

THE LIFE OF PAUL

LESSON VI

THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

PART II THE GOSPEL PREACHED IN EUROPE

(Philippi to Athens)

1. Who are the individuals making up the missionary team at this time? Acts 15:40; 16:1-3,12-13 **(Acts 16:12-13 - and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there.)** Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke made up the missionary team.
2. In which province is Philippi located? Macedonia.
3. When and where did Paul begin his ministry in Philippi? Acts 16:13 **On the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. This was probably the river Gangites or Gargites, which was about one mile west of the town.**
4. Who was present for this first meeting? Acts 16:13-14 **(Acts 16:13-14 - And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshipped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.)** Several women and in particular a woman named Lydia, who was a merchant of an expensive cloth known as "purple".
5. What town and province was Lydia from? Acts 16:14 She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira. Thyatira was in the province of Lydia of western Asia Minor (Turkey).
6. How long was the missionary team in Philippi? **Acts 16:12 We were staying in that city for some days.** Several days.
7. For what was Thyatira noted? What was Lydia's occupation and why was she in Macedonia? Acts 16:14 Several trade guilds and unions were located in Thyatira which was known for its manufacturing. One of its products was a very costly and sought after purple dye. Lydia was a merchant of the purple dye or the cloth dyed with the expensive purple. She evidently had come to Macedonia to market her product.
8. Was Lydia a Jew? Acts 16:14 **(Acts 16:14 - Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshipped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.)** Since Lydia is described as one who worshipped God, she probably was a Jew or a proselyte of the Jews.
9. What did the Lord do for Lydia when Paul spoke to the women? What was the result? Acts 16:14-15 **(Acts 16:14-15 - The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.)**
10. What Christian act did Lydia perform after her conversion? Acts 16:15; Rom. 12:13; I Pet. 4:9 **(Rom 12:13 - distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.) (1 Pet 4:9 - Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.)** Lydia was hospitable, inviting the missionary team to come to her house.

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11. What incident in Philippi provoked Paul? Why do you think Paul did what he did? Acts 16:16-18 **(Acts 16:16-18 - Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.)** Paul commanded the spirit to come of the girl because the spirit was not given to her by God. The girl's power of divination must have been by the authority of Satan and was for the purpose of gaining money for her managers. Note that Paul cast the spirit of divination out by the authority of Jesus Christ.
12. What resulted from the anger of masters of the girl who was possessed with the spirit of divination, when Paul removed the source of their ill-gotten income? Acts 16:19-24 **(Acts 16:19-24 - But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.)** The masters of the young girl dragged Paul and Silas to the rulers and magistrates and excited a mob to demand that they be beaten and put into prison.
13. Where are Timothy and Luke while Paul and Silas are being falsely charged? Note that in verses 16 and 17 that Luke is with the group. In verse 19, Paul and Silas are dragged into the market place. ??????
14. What are the charges brought against Paul and Silas? Were the charges true and legitimate? Acts 16:20-21 **(And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.")** In Rome, the things that Paul and Silas were doing were not allowed, but this type of thing was often ignored. The charges were true and legal.
15. What did the magistrates do to Paul and Silas? How was this punishment administered? (Read several translations to help your understanding) Acts 16:22-24 **(Acts 16:22-24 - Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.)** This kind of beating and punishment was very severe and often those who received such would fall unconscious.
16. Describe the miracle that took place in the prison. What followed the miracle? Acts 16:25-34 **(Acts 16:25-34 - But at 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; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his**

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house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.)

17. What did the jailer mean when he asked the question what must he do to be saved? Some think that he was asking a spiritual question concerning eternal life and his spirit? Others think the question had to do with his physical life, since he was fearful that the rulers might have him killed. Most likely, due to the miracle and the things that Paul and Silas had been speaking that day, the question was one dealing with the spirit. The jailer had already addressed his physical life by laying down his sword. Now a more important issue was prevailing.
18. What followed the next day? Acts 16:35-39 **(Acts 16:35-39 - when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go." So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace." But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out." And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city.)**
19. Why were the magistrates afraid? **Paul had been beaten without a trial. Such action was against the Roman law and was punishable by death.**
20. Why do you think the magistrates didn't question Paul's citizenship. **We don't know for a fact that they didn't. The magistrates wanted the whole event forgotten and the best way to forget it was to get Paul and Silas out of the city. They now feared for their own life. The worst thing that they could probably do was to make a big deal about by questioning Paul's citizenship.**
21. Where did the two missionaries go after leaving the prison? Acts 16:40 **(Acts 16:40 - So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.)**
22. Where did the missionaries go after leaving Philippi? How far was the trip to Thessalonica? Acts 17:1 **(Acts 17:1 - Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.)** It was about 33 miles from Philippi to Amphipolis, 30 miles on to Apollonia and another 37 mile to Thessalonica. A total of about 100 miles from Philippi to Thessalonica.
23. Who were Paul's traveling companions at this time? Acts 17:4,10,14 **It seems as if it is only Paul and Silas, however verse 14 talks about Timothy being with them at Berea. (Acts 17:13-14 - But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds. Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there.)** Luke doesn't appear to be with them until the third missionary journey on the way back to Jerusalem from Troas.
24. What do we know about Thessalonica? Acts 17:1 Use your Bible dictionaries, etc. to help you with this question. **(Acts 17:1 - Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.)**
THESSALONICA Situated on the Thermaic Gulf, Thessalonica was the chief seaport of Macedonia. The city was founded in about 315 B. C. by Cassander, who resettled the site with inhabitants from 26 villages that he had destroyed. He named the city after his wife, Thessalonica, the sister of Alexander the Great and daughter of Philip II of Macedonia. The Egnatian Way, the main overland route from Rome to the East, ran directly through the city. Under Roman rule, Thessalonica achieved prominence. In 167 B. C. the Romans divided Macedonia into four districts, Thessalonica becoming capital of the second district. Some 20 years later, in 148 B. C., Macedonia became a Roman province with Thessalonica as its capital. After the battle of Philippi in 42 B. C., when Octavian (later Augustus Caesar) and Mark Antony defeated Brutus and Cassius, the assassins of Julius Caesar, Thessalonica became a free city. It was the most

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populous city of Macedonia. In the third century A. D. Thessalonica was selected to oversee a Roman temple, and under Decius (ruled A. D. 249-251), infamous for his persecution of Christians, the city achieved the status of a Roman colony, which entitled it to the rights and privileges of the Roman Empire. The city was surrounded by a wall, stretches of which still stand. Archaeologists have uncovered a paved Roman forum some 63 by 99 meters (70 by 110 yards) in size, dating from the first or second centuries A. D. The apostle Paul visited Thessalonica in A. D. 49 or 50 during his second missionary journey <Acts 17:1-9>. Paul's evangelistic efforts met with success. Within a short time a vigorous Christian congregation had blossomed, consisting of some members of the Jewish synagogue as well as former pagans. The Book of Acts leads us to assume that Paul stayed in Thessalonica only a few weeks before being forced to leave because of Jewish opposition. But in reality he probably stayed at least two or three months. A shorter stay would scarcely account for Paul's receiving two gifts of aid from the Philippians <Phil. 4:16>, or for the depth of affection which developed between Paul and the Thessalonians <1 Thes. 2:1-12>. Thessalonica was also the home of two of Paul's co-workers, Aristarchus and Secundus <Acts 20:4; 27:2>.

25. What did Paul and Silas do in Thessalonica? What was the response from the Jews and from the Greeks? Acts 17:2-4 (**Acts 17:2-4 - Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them (Jews), and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." And some of them (Jews) were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.**)
26. What unpleasant incident occurred and who was punished? Acts 17:5-8 (**Acts 17:5-8 - But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. "Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king-- Jesus." And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things.) Jason appears to be a new Christian who provided lodging for Paul and Silas.**)
27. What was required of Jason and the other disciples? What did the brethren then do? Acts 17:9-10 (**Acts 17:9-10 - So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go. Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea.**)
28. What was different about the Jews in Berea? How did the Greeks receive the word? Acts 17:11-12 (**Acts 17:11-12 - These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.**)
29. Who seems to join Paul and Silas and what happens when the Jews of Thessalonica learn of the work in Berea? Where has Luke evidently stayed? Acts 17:1,13-14; 16:16-17 (**Acts 17:1 - Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.) (Acts 17:13-14 - But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds. Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there.) (Acts 16:16-17 - Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.") Either Timothy has been with them since they left Philippi or he has just joined them, but he hadn't been mentioned by Luke since Paul and Silas were put in prison at Philippi. Luke hasn't been with them since Philippi, so he evidently stayed there.**)

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30. What actions are taken and what is Paul's strategy? Acts 17:14-15 (**Acts 17:14-15 - Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there. So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.**) Paul instructs his escort to send Timothy and Silas to Athens quickly.
31. How successful was the work in Thessalonica and Berea? 1 Thess. 1:7; 2:13,20; Acts 20:4; 27:2
- a) 1 Thess. 1:7 - so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.
 - b) 1 Thess. 2:13 - For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.
 - c) 1 Thess. 2:20 - For you are our glory and joy.
 - d) Acts 20:4 - And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia-- also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.
 - e) Acts 27:2 - So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us.