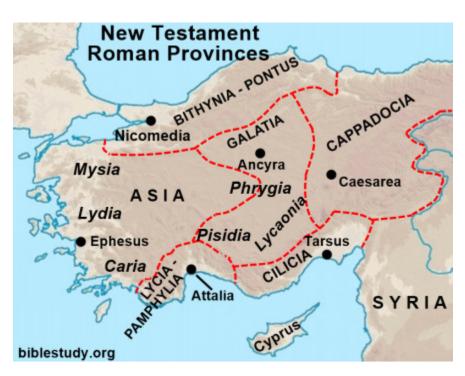
# "Jerusalem Meets Rome and Finds Babylon: A Study in Church Purity" Fall 2022-Spring 2023

# December 7, 2022

# Establishing Community with Little Background – Acts 16

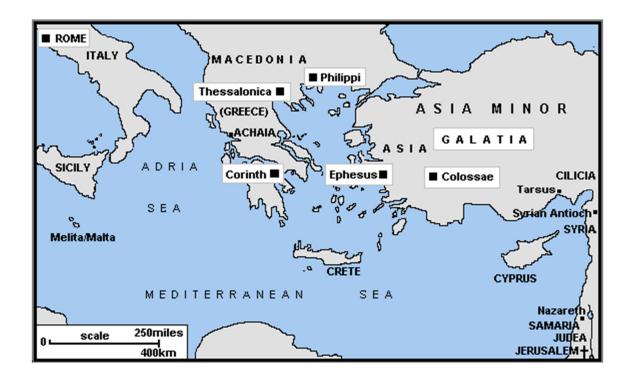
#### I. The Players

- 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
      - i. possessed with a spirit of divination met us
      - ii. who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling
    - b. The Problem
      - i. 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.