

**Paul's Second Missionary  
Journey - Part 3  
Thessalonica**

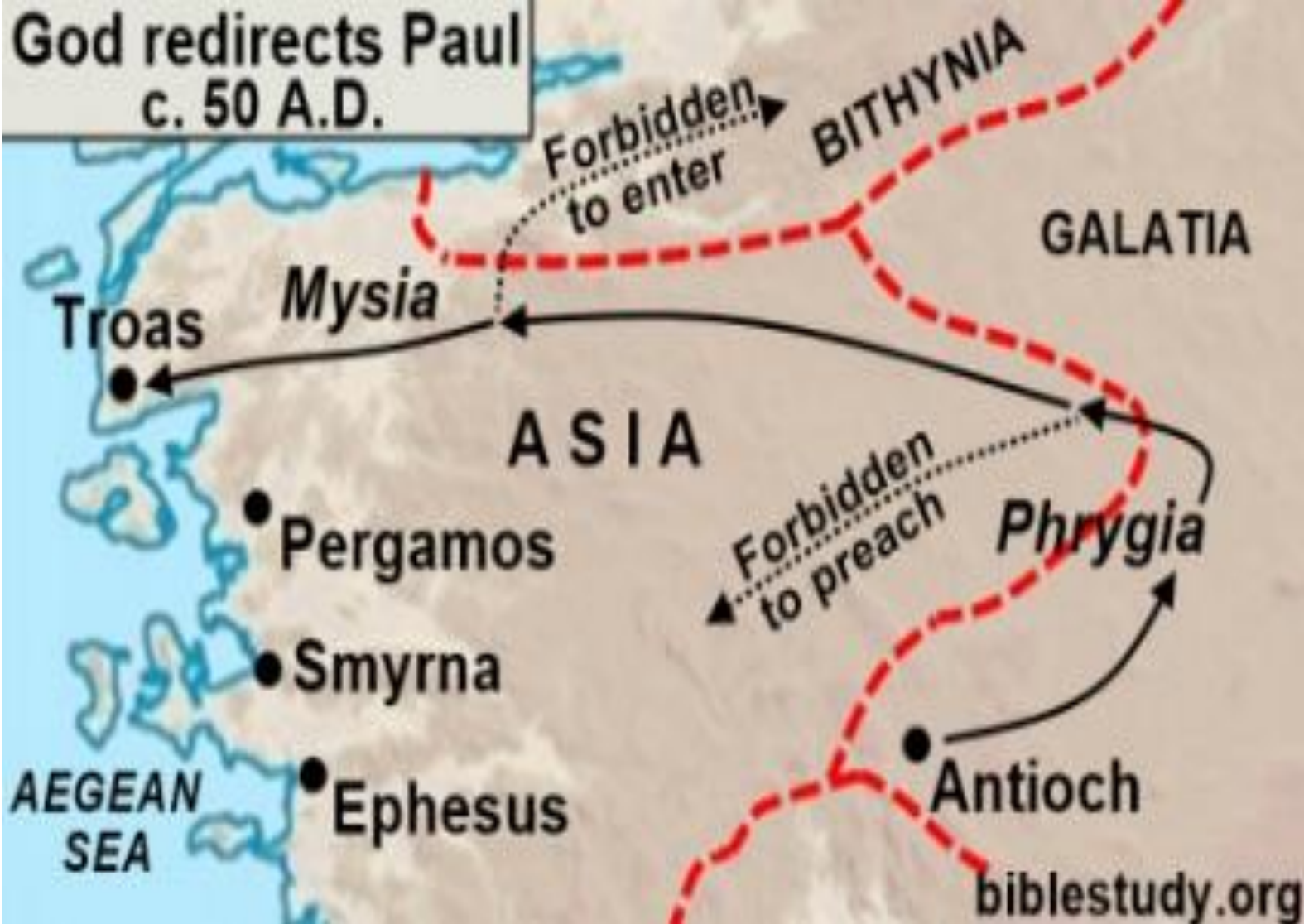
**Acts 17:1-10**

# Introduction

- In our last two messages, we learned that Paul and Barnabas decided to go separate ways. Barnabas and his cousin, John Mark go to Cyprus and Paul and Silas revisit the churches that were established on the first missionary trip.

- Timothy joins Paul and Silas at Lystra and journeys with them.
- Paul and Silas were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach in Asia, and forbidden to go into Bithynia. So they traveled toward the coast to Troas.
- At Troas Paul had vision wherein a man urged him to go to Macedonia to help them.

God redirects Paul  
c. 50 A.D.



- We learned from Acts 16:10 that Luke, the author of the Book of Acts, joined Paul and the missionary team at Troas.
- They sailed from Troas to Samothrace and then to Neapolis.
- They began their missionary activity at Philippi, a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.

# Paul's Second Missionary Journey

*Macedonia*

Philippi  
Neapolis

Samothrace

Troas

*Bithynia*

*Mysia*

NO!

*Galatia*

NO!

*Phrygia*

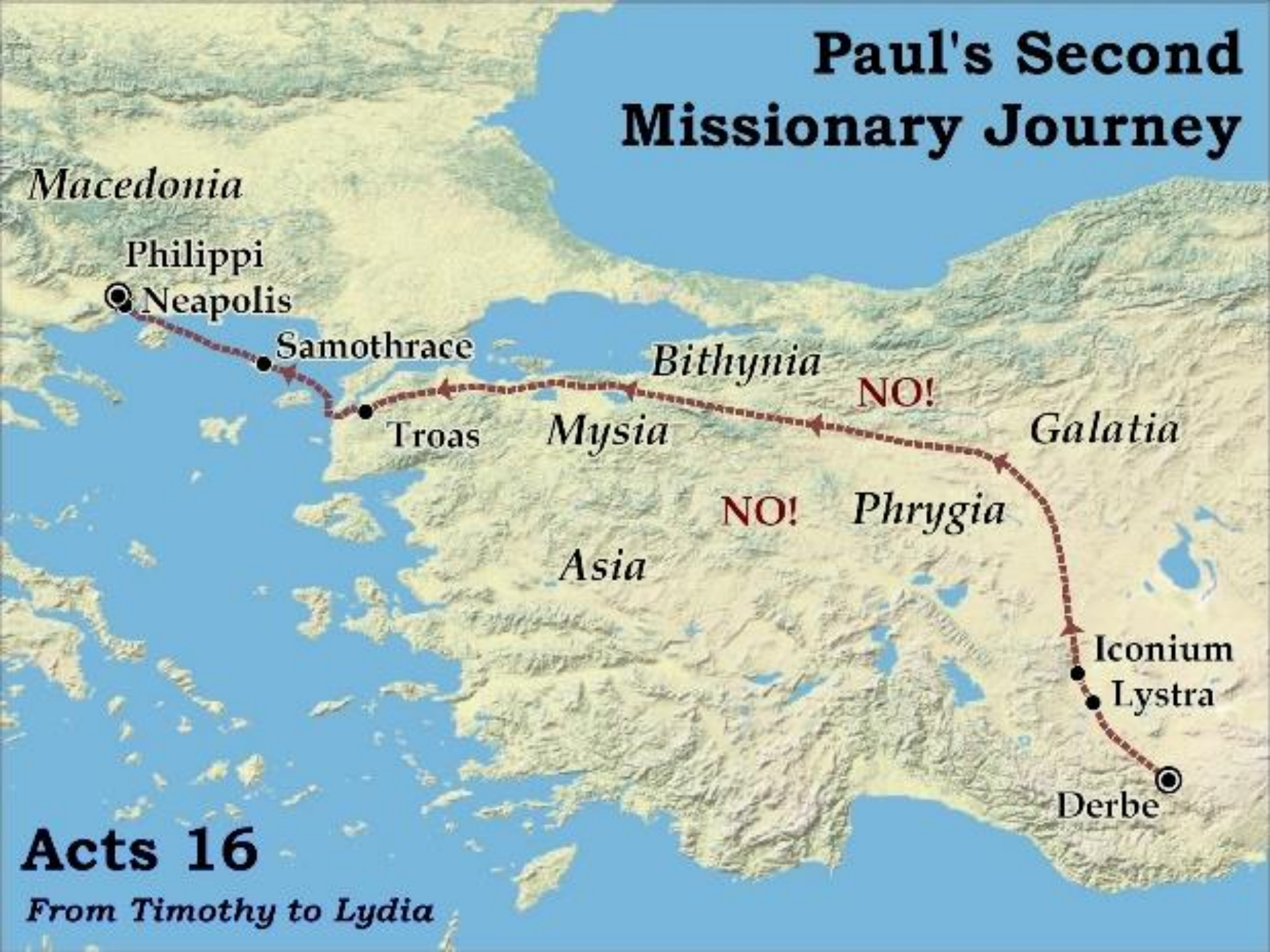
*Asia*

Iconium  
Lystra

Derbe

## Acts 16

*From Timothy to Lydia*



- After preaching and establishing a church at Philippi, Paul and his team traveled on the famous Egnatian Way 100 miles from Philippi to Thessalonica.
- Thessalonica was the capital of Macedonia, a center for business, rivaled only by Corinth.





- Thessalonica was located on several important trade routes, and it boasted an excellent harbor.
- The city was predominantly Greek, even though it was controlled by Rome.
- Thessalonica was a “free city,” which meant that it had an elected citizens’ assembly, it could mint its own coins,

- and it had no Roman garrison within its walls.
- Paul labored at his tentmaking trade (Acts 18:3; 1 Thes. 2:9; 2 Thes. 3:7–10), but on the Sabbath ministered in the Jewish synagogue where he knew he would find both devout Jews and Gentiles, “God-seekers” and proselytes.



LAKE CERCINITIS

LAKE PRAS

Amphipolis

Thessalonica

Apollonia

LAKE BOLBE



# I. Paul and his team of missionaries preach Jesus at Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-3).

<sup>ESV</sup> **Acts 17:1** Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And Paul went in, as was his

custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,  
<sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ [the Messiah] to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."

# Explanation

- Paul gives the Jews at Thessalonica an opportunity to hear the truth about Jesus. (17:3)
- **“three Sabbath days”** – it seems the Jewish synagogue leaders stopped allowing Paul to speak during the synagogue service. (17:2)

## II. Paul organizes the followers of Jesus into a church. (Acts 17:4)

<sup>4</sup> And some of them [Jews] were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.

**From the first letter to the Thessalonians, lets listen to what Paul said about his converts and the truths that he taught them.**

**•Characteristics of their conversion:**

**1 Thes. 1:5-6, 9; 2 Thes. 2:13**

**•The Gospel message was powerful.**



- **They believed & obeyed the truth.**
- **They were joyful in spite of persecution.**

- **Paul taught them about Jesus' promise to return and judge the unbelieving: 1 Thes. 1:10; 2:19-20; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:1-6**
  - **Their hope & joy was in Christ's triumphal return from heaven.**
  - **Paul's hope & joy was their faithful perseverance.**
  - **The dead in Christ will rise first.**

- **Paul taught them to have faith in Jesus and courage in the face of opposition: 1 Thes. 2:2,4**
  - **Paul was their example of faithfulness in suffering.**

- **Paul's method of training the new converts: 1 Thes. 2:7-8, 11**
  - **Paul was gentle and loving.**
- **Paul and his team's motives and integrity: 1 Thes. 2:3, 5-6, 9 10**
  - **The team members were holy, just, blameless, and hard working.**

- **Paul exhorted them to walk worthy of God in holy lifestyle: 1 Thes. 2:12; 4:1-12; 5:5-11**
  - **They were admonished to avoid immorality and be honest, blameless, and hard working.**

### **III. The unbelieving Jewish leaders organized a mob to persecute the believing Christians. (Acts 17:5-9)**

<sup>5</sup> But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason,

seeking to bring them out to the crowd. <sup>6</sup>  
And when they could not find them, they  
dragged Jason and some of the  
brothers before the city authorities,  
shouting, "These men who have turned  
the world upside down have come here  
also, <sup>7</sup> and Jason has received them,  
and they are all acting against the  
decrees of Caesar, saying that there is

another king, Jesus." <sup>8</sup> And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. <sup>9</sup> And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go. <sup>10</sup> The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.





**M A C E D O N I A**

**Philippi**

**Thessalonica**

**Berea**

**Troas**

**AEGEAN  
SEA**

**ASIA**

**A C H A I A**

**Corinth**

**PELOPONNESE**

**Athens**

**Ephesus**

- **Paul reveals his concern for the Thessalonians because of the severe persecution: 1 Thes. 3:1-9**
  - Timothy's good report of their faithfulness to Jesus in spite of persecution greatly encouraged Paul.

- **During and after the persecution, the new converts stayed true to their profession of faith in Jesus: 1 Thes. 1:3-4; 2:14-16**
  - Their faith in Jesus enabled them to be faithful, loving, and patiently hopeful in the midst of suffering.

- **Their steadfast faith was a testimony to people who lived in surrounding areas: 1 Thes. 1: 7-8**
  - Their faith was a wonderful example of how to live the Christian life.
- **Paul longed to be able to return and personally encourage them: 1 Thes 2:17-18**

- **Paul had much more truth he wanted to teach them: 1 Thes. 3:10-12**
- **Paul closes his letter with practical truths for Christian living: 1 Thes. 5:12-24**

- **Paul requests prayer for him and his team: 1 Thes. 5:25-28**
- From Thessalonica Paul and his missionary team traveled to Berea.



# Conclusion

- Paul and his team showed courage and boldness in preaching the gospel.
- The prospect of persecution did not deter him from carrying out his ministry.
- Despite his mistreatment at the hands of his fellow Jews, Paul never



- became bitter or lost his concern for their spiritual well-being.
- The Thessalonian believers were taught to share their faith with the unsaved around them.

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