

# The Acts of the Apostles

## Lesson 15: Paul's Second Mission

Acts 16:1 to 18:22

A disagreement about Mark drove a wedge between Paul and Barnabas, and when it was time for the next mission, “Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus” (Acts 15:39).



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## Acts 15:40-41

40 And Paul chose Silas,  
and departed,  
being recommended by  
the brethren unto the  
grace of God.

41 And he went through  
Syria and Cilicia,  
confirming the churches.



## Acts 16:1-2

- 1 Then came he to Derbe and Lystra:  
and, behold, a certain  
disciple was there,  
named Timotheus, the  
son of a certain woman,  
which was a Jewess, and  
believed; but his father  
*was* a Greek:
- 2 Which was well reported  
of by the brethren that  
were at Lystra and  
Iconium.



### **Acts 16:3**

Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.



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This might seem an odd thing to do, especially so soon after the Jerusalem Council's ruling on circumcision. But this was not done for Timothy's *salvation*. This was done so he could minister in the synagogues and temple of the Jews.



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**Ezekiel 44:9**

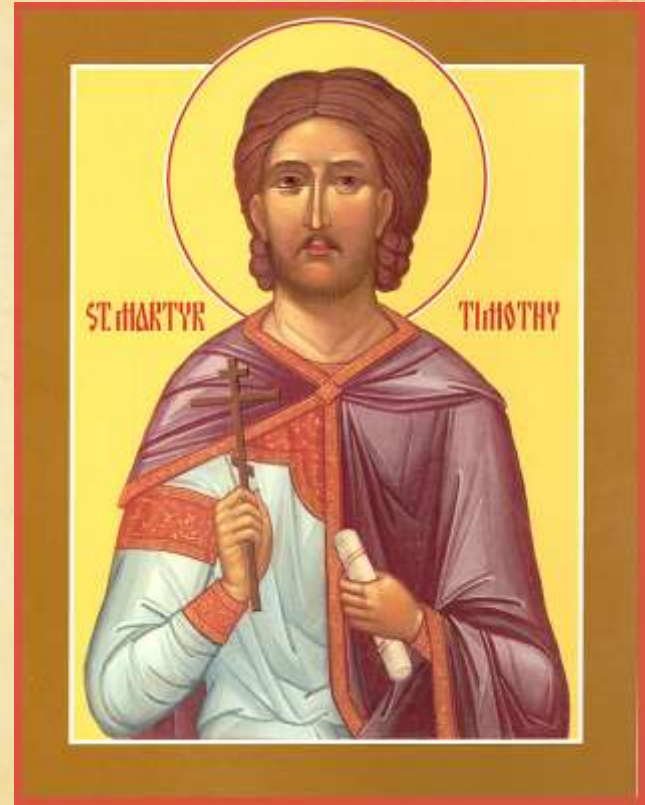
Thus saith the Lord GOD; No stranger, uncircumcised in heart, nor uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter into my sanctuary, of any stranger that *is* among the children of Israel.





## Acts 16:4-5

- 4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.
- 5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.



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- 5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

This refers to the letter that came out of the Council of Jerusalem.



## Acts 16:6-7

- 6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,
- 7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.



*The Spirit forbid them to journey either to the north or south.*



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Paul did not minister in places he wished to go when:

- 1) The Holy Spirit redirected him (as we just read), or
- 2) Satan hindered him:

**1 Thessalonians 2:17-18**

- <sup>17</sup> But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.
- <sup>18</sup> Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

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A successful missionary must discern the difference between his own thoughts, the urging of the Holy Spirit, and opposition from Satan.

## Acts 16:8

And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.





**Acts 16:9**

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night;  
There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying,

*Come over into Macedonia, and help us.*







### **Acts 16:10**

And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.





### **Acts 16:10**

And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called **us** for to preach the gospel unto them.

*This is where Luke enters the story. He is no longer writing about “them.” He is writing about “us.”*



## Acts 16:11-12

- <sup>11</sup> Therefore loosing from Troas, **we** came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next *day* to Neapolis; and from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, *and* a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.





### Acts 16:13-14

- <sup>13</sup> And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*.
- <sup>14</sup> And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.



**Acts 16:15**

And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*.

And she constrained us.



### **Acts 16:16-18a**

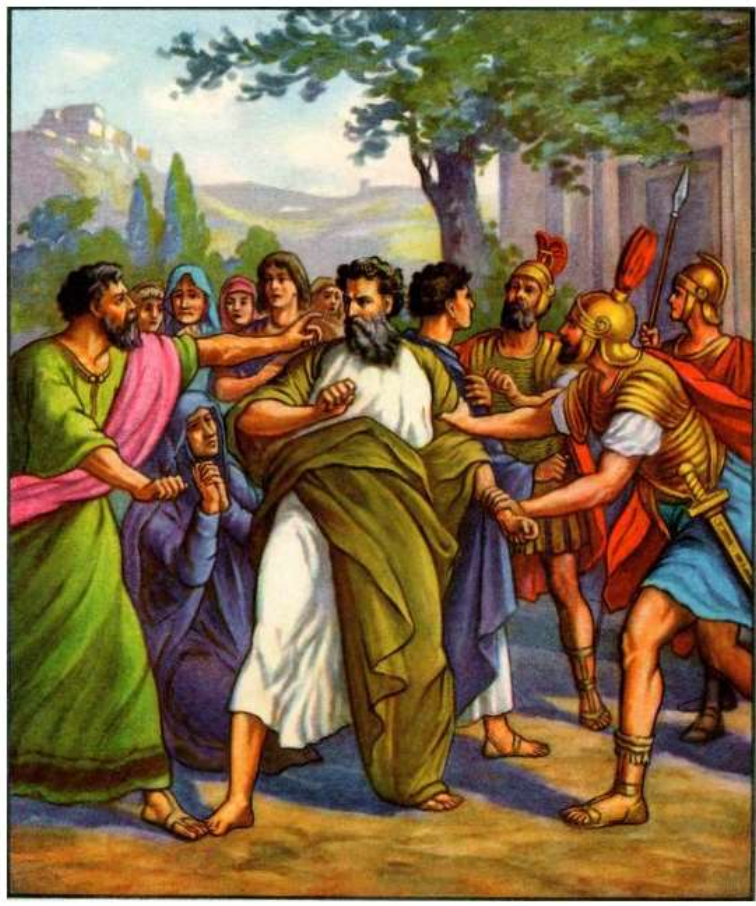
- <sup>16</sup> And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:
- <sup>17</sup> The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.
- <sup>18</sup> And this did she many days.



**Acts 16:18b**

But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.

And he came out the same hour.



### Acts 16:19-21

- <sup>19</sup> And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,
- <sup>20</sup> And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,
- <sup>21</sup> And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.



**Acts 16:22**

And the multitude  
rose up together  
against them: and the  
magistrates rent off  
their clothes, and  
commanded to beat  
them.



### Acts 16:23-24

- <sup>23</sup> And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast *them* into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:
- <sup>24</sup> Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.



## Acts 16:25-26

<sup>25</sup> And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

<sup>26</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.



<sup>28</sup> But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.



## Acts 16:29-32

- <sup>29</sup> Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,
- <sup>30</sup> And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?
- <sup>31</sup> And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.
- <sup>32</sup> And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.



## Acts 16:33-34

- <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed *their* stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.
- <sup>34</sup> And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.



## Acts 16:35-39

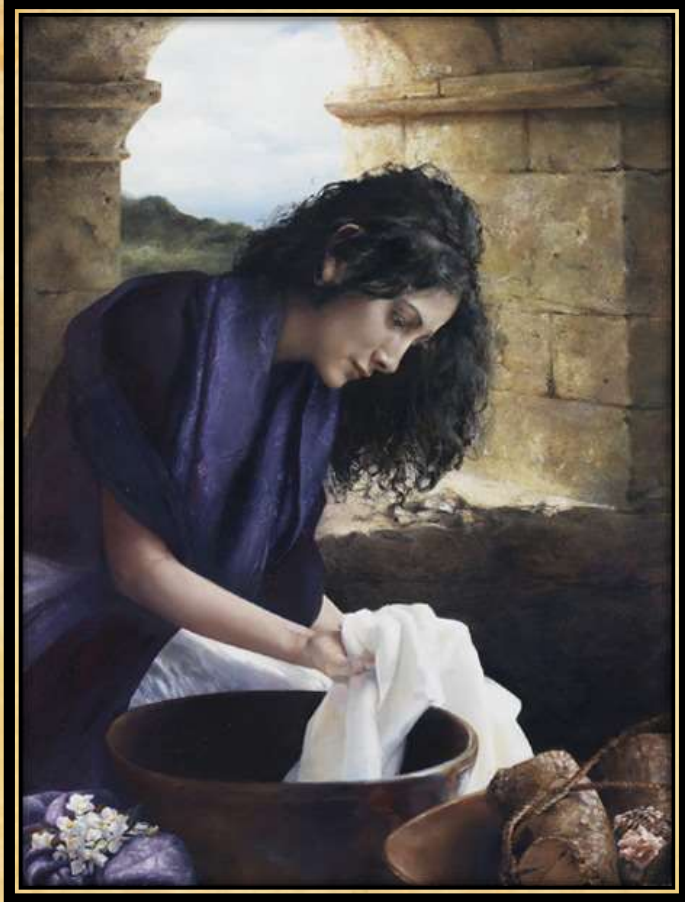
35 And when it was day, the magistrates sent the serjeants, saying, Let those men go.

36 And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: now therefore depart, and go in peace.

37 But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out.

38 And the serjeants told these words unto the magistrates: and they feared, when they heard that they were Romans.

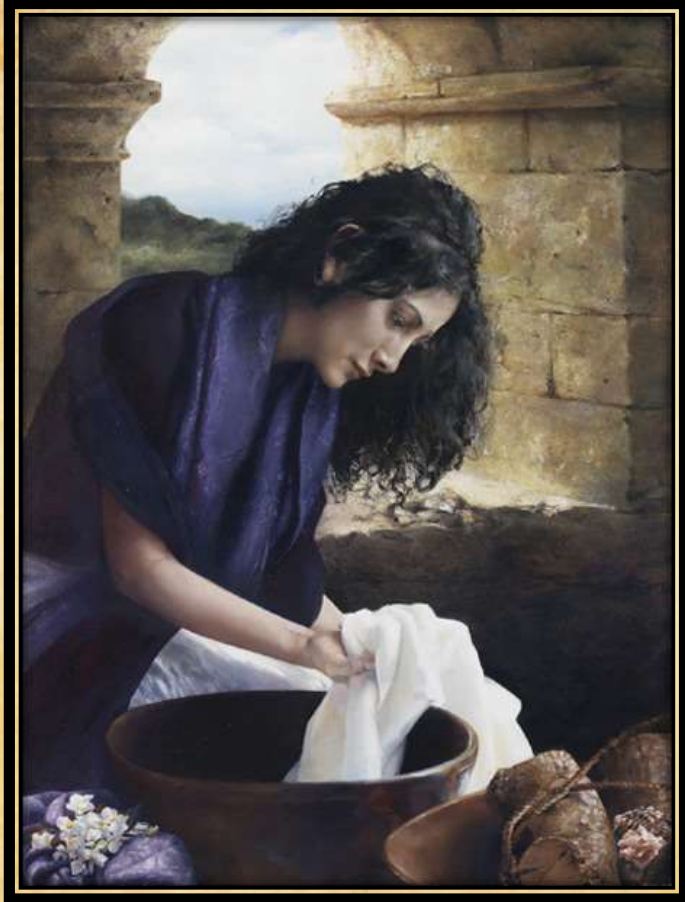
39 And they came and besought them, and brought *them* out, and desired *them* to depart out of the city.



**Acts 16:40**

And they went out of the prison,  
and entered into *the house of Lydia*:  
and when they had seen the brethren,  
they comforted them, and departed.





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and entered into *the house of Lydia*:  
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they comforted them, and departed.

*End of Chapter 16*

## Acts 17:1

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:





### **Acts 17:2-4**

- <sup>2</sup> And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,
- <sup>3</sup> Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.
- <sup>4</sup> And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.



### Acts 17:5

But the Jews which believed not, **moved with envy**, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.



### Acts 17:6-9

- <sup>6</sup> And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;
- <sup>7</sup> Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.
- <sup>8</sup> And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.
- <sup>9</sup> And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

### Acts 17:10

And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the Jews.





July 18.—Acts 17: 1-12

GOLDEN TEXT.—They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily.—Acts 17: 11.

TRUTH.—The truly wise accept God's Word.

## Acts 17:11-12

- 11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
- 12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.



PAUL AND CHRISTIANS OF BEREIA

**PAUL AT THESSALONICA AND BEREIA**

Acts 17: 1-15 (cf. 1 Thess. 2: 1-12)

*Lesson Text.*—"Him did God exalt with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour."—Acts 5: 31.

### **Acts 17:13-14**

- <sup>13</sup> But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.
- <sup>14</sup> And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode there still.



### **Acts 17:15**

And they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed, they departed.



## Acts 17:16-17

- <sup>16</sup> Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.
- <sup>17</sup> Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

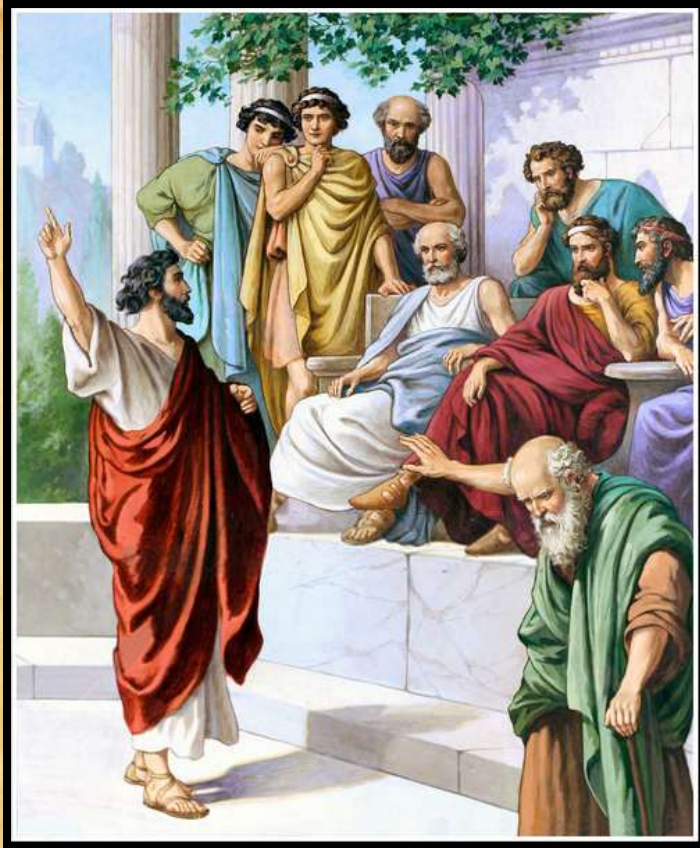


## Acts 17:18

Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babblers say?

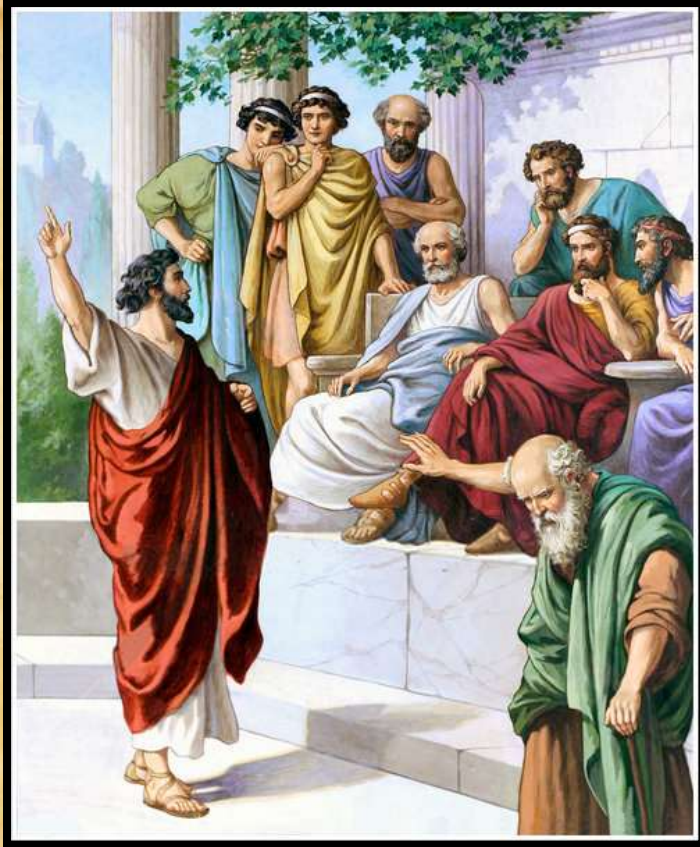
other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.



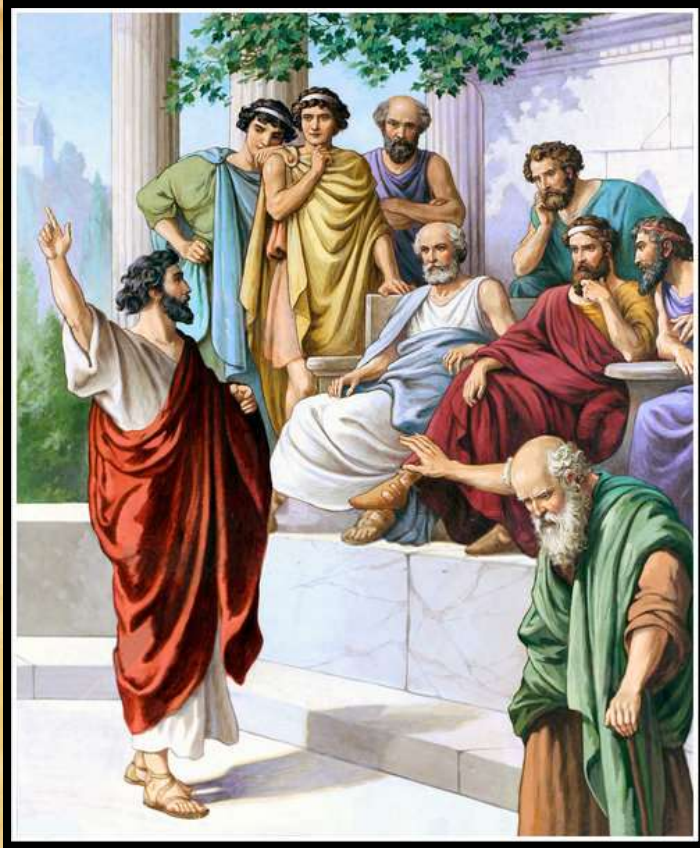


### Acts 17:19-21

- <sup>19</sup> And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?
- <sup>20</sup> For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean.
- <sup>21</sup> (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)



The message Paul delivered on Mars' Hill is given in verses 22 to 31:

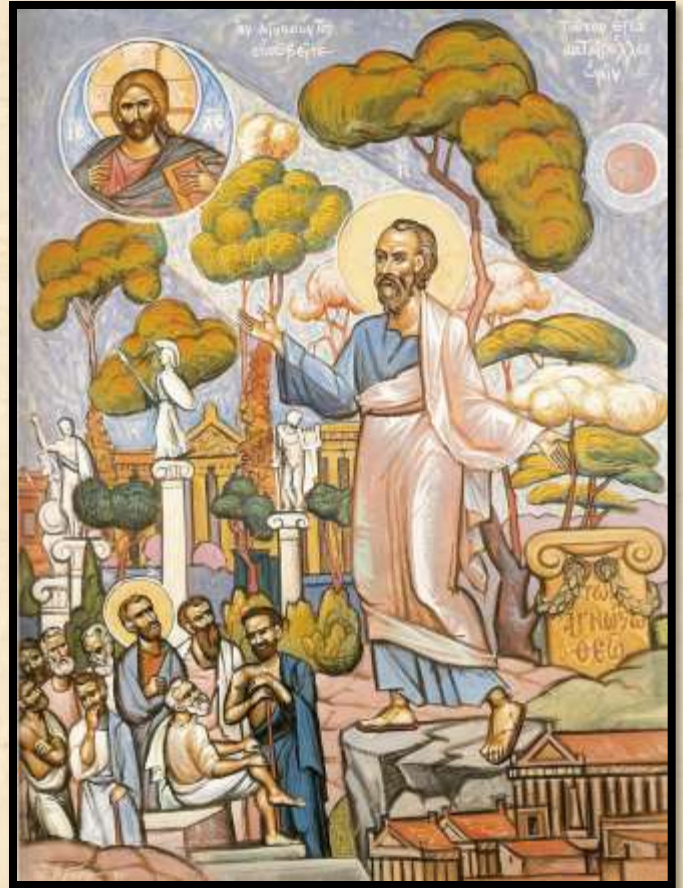


### **Acts 17:22-23**

- <sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said,  
Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.
- <sup>23</sup> For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

## Acts 17:24-27

- 24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;
- 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;
- 26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;
- 27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:



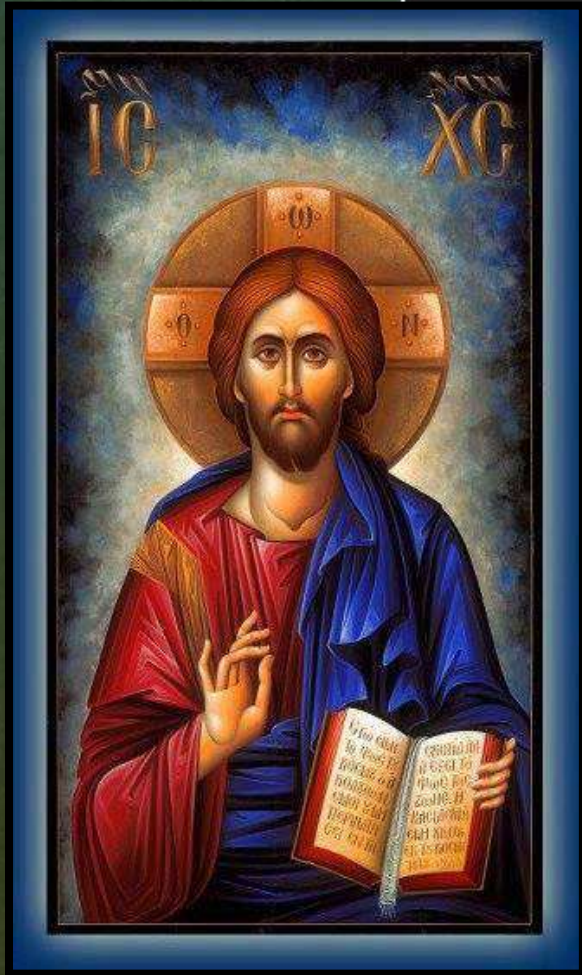
## Acts 17:28-29

<sup>28</sup> For in him we live, and move, and have our being;  
as certain also of your own poets have said,  
For we are also his offspring.

<sup>29</sup> Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God,  
we ought not to think that the Godhead is like  
unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and  
man's device.





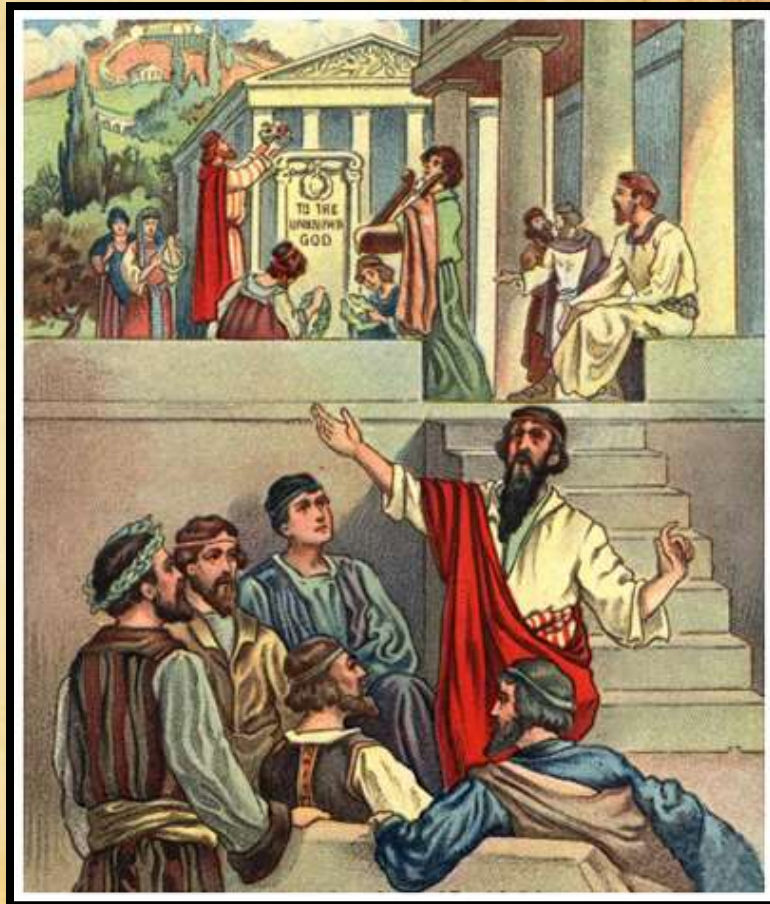


### Acts 17:30-31

- 30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:
- 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

## Acts 17:32-34

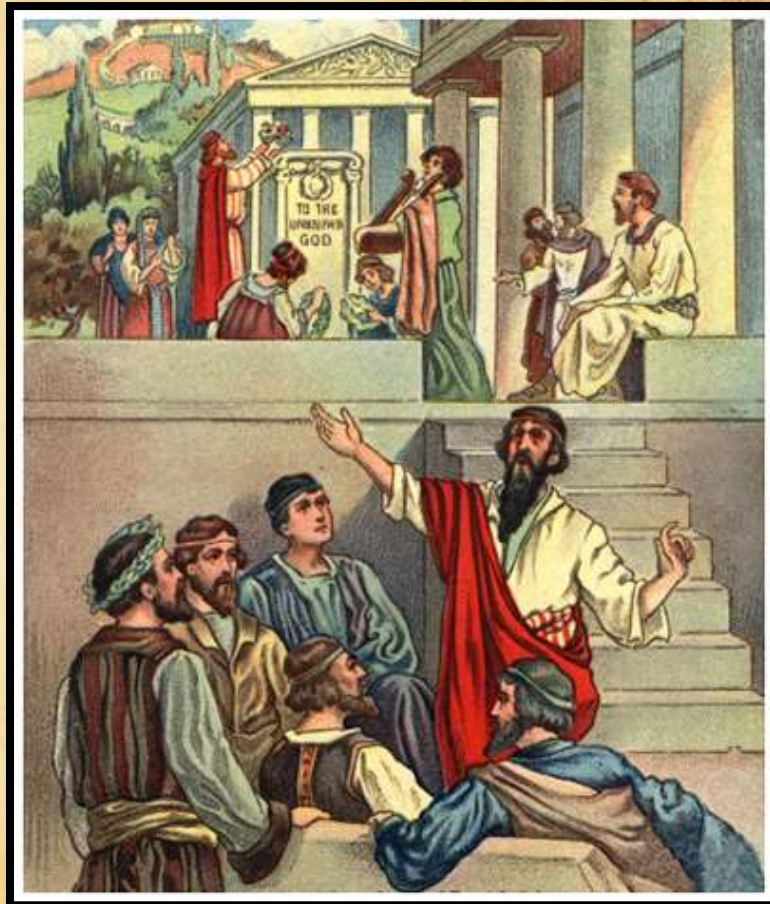
- <sup>32</sup> And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this *matter*.
- <sup>33</sup> So Paul departed from among them.
- <sup>34</sup> Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which *was* Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.



## Acts 17:32-34

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End of Chapter 17



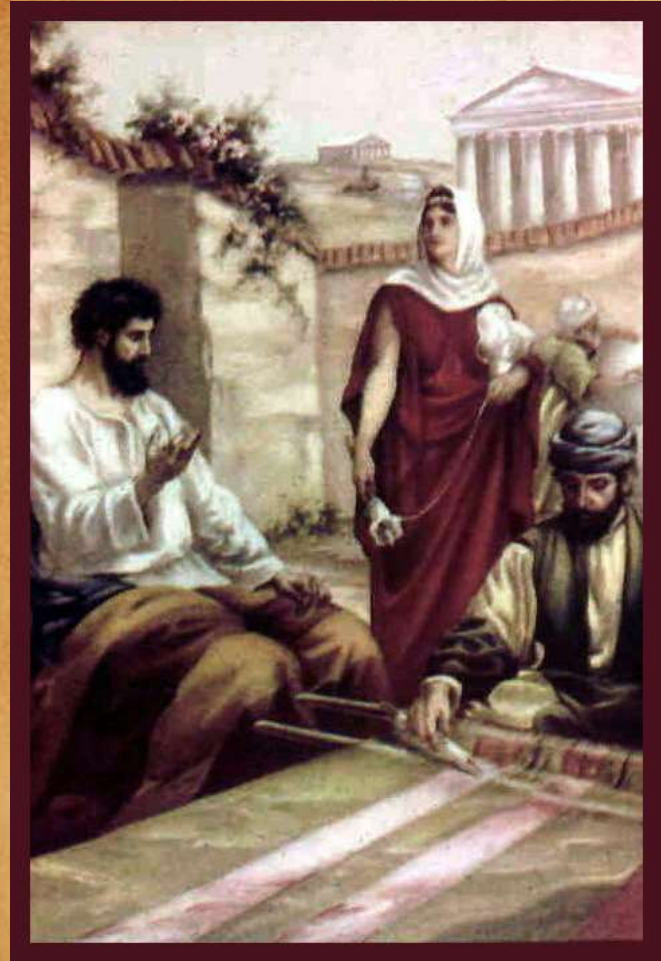
## Acts 18:1

After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;



## Acts 18:2-3

- <sup>2</sup> And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.
- <sup>3</sup> And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.





Emperor Claudius ruled from 41 to 54 AD.

When Christianity was brought to Rome, there were approximately thirteen synagogues in the city; some were open to the teachings of the Christians regarding Jesus Christ while others fought against those teachings.

This tension led to a clash between the synagogues that was so serious that Claudius responded by forcing all 40-50,000 Jews to leave the city.

The Jews expelled by Claudius included not only practitioners of Judaism, but also Jewish Christians. The Jews were allowed to return to Rome five years later, at the beginning of Emperor Nero's reign in 54 AD.

From *Be Transformed: An Interactive Study of the Epistle to the Romans* by J. Barker

## Acts 18:4-6

- 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.
- 5 And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews *that Jesus was Christ*.
- 6 And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook *his raiment*, and said unto them,  
Your blood *be upon your own heads*;  
I *am clean*: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.



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Your blood *be* upon your own heads;  
I *am* clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

This was “an expressive act of shaking off the guilt of their condemnation. He shook his raiment to show that he was resolved henceforward to have nothing to do with them ...”

Barnes Commentary



## Acts 18:4-6

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**Your blood *be* upon your own heads;**  
***I am clean:*** from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

This brings to mind God's instruction to the "watchman unto the house of Israel."

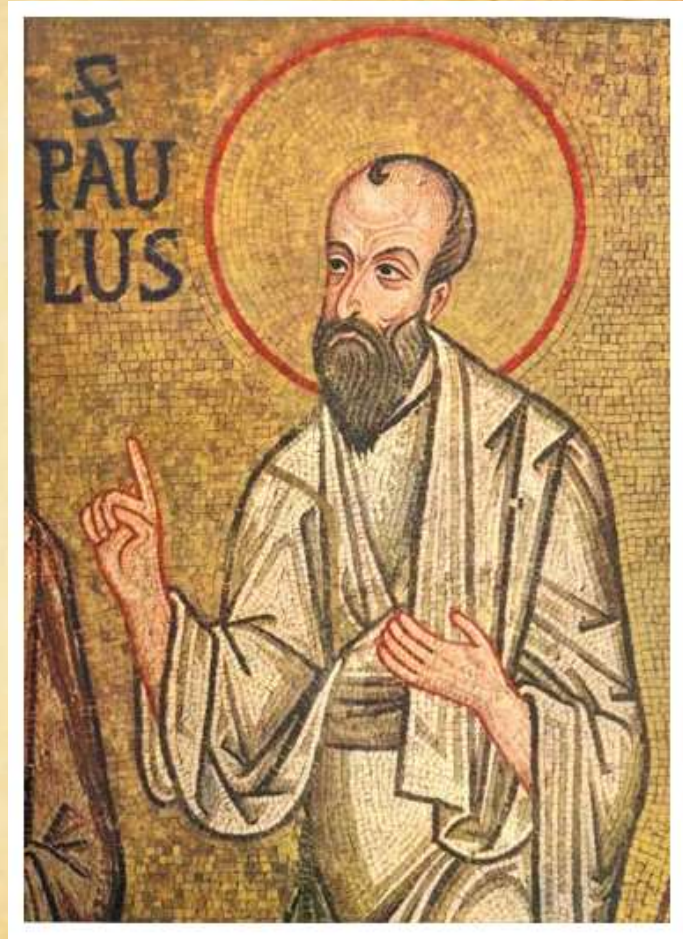
### **Ezekiel 3:18-19**

- <sup>18</sup> When I say unto the wicked,  
Thou shalt surely die;  
and thou givest him not warning,  
nor speakest to warn the wicked from  
his wicked way, to save his life;  
the same wicked *man* shall die in his  
iniquity;  
but his blood will I require at thine hand.
- <sup>19</sup> Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn  
not from his wickedness, nor from his  
wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity;  
but thou hast delivered thy soul.

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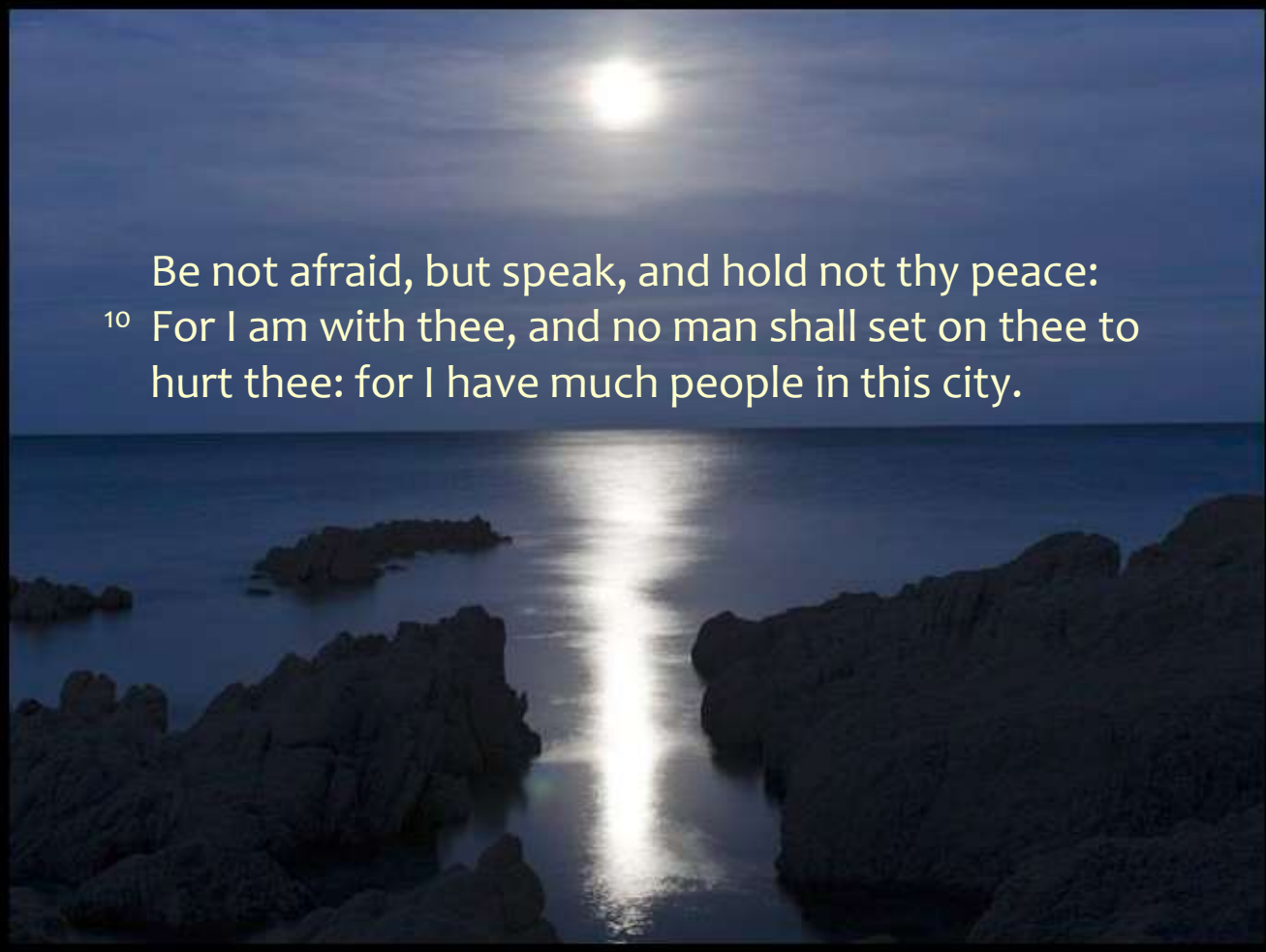
## Acts 18:7-8

- 7 And he departed thence, and entered into a certain *man's* house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue.
- 8 And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.




## Acts 18:9-11

- 9 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision,
- 11 And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.



Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:  
10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.



When the Jews of Corinth rose up against Paul,  
they only brought trouble to themselves.

## Acts 18:12-17

- <sup>12</sup> And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat,
- <sup>13</sup> Saying, This *fellow* persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law.
- <sup>14</sup> And when Paul was now about to open *his* mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews,  
If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O ye Jews,  
reason would that I should bear with you:
- <sup>15</sup> But if it be a question of words and names, and of your law,  
look ye *to it*; for I will be no judge of such *matters*.
- <sup>16</sup> And he drave them from the judgment seat.
- <sup>17</sup> Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat *him* before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things.

### Acts 18:18

And Paul *after this* tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn *his* head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.



Phebe, a deaconess commended by Paul in his letter to the Romans, was from Cenchrea.





Phebe, a deaconess commended by Paul in his letter to the Romans, was from Cenchrea.

**Romans 16:1**

I commend unto you Phebe our sister,  
which is a servant of the church which is at  
Cenchrea:





Why did Paul shave his head? This will be explained later when he returns to Jerusalem for Pentecost.

## Acts 18:19-21

- 19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.
- 20 When they desired *him* to tarry longer time with them, he consented not;
- 21 But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will.  
And he sailed from Ephesus.



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Luke does not identify this feast, but it was the reason for Paul's visit to Jerusalem before returning to Antioch.

**Acts 18:22**

And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch.



### Acts 18:22

And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch.

In the Bible, one always went UP to Jerusalem, and left it going DOWN.



### Acts 18:22

And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch.

“When he landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch.” [NIV]



This is not the end of Chapter 18, but this is where Paul's second mission ends, back in Antioch where it began.





This mission lasted about 3 years, from AD 49 to 51.



Luke's testimony of Paul's *third* mission begins in the very next verse:



Luke's testimony of Paul's *third* mission begins in the very next verse:

Acts 18:23  
And after he had spent some time there, he departed...



21 years had passed since the Day of Pentecost.  
11 years remained to the end of the story.

UP NEXT: Paul's Third Missionary Journey

## Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. Who was Paul's companion throughout his second mission?
2. Who joined them in Lystra?
3. According to Acts 16:6-7, who was directing their travels?
4. Where was Paul (in what city) when he saw the vision of the man of Macedonia?
5. What verse in Acts 16 tells us that Luke is now part of the story?
6. According to Acts 16:19, why were the masters of the possessed woman angry?
7. According to Acts 16:31, what did Paul and Silas tell the jailer he needed to do to be saved?
8. According to Acts 17:11, what made the Jews of Berea "more noble" than the Jews of Thessalonica?
9. According to Acts 17:32-34, what were the 3 reactions to Paul's speech on Mars Hill?
10. What is the name of the married couple Paul met in Corinth?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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