch, Paul and Silas set off. Paul's commitment to spreading the gospel, in spite of difficulties such as are mentioned in **Acts 15**, is a good example for us all.

Travelling overland, Paul and Silas came to Derbe and Lystra, where a young man named Timothy lived. It is very likely that Timothy had become a believer in the Lord Jesus at the time of Paul's earlier visit. (See Study 1) In the intervening period, Timothy had progressed spiritually, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. Paul was convinced that he would be a valuable asset to the spreading of the gospel, and so he urged Timothy to join them. Timothy was willing to do this, and in a little while the 'team', now three in number, moved on. As time progressed, Timothy became a very close friend of Paul, and a most useful and valuable man in God's work, in spite of his frequent illnesses. (**1 Timothy 5: 23**) We wonder how different his life would have been if he had failed to respond to God's call in his first years as a Christian! We, too, will miss what is BEST, if we do not put God FIRST!

Paul and his companions trusted God to guide them at each stage of their travels. This is indicated by such expressions as **“they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia” (Acts 16: 6)** and **“they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them” (v. 7)**

When they eventually reached Troas, they may well have been puzzled as to why God had prevented them from entering either Asia or Bithynia. Soon they were to know! The answer came by means of a remarkable vision which Paul had. Read **Acts 16: 9 & 10** again. The **“man of Macedonia”** belonged to what we call Europe, and here he was, pleading with Paul to **“come over ... and help us”!**

This, indeed, was an 'open door' - following on the experience of two 'closed doors'. (**Acts 16: 6 & 7**) Paul and his associates were convinced that God was calling them to take the gospel into Europe. (**See Key Verse**) Without delay, they set sail. In two days' time, they disembarked, for the first time, on European soil.

It was, indeed, a 'red-letter day' for Europe, for it heralded the coming of the 'good news' of salvation, through the Lord Jesus Christ. From that simple beginning, the truth has spread, and millions have believed and have been saved. The challenging question for each of us is: Have I personally believed in the Lord Jesus?

It appears that Luke joined the other three at this stage. We know this because Luke, who wrote Acts, changes from using **“they”** to **“we”**. In using **“we”** he is clearly including himself in the narrative of what took place. (Note **“they”** is used five times in vs. 6-8, and **“we”** is used three times in vs. 10-12) We conclude, therefore, that the 'team' now consisted of at least four men! They were all different, but they had this in common - they all loved the Lord Jesus and they wanted to serve Him by telling others about Him! We, too, should aim at being good witnesses for Him!



Study 2. The gospel reaches Europe

- 1** A. WHO JOINED PAUL AND SILAS ON THEIR JOURNEY, AT LYSTRA?
 B. LOOK UP 2 TIMOTHY 1: 5, AND WRITE THE NAMES OF HIS MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER.

 C. WHY DOES PAUL REFER TO HIM AS "MY TRUE SON IN THE FAITH" (1 TIMOTHY 1: 2) AND "MY BELOVED SON" (2 TIMOTHY 1: 2)?

D. WHY DID PAUL WANT HIM TO GO WITH THEM? **4**

- 2** IN DECIDING WHICH PLACES TO VISIT, PAUL AND HIS PARTNERS DEPENDED UPON GOD TO GUIDE THEM.
 a. Name TWO areas to which the Holy Spirit prevented them from going.

 b. In what way did God show His servants where the 'open door' was?

 c. Why was the short sea voyage described in v.11 of special importance?

- 3** A. HERE ARE SOME VERSES FROM THE PSALMS WHICH SPEAK ABOUT GOD BEING WILLING AND ABLE TO GUIDE HIS PEOPLE IN THEIR DECISIONS. FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS:-
 i. Psalm 25: 9 "The humble (meek) He guides"
 ii. Psalm 32: 8 "I will guide"
 iii. Psalm 48: 14 "He will be our guide"
 iv. Psalm 78: 72 "He guided them by"

B. WRITE OUT, FROM PSALM 23, THE TWO SENTENCES IN WHICH DAVID SPEAKS ABOUT GOD LEADING HIM.

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- 4** TRUE OR FALSE:-
 i. Luke wrote The Acts of the Apostles.
 ii. According to Colossians 4: 14, Luke was a lawyer.
 iii. In changing from "they" to "we", Luke includes himself in the events.
 iv. Luke was the third member of the missionary team.
 v. Luke joined the others at Troas. **5**

5 WRITE A FEW SENTENCES ABOUT ANY MISSIONARY, EITHER PAST OR PRESENT, WHOM YOU HAVE KNOWN OR HEARD ABOUT.

 **4**

6 GIVE SOME REASONS, WITH BIBLE REFERENCES WHERE POSSIBLE, WHY ALL CHRISTIANS SHOULD HELP TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD JESUS.

 **4**

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Study 3. Events at Philippi

READ: Acts 16: 11-40



KEY VERSE: Romans 1: 16

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes . . ."

On disembarking, Paul and his friends proceeded inland for about ten miles to Philippi, an important Roman military centre in that part of Macedonia. (See map, Study 2) The missionaries faced a challenging situation. How would they begin the work to which God had called them?

The story centres around three persons:-

1. LYDIA

She was a well-to-do business lady who came from Thyatira, in Asia, but who had crossed over to Philippi to sell 'Thyatira purple', a much sought after type of cloth. Lydia was a very religious person and each Sabbath she and some other ladies met for prayer by a riverside. Paul and his partners joined them, and began to speak to them about the Lord Jesus. We do not know what the other women thought about this 'new' teaching, but Lydia was very interested! **"The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul."** (v. 14)

As far as we know, Lydia was (or became) the first convert to Christ and His gospel in Europe. Not only she, but also her entire household, were baptized as Christians. (v. 15)

God has wonderful ways of bringing people to faith in the Lord Jesus! Perhaps you have come into contact with the gospel when away from home, like Lydia, or perhaps through some unexpected circumstance! The really important thing, however, is to heed the message, and to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour!

2. THE SLAVE GIRL

She was under the control of an evil spirit and had the power to act as a fortuneteller. People paid her

owners a lot of money in return for having their fortune told! She attached herself to Paul and his partners, and kept shouting, **"These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation"**. (v. 17) This continued for days on end! What she was saying was true, but Paul was greatly annoyed because it was really Satan who was in control of the girl. Eventually, Paul ordered the spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ, to leave the girl! That was the end of both her fortune telling, and her noisy shouting at the missionaries!

The gospel was proving how powerful it is! First, a religious, respectable business woman is saved, and then a Satan controlled slave is liberated into a new and better life! We should each ask: Is the gospel working effectively in ME?

(See 1 Thessalonians 2: 13)

3. THE JAILER

The girl's owners tried to 'get their own back' on Paul and Silas by falsely accusing them. The result was that the missionaries were severely beaten and put in prison. Undaunted, they prayed and sang hymns to God! Then came a terrible earthquake which wrecked the prison. The jailer awoke, and was seized with terror at the thought of his prisoners having escaped! He was greatly relieved, however, to find no one had gone! Shaking all over, he brought Paul and Silas out, and then asked his well-known question, **"What must I do to be saved?"** Without delay, they gave him the answer! **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved..."** (See vs. 30 & 31) That very night the jailer and his family heard **"the word of the Lord"** (v. 32), believed it and were baptized. What a joyful end to a terrifying night!

These events of so long ago are important to us because from these small beginnings, the gospel has spread and reached us. Lives were changed in those far-off days, and are still being changed! The gospel is still **"the power of God to salvation"**, as the Key Verse tells us.

Study 3. Events at Philippi

- 1 ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT LYDIA:-**
- a. From where did she originally come?
 - b. In what business was she engaged?
 - c. Where, and when, did Paul first meet her?
 - d. What did she do each Sabbath day?
- 4

- 2 FIT THESE WORDS INTO THE SENTENCES, TO SUM UP LYDIA'S EXPERIENCE:-**
HOME EAR MISSIONARIES OPEN
- i) Lydia had an OPEN for the MESSAGE.
 - ii) She had an HEART for the MASTER.
 - iii) She had an OPEN for the
- 2

- 3 CONSIDER NOW THE SLAVE GIRL:-**
- a. She had human "masters". (See vs. 16 & 19) In what way did they make money out of her?
 - b. We could also say that she had an unseen 'master' who was controlling her life. What is meant by this statement?
 - c. To be a Christian means that we have a new Master - a "Master in Heaven", as *Colossians 4: 1* tells us. We are "not our own" - we belong to Him. (See *1 Corinthians 6: 19 & 20*) In what ways should this teaching affect how we live?
- 5

- 4 EXPLAIN, AS CLEARLY AS YOU CAN:**
- a. Why Paul and Silas were put in prison at Philippi.
 - b. What the jailer's reaction was when he saw all the doors open.
 - c. Why he did not proceed with his intention.
- 3

- 5 IN THE HOME OF THE JAILER:-**
- a. Give the verse reference for each of these quotations.
 - i) "They spoke the word of the Lord . . . to ALL who were in the house." Verse
 - ii) ". . . he rejoiced, having believed in God with ALL his household." Verse
 - iii) ". . . immediately he and ALL his family were baptized." Verse
 - b. What can we learn from the use of 'ALL' in each of these verses?
 - c. Write out the LAST sentence of *Acts 18: 8*, which stresses the same three steps.
- 6

- 6 A. IN WHAT TWO PRACTICAL WAYS DID THE JAILER SHOW COMPASSION AND CARE FOR PAUL AND SILAS, AFTER HE WAS SAVED?**
- B. HOW CAN A YOUNG CHRISTIAN TODAY SHOW "THE LOVE OF GOD" TO OTHERS? (SEE 1 JOHN 3: 17)**
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