

## Philippians Converted

### Acts 16

- Ch. 15 ends with conflicts resolved: Paul takes Silas and begins 2<sup>nd</sup> journey & Barnabas takes John Mark to evangelize Cyprus.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> journey will see similar cities and the “Westward Expansion.”
- 49-52AD

#### **1. Meet Timothy – v. 1-3**

- Timothy from Lystra; “the dearest friend [Paul] ever knew.” McGarvey
- Mother: Eunice; Grandmother: Lois [2 Tim. 1:5]; likely conv. by P on 1<sup>st</sup> trip; McGarvey estimated T was 15 on 1<sup>st</sup> trip; arranged marriages common, usually financial reasons
- 2: sadness & joy when you revisit places; elders laid hands on T [1 Tim. 4:14]
- 3: dad likely dead; tough decision to send him; had him circumcised, would now be allowed in synagogue – helpful on journeys

#### **2. Macedonian Call – v. 4-12**

- 4: they [P,S,&T] each had a specific role
- 5: progress report going well as churches grow
- 6: heading W, God blocks their way; not sure how HS revealed this, answer was ‘not now’ not ‘no’
- 7: wanted to go to rich N Rom. Province of Bithynia – not the Lord’s plan!
- “Spirit of Jesus” same as “the HS” in v. 6
- 8: W only direction; Troas: Rom. Colony, busy seaport near ancient Troy
- 9: Macedonia: made famous by Philip II of Macedon & his son, Alexander the Great; took the call to convince to cross Aegean Sea
- 10: we: Dr. Luke joins, maybe sought a Dr for travels or waiting for ship back home
- The Gospel was going to Europe!
- Samothrace: mountainous island ½way; straight course: wind behind them, 2-day trip [return trip 5 days (20:6)]
- Neapolis: “New City” Kavalla today, seaport for Philippi [9-10mi inland]

- 12: NW to Philippi – “Little Rome” self-ruling, didn’t have to pay taxes

### **3. Miracles in Philippi – v. 13-40**

- 13: 10 men req’d for a synagogue; during exile, when Jews couldn’t go to synagogue, they gathered by nearest river to pray (Ezra 8:15, 21; Ps. 137:1); Jewish teachers sat
- 14: Lydia, from Thyatira in Asia; seller of purple: expensive; God fearer: Sabbath not a holiday, willing to close business for worship; opened heart: unique to here, credit to God
- 15: 4 household baptisms: Cornelius, 10:24,48; Lydia; jailer, 16:31-34; Stephanas, 1 Cor. 1:16, 16:15
- 16: LK still there, place of prayer prob. river banks; GL Pythian spirit – python – made owners much money
- 17: tried to ignore girl; similar language to Mark 5:7; salvation, see James 2:19
- 18: greatly annoyed/disturbed [4:2], took pity
- 19: ‘came out’ same as ‘was gone;’ “If you want to make a man your enemy, hit him in his pocketbook.” Only seized P&S not T&L; marketplace – town square – ½ football field
- 20,21: taken before Rm. Colony generals; didn’t mention real reason: \$\$ loss
- 3 triggers: 1] decency and order; 2] anti-Semitism; 3] nationalism
- 22: trials always attracted a crowd; sergeants [NASB policemen 35,38] rod holders carried bundle of sticks thumb thickness, axe in center
- 23: stripped back rec’d 39 stripes [Jewish]; Rm beatings as officer’s discretion
- Illegal to beat a Roman citizen – both P&S !! 3<sup>rd</sup> person in Ch. the Gospel changed life
- 24: inner prison: no light, fresh air; tied on dirty floor, couldn’t lay on back due to lashes
- 25: what would you do in this situation?
- Instead of singing the blues, they sang praises. Others took note of their situation and attitude.
- 26: Philippi in earthquake territory; powerful enough to strike foundations & unlock locks
- 27: Rm. Law decreed one in charge to receive punishments if one escaped. Suicide never the “honorable way out.” This jailor almost died unprepared to meet his God!
- 28: how wonderful P’s voice must’ve been!
- 29: soul shaken more visibly than prison
- 30: realized he needed to change & realized P&S knew something

- 31: [4:12] only through JC! Why not told same words as Pentecost? He wasn't ready to repent – he had to believe first!
- 32: Rm. 10:17 – had to be taught the Word!
- 33: 2 or 3am! Immediate proof of sincerity: washed stripes – sorrow & submission
- 34: all household were 1<sup>st</sup> taught & believed; P&S not had anything to eat since arrest; when people stop at v. 31, they “leave jail too soon!” McGarvey
- 35: humor: release free men
- 36: apparently returned to cell after meal to not embarrass new brother
- 37: magistrates locally chosen; if word reached Rome, they would lose jobs/heads.
- 38,39: RSV: “they came and apologized to them.” Imagine the pleading to leave; death was penalty for falsely claiming Roman citizenship – seldom did anyone make a false claim.
- 40: Coffman: one of the greatest statements in Scripture
- Concerned not for their mistreatment, but for babes in Christ.

### Lessons:

1. One never knows the future impact their efforts will have. Paul converted Timothy; he would go on to do great work for the Lord.
2. Honest people, like Lydia, when they hear the Gospel preached will always be receptive and obedient.
3. The jailor was seconds away from eternity and he was willing to end his life to avoid facing punishments. Thankfully, he was willing to change his ways and become a Christian.

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