

GSM

Philippians- Introduction

I. Overview

- A. How God led Paul and Silas
- B. The City of Philippi
- C. The Founding of the Church

II. Led of God

- A. The church at Philippi was established on Paul's 2nd missionary journey.
- B. God specifically commissioned Paul to go on his 1st missionary journey.
- C. **[Acts 15:36]**- Paul determined and felt led to go back and visit those who were converted on the 2nd journey. We can learn ourselves how God will lead us by seeing how God led Paul on his second missionary journey.
- D. It does not say God told Him to go on his second journey. Often God leads us with the inward witness instead of a more spectacular guidance as prophecy or audible voice.
- E. It took a supernatural guidance to get Paul on the mission field on his first journey **[Acts 13:2]** but thereafter God led him primarily by the inward witness.
- F. Paul and Barnabas got into an argument over whether to take Mark along again on the 2nd journey because he left them on the 1st journey early. The division was so sharp that Barnabas and Paul split company.
- G. Paul turned to a man in Antioch named Silas to go with him on this journey.
- H. How Silas was led
 - 1. **[Acts 15:22]**- *It pleased* the apostles and elders to send Paul and Silas to Antioch with the results of the decision of the church in Jerusalem. pleased- dokeo- They did not hear a voice. They followed what seemed good in their spirits. **[Acts 15:25- seemed good,28- seemed good]**
 - 2. **[Acts 15:33-34]**- *It seemed good* to Silas to stay at Antioch. Seemed good- dokeo- Silas did not hear a voice from God or get a

prophecy to stay in Antioch. It just seemed good to stay so he followed his seer.

3. When Barnabas and Paul split Silas was right there at the right time to go on the journey with Paul. When we follow the inward witness we will be at the right place at the right time!

I. How Paul and Silas were led on their journey

1. [Acts 16:6]- They were forbidden by the Spirit to preach in Asia

2. [Acts 16:7]- The Spirit did not permit them to go into Bithynia

3. It does not say they had a voice, dream, or vision. They knew inside themselves by the inward witness that the Spirit was saying no. They had a check inside. They could have over rode this internal no and missed the opportunity in Philippi.

4. God's no's are for a purpose. God's no's does not always mean a permanent no.

a. Asia- was not yet- He would go there on his 3rd missionary journey. The time was not ripe yet.

b. Bithynia- this was for another to go to. This was Peter's ground. 1 and 2 Peter was addressed to these people.

5. They went forward as far as they could to Troas and received a vision in the night to come over into Macedonia.

J. Outside of the Word of God the number one way he leads his children is by the inward witness

1. [Rom. 9:1]- conscience *bearing witness* in the Holy Spirit

2. [Rom. 8:16]- The Spirit *bears witness* with our spirit

3. [1 John 5:10]- We have a *witness* inside ourselves

III. City of Philippi

A. The first main city that Paul, Silas, and Timothy (they picked up Timothy from their visit to Galatia) was the city of Philippi.

B. Philippi was originally named Crenides, which means fountains- the city had abundant water supply.

C. In 358 B.C. Alexander the Great father, Philip, took control of the city and renamed it after himself.

D. 200 years later the Romans took control of the city from the Greeks. The city was a base of operations for Alexander the Great's military exploits.

E. Romans stopped mining in the area so the town declined in importance until Brutus and Cassius assassinated Julius Caesar and

fled. Octavius and Anthony caught these two and defeated them near Philippi.

F. In recognition and to commemorate this Philippi was made a Roman colony and retired military moved there.

G. Being a Roman colony meant you were a little Rome. You could own private land and be free from some taxes.

H. The city of Rome prided themselves in the honor of being a Roman colony and protected their status carefully. Any tumult or insult to Rome could have their status revoked.

IV. The Founding of the Church

A. [Acts 16:9-40]

B. Paul receives a vision in the night- 4 Types of Visions

1. **Trance-** [Acts 11:5, Acts 22:17] -Peter fell into a trance- displacement of mind. You lose awareness where you are- Lose your faculties

2. **Spiritual vision-** [Acts 9:12] Your eyes are closed and see a vision but you keep your faculties

3. **Open vision-** [Acts 12:7] Your eyes are open and you see into the spirit realm.

4. **Vision in a dream-** [Acts 16:9]

C. They go to Macedonia and land at the port city of Neopolis. They go on from there to Philippi

D. The city had no synagogue- 10 Jewish men were required to start a synagogue. Sometimes a city would not allow a synagogue to be built. If a city did not have enough Jewish men or they were not allowed to build they met at a nearby river for prayer. This is where Paul meets his first converts.

E. The first convert was Lydia, from Thyatira, known for dyes.

F. All went well until a woman possessed followed Paul- proclaiming they were the servants of God showing us a way of salvation. Not THE way of salvation. Satan is fine with us preaching a way of salvation, as long as there are many ways also proclaimed.

G. Paul got into trouble when he cast the spirit out of this woman. The money her handlers made through her dried up and they instigated a revolt against Paul and had him thrown into prison.

H. Paul was beaten with rods- Roman lectors carried a bundle of rods made of elm or popular wood along with an ax. The lectors used one or the other- one for execution and the other for discipline.

I. They were put in the inner prison- There was no light or fresh air.

J. They were put in stocks- xulon- the timber- A long wooden beam that placed your feet far apart which made you lay down. This would have been painful with their stripes!

K. At midnight they sang to God. At the darkest they sang. At this point you might think you have missed God by coming to Macedonia- that your vision was pizza that did not sit well. Just because outward circumstances are favorable does not mean you're not in the will of God.

L. They sang and God tapped his foot and the earth quaked! Their bonds fell off. When we praise in the midst of our problems what Satan has sent to bind us will fall off of us! Notice their bonds and the bonds of the other prisoners came off as well. Our deliverance will be the deliverance for others as well.

M. Paul made the magistrates come themselves to get them out. They were very afraid when they found out that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens. They did not want their status endangered by abusing Roman citizens.

N. Paul and Silas leave Philippi but they leave Timothy with them to establish them.

O. Paul received support from the Philippians several times during his ministry. [**Phil. 4:16**] While he was in Corinth he had to work. He was money pressured and could only preach on the Sabbath. After he received support from Macedonia he was pressed by the Word and went full time preaching.

P. Paul when this letter was written was in prison in Rome. Paul wrote this letter to thank them for their offering and to give them peace of mind concerning Ephaphroditus who was their messenger with their support, who had gotten gravely ill. He wanted them to know he was fine and Paul was fine. He also wanted to address a growing problem of disunity in the church. We will see this as we go through the book.