

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 03 Dec 2017 ..... Acts 13 ..... The Gospel Message
- 2) 10 Dec ..... Acts 14 ..... Misguided Worship
- 3) 17 Dec ..... Acts 15:1-31 ..... Available to ALL
- 4) 24 Dec ..... Luke 2 ..... Christmas – The Promised One
- 5) 31 Dec ..... Acts 15:32-41 | 16:1-5 ..... Strengthened
- 6) 07 Jan 2018..... Acts 16..... A changed Family**
- 7) 14 Jan ..... Acts 17 ..... The Unknown Known
- 8) 21 Jan ..... Ps 139 ..... Sanctity of Life – Value ALL
- 9) 28 Jan ..... Acts 18-19 ..... Incomplete Picture
- 10) 04 Feb ..... Acts 20-21 ..... Delivered
- 11) 11 Feb ..... Acts 22-25 ..... The Testimony
- 12) 18 Feb ..... Acts 26-27 ..... Answering Critics
- 13) 25 Feb ..... Acts 28 ..... Always on Mission

**INTRODUCTION**

- The Holy Spirit directs Paul's travels by a dream; Paul converts the first European to the Lord; Paul also crashes the stock market, gets beaten for it, ends up in jail, and leads his jailer to Christ – all in a day's work for the Lord's anointed

Passage	Comments
Acts 16:6-12	<p><b>The Holy Spirit Leads Paul Away from Asia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v6. The Holy Spirit forbid them from going to Asia</li> <li>• v7. And the Spirit of Jesus forbid them from going to Bithynia, a part of Turkey.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ In brief, God had a game plan to work. Asia &amp; Bithynia would eventually receive the Gospel, but not now. Europe had priority apparently.</li> <li>♦ Does this mean God favored Asians less?</li> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> There is no partiality with God (<b>Rom 2:11</b>) BUT God does have priorities – the Jew first, then the Greeks (<b>Rom 2:9-10</b>). The whole world will hear the Gospel, but in Jerusalem first, then Judea, then Samaria, then to the remotest part of the earth...<b>Acts 1:8</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv9-10. Paul received a vision to go to Macedonia, a city on the outskirts of Europe – and they concluded God had called them to preach their                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ There is some subjectivity with how God had directed Paul's steps. They had to discern if the vision was from God or from eating spicy kababs the night before. Can visions &amp; dreams motivate or confirm for us any decisions we need to make? Consider the following:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Dreams may be of God.....<b>Joel 2:28</b></li> <li>♦ Or they may be "lying" dreams.....<b>Zech 10:2</b></li> <li>♦ Or just from weariness .....<b>Ecc 5:3</b></li> <li>♦ Solomon says don't trust dreams.....<b>Ecc 5:7</b></li> <li>♦ God holds His word above dreams.....<b>Jer 23:28</b></li> <li>♦ And, we are not to be fooled by those who take a stand on their visions and dreams ..... <b>Col 2:18</b></li> <li>♦ But be sure to prove all things .....<b>1Thes 5:21</b></li> <li>♦ For more on dreams see Lesson: ..... <b>Daniel 02-03</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Asia did receive the Gospel thanks to Thomas	<p>According to church tradition, Thomas the Apostle, yes, Doubting Thomas, took the Gospel to Asia, via the subcontinent of India. Various historical records and traditions indicate Thomas traveled by sea to India in AD 52. He was later martyred and buried there after witnessing to the Indian people. The tomb of St. Thomas is in Mylapore, India.</p>
16:13-15	<p><b>Paul Leads the First European to the Lord</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v13. We see a snippet of a cultural practice to gather at a nice, quiet riverbed to hopefully find others there for a time of prayer. Instead the men find some ladies to witness to.</li> <li>• v14. Lydia, like Cornelius in Acts 10, was a "worshiper of God", was financially well off, but was lacking something – true salvation. Paul shared Jesus with her, she listened, God opened her heart, and she responded. She didn't need to walk the isle or repeat the "sinner's prayer." She simply accepted the truth she heard. <b>That's all it takes to save someone → 1) We share Jesus, 2) God opens their heart, &amp; 3) The hearer makes a choice to accept the truth</b></li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lydia, presumably took the Gospel back to her home town of Thyatira, known in Revelations as the church praised by Jesus for their growing works, faith, love, and patience – BUT they tolerated "that woman Jezebel" ..... Rev 2:18-29</li> <li>• v15. Lydia broke social protocol and not only talked with some strange men (Paul, Silas, Timothy, &amp; Luke), but she opened up her home to them. That's bold hospitality! Where can we be bold in our walk? <input type="checkbox"/> Bold Giving? <input type="checkbox"/> Bold Witnessing?   <input type="checkbox"/> Bold Hospitality? <input type="checkbox"/> Other?</li> </ul>
16:16-21	<p><b>Paul Crashes the Stock Market</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv16-18. Is such a spirit of divination or other demonic influence, oppression, possession occurring today?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No   <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe   <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know   <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Care</li> </ul> </li> <li>Truthfully, there is no biblical reason why it is not.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ God wants us to discern the spirits and know how to win these spiritual battles – with His authority, not ours</li> <li>♦ What makes Satan and his demons flee from us?                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Say some magic words in Jesus Name</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Submit/draw near to God in humble obedience, resist Satan, &amp; he has no choice but to flee .... <b>Jms 4:6-8</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> The sons of Sceva tried to cast a demon out of someone by invoking the name of Jesus, and they were the ones to flee &amp; butt naked! .... <b>Act 19:13-16</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
16:23-34	<p><b>Paul Leads His Jailer to the Lord</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv22-24. "...and the crowd rose up" against them. Another mob got their way. Why did God let them suffer so much?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> God puts His good leaders in prison to teach them wisdom.....<b>Psalm 105:22</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv30-34. "What must I do to be saved?" Would this Jailer gotten saved if Paul &amp; Silas were not thrown in prison?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No   <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe   <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know   <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Care</li> </ul> </li> <li>♦ v34. "...you and your household shall be saved." Is it a guarantee for all families to get saved this way?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No   <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe   <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know   <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Care</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
16:35-40	<p><b>Paul Stands Up for His Legal Rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v37. "No – Let them come themselves to bring us out" <b>Principle of Justice.</b> We have Law to protect the weak. Know when to "appeal to Caesar" and when to suffer</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS**

- God is involved in every aspect of our lives – whether we see Him working directly or providentially, whether we are spending time in jail or witnessing to individuals or mobs (I mean crowds)

**NEXT WEEK: Acts 17.** Paul meets the more noble Bereans who examined the Scriptures daily to see if Paul was speaking the truth about God furnishing proof to all men that Christ was, indeed, the Son of God, the Messiah, and was raised from the dead.

