

The Book of Acts

Chapter 16

Growth of the New Testament Church

Quiz

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- Why did the Antioch believers send Paul & Silas to Jerusalem?
 - To resolve a dispute over circumcision of Gentiles
- Who was the first to testify at the Jerusalem Counsel?
 - Peter
- Who testified second at the Jerusalem Counsel?
 - Barnabas and Paul
- Who was the pastor who led the meeting?
 - James

Quiz

3

- What was Pastor James' counsel?
 - Trouble them not. Just have them abstain from four idolatrous practices.
- Name the four idolatrous practices Pastor James listed.
 - 1) idols, 2) fornication, 3) eating strangled meat, 4) eating blood
- What 2 men accompanied Paul & Barnabas back to Antioch?
 - Judas and Silas
- What 2 teams went on the second missionary trip?
 - Paul & Silas and Barnabas & John Mark

Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Timothy joined Paul and Silas, v.1-3

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- Paul & Silas visited Derbe and Lystra
- Young man Timothy live in Lystra
 - His mother was a believing Jewess
 - His father was an unbelieving Greek
 - He had a good report among the Christians
- Paul asked Timothy to join their team, v.3
 - Paul circumcised Timothy so he would not hinder their work since he was half Gentile.

The missionaries ministered, v.4-7

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- They delivered the decrees of the Jerusalem Counsel, v.4
- They built up the local churches, v.5
 - They were established (made solid) in the faith
 - They increased in number **daily**.
- They preached in Phrygia and Galatia, v.6
- The Spirit forbid them to go to Asia, v.6
- The Spirit forbid them to go to Bithynia, v.7
 - Why? God had another plan for them at that time.

Paul's Second Missionary Journey



The vision at Troas, v.8-11

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- God guided Paul by a night vision, v.9
 - A man of Macedonia begged him to come and help them.
 - Does God use visions today? Some claim He does. It is unlikely.
 - We have the completed Word of God for direction.
 - IF God used a vision today, it could not contradict the Bible in ANY way.
 - Most present day “visions” contradict the Bible in MANY ways.
- They immediately headed for Macedonia to preach, v.10
- They travelled by ship, v.10

Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Lydia comes to Christ, v.12-15

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- On the Sabbath they went to the riverside where other Jews gathered to pray, v.13
- They obviously preached because Lydia **heard them**, v.14
 - The Lord opened Lydia's heart.
 - She attended (applied) what they preached and was saved.
 - She then was baptised as a testimony of her salvation.
 - Her household was also baptised. This does **NOT** support infant baptism. She was baptised after she believed. The same would be true of them. Babies cannot believe. She may not have had any children. No husband is mentioned. Her household may have been servants.

A divining girl was saved, v.16-18

11

- This girl was possessed with demons and she foretold the future. The devil, though limited, knows things we do not.
- Note what the girl cried out, v.17
 - This was true.
 - However, having a soothsayer advertise for them was not helping their Gospel message.
- Paul, in the name of Jesus Christ, cast the evil spirit out of the girl, v.18

Paul and Silas are arrested, v.19-24

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- The girl's masters, seeing their income was gone, caught Paul and Silas and dragged them to the rulers in the marketplace.
- They falsely accused the missionaries, v.20-21
- The multitude rose up against the missionaries, probably yelling in anger.
- The magistrates had them beaten (with rods) leaving many stripes (wounds) and cast them into prison, v.22-23
- The jailor threw them in the inner cell and locked their feet in stocks, v.24

Midnight miracles take place, v.25-34

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- Prisoners heard Paul and Silas pray and sing, v.25
- God shook open the prison with a great earthquake, v.26
- Paul stopped the fearful jailor from suicide, v.27-28
- The convicted jailor asked how to be saved, v.29-30
- That night he heard the Gospel clearly, was saved, baptised, tended their sores, and fed them, v.31-34
 - The jailor's whole house heard the gospel, v.32. All of them trusted Christ as were also baptised. No babies are mentioned, only those who heard the Word. Only believers were baptised.

Paul & Silas released from prison, v35-40

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- The earthquake must have frightened the magistrates, v.35
- Paul announced that they were Romans, v.36-37
- The fact that they had beaten two Romans without trial frightened them, v.38. Such was illegal.
- The magistrates personally brought them out and asked them to depart the city, v.39
- Paul and Silas comforted (encourage, exhort, warn, instruct) the brethren at Lydia's house and left, v.40

There is no mention of *infant baptism* found anywhere in the Bible. Bible baptism was reserved for believers only. Babies cannot possibly believe. Parents cannot believe for them.

Infant baptism is one of the errors that came into existence during the third century. Armitage claims that no record exists of any infant baptisms having taken place prior to the year 250. ^{Armitage pdf, p. 224} In 252 there was a council held in Carthage where sixty-six pastors met with Cyprian, the pastor of the erring church in Carthage. It was during this council that they passed several new "church" laws. One of these laws permitted the baptism of babies who were eight days old in order to cleanse them from their sin. This was the first time recorded in history that churches permitted infant baptism. ^{Ibid, p. 233, Cramp, p. 23}

We must note that infant baptism did not become the norm until the fifth century. ^{Armitage pdf p. 234} Though the baptism of babies is unscriptural, those who practised it always baptized by immersion. Immersion was the only acceptable form of baptism among all the churches. The unbiblical practices of sprinkling and pouring did not evolve until several years later.

Infant Baptism



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Applications for us today

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- Timothy had a good report among the brethren.
 - Having a good report ought to be the desire and goal of every one of us.
 - Spend time daily in the Bible and prayer and apply it to your life.
- The Holy Spirit did not allow Paul to preach in some places.
 - It is important that we stay close to the Lord and daily see His will for our lives.
 - A good thing is not always God's will.
- God opened Lydia's heart.
 - Only God can open the hard hearts of people today.
 - We must pray that God will do so.
- God allowed Paul & Silas to suffer.
 - The Christian life is not always easy. We must not blame God when unbelievers do not like our stand for God.
- Prison had a purpose for Paul & Silas.
 - Their testimony for Christ led to the jailor's salvation. May yours do the same.