

Acts of the Apostles 16:1-15 __ Lesson 38

Paul Abounds

1. Acts 16:1-3 – Timotheus

- a. He is called “beloved son”, “dearly beloved”, “faithful in the Lord”, “man of God”, “workfellow” (Ro 16:21), “minister of God” (1Thess 3:2), “fellowlabourer” –Phi 2:20
- b. Paul was both Jew and Gentile (Roman), and so was Timothy (Jew and Greek)
- a. His mother a Jewess, but father a Greek – raised by Mom - 2Tim 1:5, 3:15
- c. 16:2 - Timothy was chosen by prophecy for his ministry – 1Ti 1:18, 4:14; 2Ti 1:6
- d. He travels with Paul helping him write at least six inspired epistles & receiving two
- e. *“would Paul have to go forth w/ him”* in affliction, persecution, tears, responsibility

2. Timothy’s Circumcision

- a. God’s command extended through Paul to Tim by laying on of hands – 1Co 16:10
- b. Part of his initiation to Paul’s ministry was his circumcision, but Gal 5:6,11, 6:15
- c. Paul circumcised Timothy because of the unbelieving Jews – Acts 16:3
- d. Timothy’s ministry to Jews required he be a Jew to the Jews – 1 Cor 9:19-22
- e. Titus was not compelled to be circumcised, and Paul defended him – Gal 2:3

3. Acts 16:4-5 – Paul Abounds

- a. Acts 16 shows what Paul does for the sake of the Jews – 1Co 9:19-22
- b. *“the decrees”* - The epistle in Acts 15; remember, Gentiles were confirmed
- c. *“ordained of the apostles”* of the circumcision (15:2) about uncircumcision (15:23)
- d. *“churches established in the faith”* ... not in the law, and this by Paul and Silas
- e. *“increased in number daily”* – Not seen this since Acts 2:47, never among Gentiles

4. Acts 16:6-12 – The Macedonian Vision

- a. Paul forbidden to go to Asia and Bithynia. Cf. 2Ti 1:15, 1Pet 1:1, Rev 1:11, Ac 19:1
- b. The vision → A Macedonian man prays “Come over... and help us”
- c. 16:10 – Note the change from “they” to “we”. Luke joins Paul until Acts 17:1 & 20:5
- d. Luke: trusted helper of Paul, physician, and gospel writer -Co 4:14, 2Ti 4:11, Phm 24
- e. Paul is finding fellow workers for his masterbuilding work – 1 Cor 3:10, Acts 15:40

5. Acts 16:13-15 – Lydia and Her House Baptized

- a. 16:13 - Paul went out of the pagan city on the Sabbath to meet Jewish women
 - i. The river would have been used for Jewish ritual baptisms w/o a synagogue
- b. 16:14 - Lydia already “worshipped God” whose heart was opened after she heard
 - i. *“attended unto the things... spoken of Paul”* not Moses or Peter?
- c. Why did Paul baptize? ...Why did he circumcise, why did he attend synagogues, and go out on the Sabbath? A: For the Jews’ sake, not Christ. 1 Cor 9:20
- d. The religious tradition of water baptism goes back to the old Jewish tradition
- e. Paul did not baptize for the remission of sins → Acts 13:38-39, 1 Cor 1:17-18

