

# “Jerusalem Meets Rome and Finds Babylon: A Study in Church Purity”

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

December 7, 2022

## Establishing Community with Little Background – Acts 16

### I. The Players

#### A. Removing Possible Stumbling Blocks – vs 1-5

##### 1. Introduction to Timothy

- a. the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed
- b. but his father was Greek.
- c. was well spoken of by the brethren

##### 2. With Discipleship and Ministry in Mind

- a. Paul wanted to have him go on with him
- b. circumcised him because of the Jews – 1 Co 9:20
  - i. the Jews in that region
  - ii. for they all knew that his father was Greek.
  - iii. Ga 2:3 Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.
- c. they went through the cities, **they delivered to them the decrees to keep**, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. – Acts 15
- d. So the churches were strengthened **in the faith**, and increased in number daily.

#### B. When God says no, Does He have something Better?

##### 1. God Saying No?

- a. The Where – vs 6-8
- b. What happened – vs 6-7



## 2. Opening Other Doors

### a. The Macedonian Call – vs 9



### b. Immediate Obedience – vs 10-12

### c. The Sabbath Day – vs 13-15

#### i. Paul's norm was to visit to the Synagogue

- To the Jew first and also to the Greek
- Need 10 Jewish men to have a synagogue

#### ii. Went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made

- no Synagogue
- we sat down and spoke to the women who met there.
- Met Lydia
  - a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God.
  - The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.
  - she and her household were baptized,
  - she put them up for the night – vs 15

## C. Paul's Welcome to the City

### 1. The Making of a Memory

#### a. a certain slave girl

- possessed with a spirit of divination met us
- who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling

#### b. The Problem

- 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
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. 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."
  - c. The Solution – vs 22-24
    - i. Oh, the Outrage
      - the multitude rose up together against them
      - the magistrates
        - tore off their clothes
        - and commanded them to be beaten with rods
    - ii. To Jail with them
      - 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.
2. Adding to the Church under Persecution
- a. Rejoicing in Tribulation and its Results – vs 25-34
    - i. Our proper response to persecution leaves the door open for God to work on our behalf
    - ii. 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.
  - b. The Effects on Others When We Live the Supernatural Life – vs 27-
    - i. 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.
    - ii. Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."
    - iii. 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?"
      - "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.**"
    - iv. The Open Door

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

#### D. Paul Using What God Gave Him

##### 1. The Methodology of the Wrong

- a. Get rid of the mistreated – vs 35
- b. 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." - vs 36

##### 2. The Advantages of Roman Citizenship – vs 37-40

- a. But Paul said to them, (I Don't Think So)
  - i. "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans,
  - ii. and have thrown us into prison.
  - iii. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed!
  - iv. Let them come themselves and get us out."
  - v. And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans.
- b. The Request and the Answer
  - i. Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city.
  - ii. 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.