

Christianity and Culture

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3 Second Missionary Journey

USING THE ATLAS

🌐 Read the “Asia Minor” section of the “Second Missionary Journey” on pages 225 and 226. Then answer the questions.

1. In which town did Timothy join Paul’s evangelistic party? _____
2. What do scholars suggest Paul and Silas did as they traveled throughout Phrygia?

3. Where did Luke join Paul’s group? _____

Read Your Bible

Read – Acts 15:30—16:10

Write your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passage. _____

Answer the questions.

4. Whom did Paul choose to go with him on this second missionary journey? _____
5. What did Paul deliver to the churches as the missionaries traveled from place to place?

Vocabulary Word



precedent (pre’ sə dənt): an action or decision that serves as an example or a standard in later, similar situations

ANALYZE THE BIBLE READING

The decision by the Jerusalem Conference brought joy and stability to the Gentile church. Judas and Silas, who were prophets, stayed on at Antioch to strengthen the believers there. After a while, Paul suggested to Barnabas that they revisit cities where they had preached. They would see how the believers were doing. Barnabas wanted John Mark to join them, but Paul did not

think it would be wise to include Mark because he had not finished the first journey. He decided to take Silas with him, and he and Barnabas made separate journeys.

Paul arrived at Lystra in Asia Minor. There he met Timothy, a young man who became like a son to him. In fact, Paul called Timothy “my son in the faith.” Timothy was part Jewish and part Gentile.

Lesson 3

Paul wanted the young man to accompany him on his journey. Though Paul was a firm supporter of Gentile freedom from Judaism, he nevertheless asked Timothy to be circumcised. Paul probably believed that Timothy's presence would cause less controversy if he were circumcised.

Again, Paul set an important **precedent**. It is wrong to force Christians to practice something the Gospel does not require as though it were essential to salvation. However, we will need to respect and even adapt to local customs—as long as they are beneficial and not sinful—when we are trying to bring others to Jesus. Scriptural principles are the standard for judging whether local customs are sinful. In 1 Corinthians 9:22, Paul writes, “I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some,” meaning that he adapted to local customs as he reached out to the lost.

As Paul's group journeyed from city to city, they told the churches about the decision of the

Jerusalem Conference. They gave fresh encouragement, and their work brought greater stability to the churches and more conversions among the Gentiles. Paul wanted to go deeper into Asia to preach, but the Holy Spirit directed him to Macedonia instead. Macedonia is the northern area of Greece, which is part of Europe. The Gospel first reached Europe in Greece.

Paul grappled with the factors that are part of any missionary effort. Decisions had to be made about applying the Gospel in non-Jewish settings. The missionaries had to recognize and avoid practices that might hinder others from receiving the Gospel. They needed to require converted people to repent of and put away sinful cultural practices. The Holy Spirit's guidance was the key to carrying out missionary efforts. The Spirit knew where and how to build the church. Following His will brought God's blessing, and the church prospered.

UNDERSTANDING THE LESSON

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

6. The decision from the Jerusalem Conference ____ .
 - A. brought uncertainty about the future
 - B. brought stability to the church
 - C. made Judas and Silas famous
 - D. none of the above
7. Paul had Timothy circumcised ____ .
 - A. because Timothy was not a believer
 - B. to satisfy the Gentiles
 - C. so the Jews would better accept Timothy
 - D. none of the above

Circle T if the statement is true or F if it is false. Correct any false statements.

-  8. **T F** The church *was unhappy* with the decision of the Jerusalem Conference.
9. **T F** Paul and Barnabas *together* went on another missionary journey.
-  10. **T F** Timothy's mother was a *Greek* and his father a *Jew*.
11. **T F** The Holy Spirit wanted Paul to preach in *Macedonia*.

Answer the questions.

12. How did Paul set an example of adapting to local culture?

13. Why is Holy Spirit guidance key to missionary work?

THE BIBLE FOR TODAY

Answer the questions.

14. What standard should we use to decide whether a local custom is right or wrong?

15. When cultural practices are sinful or lead to sin, what must happen to these practices when people are converted?

Circle the letters of the answers.

16. When taking the Gospel to different areas, we often encounter cultures different from our own. Circle the letters of the following cultural practices you could respect and adapt to without sinning against Christ.
- A. In Ethiopia, hostesses traditionally prepare coffee for their guests in a little ceremony—roasting the beans, grinding them, and brewing very strong coffee served in small cups.
 - B. In Haiti, people sometimes visit a voodoo priest to be healed of sicknesses or gain spiritual protection.
 - C. In Eastern Europe, people do not remain sitting during prayer. They always kneel or stand to show reverence.
 - D. In Puerto Rico, visitors do not knock on the door; instead they call out a greeting from the gate.
 - E. In some African countries, it is common for a man to have more than one wife.

BIBLE MEMORY

Complete the verse.

17. "But _____ believe _____ through the _____ of the _____ Jesus
_____ we _____ be saved, _____ as _____." _____ 15: _____

REVIEW

Answer the questions.

18. What do we call the people who taught that Gentiles needed to keep the Law of Moses?

Lesson 3

19. The decision of the Jerusalem Conference.

A. What freedom did the Jerusalem Conference give the Gentiles?

B. Why did they place some restrictions on the Gentiles?

20. How did the elders document their decision? _____

21. The question: Do the Gentiles in the church need to keep the Mosaic Law?

A. Who gathered to answer this question? _____

B. What was their concern as they tried to make a decision?

C. Give three things on which their conclusion was based.

22. Who gave key testimony about the Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit? _____

23. What does Galatians 6:15 say is more important than following the Law of Moses?

Circle the letter of the answer.

24. The requirement to abstain from fornication and food offered to idols was for ____ .

A. the Jews

B. the Gentiles

C. both Jews and Gentiles

Complete the sentences.

25. When James gave the conclusion, he based his judgment primarily on the _____ .

26. Church leaders of any time can use the Jerusalem Conference as a good example of

Circle T if the statement is true or F if it is false.

27. **T** **F** It was wrong for the Jews to be concerned about how the Christian Gentiles should live.

4

Open Hearts at Philippi

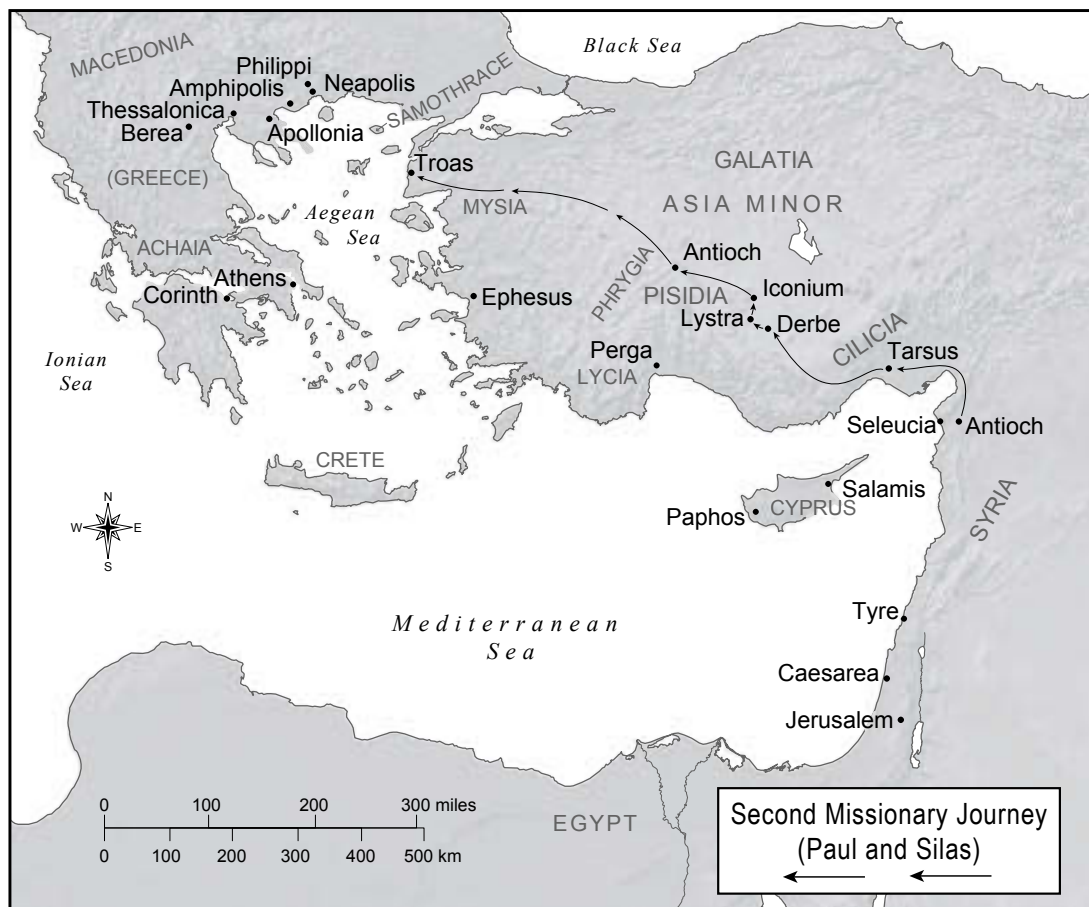
USING THE ATLAS

🌐 Read the “Europe” section of the “Second Missionary Journey” beginning on page 226 and reading to the bottom of 227. Then complete the exercises.

1. Paul’s two most common modes of travel were by boat or on foot. How did Paul travel from Neapolis to Philippi? _____
2. When Paul left Philippi, he and his friends traveled on the Egnatian Way to Thessalonica. The Egnatian Way was a _____ and _____ highway.

Complete the map exercise.

3. Draw arrows to show Paul’s route from Troas to Thessalonica.



Read – Acts 16:11-40

Write your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passage. _____

Answer the questions.

4. Acts 16 describes Philippi as a chief city of that part of Macedonia and a _____ .
5. When Paul and Silas were cast into prison at Philippi, the jailer put them into the _____ prison and _____ in the stocks.
6. Name two kind deeds the jailer did for Paul and Silas after he heard the word of the Lord.
 - A. _____
 - B. _____

ANALYZE THE BIBLE READING

As Paul's second missionary journey continued, the Holy Spirit guided him to preach in Macedonia. So his party traveled to Philippi, the chief city of eastern Macedonia. Again Paul sought out the Jews, who customarily gathered along the river bank on the Sabbath since they did not have a synagogue. As Paul preached there, God opened the heart of a businesswoman named Lydia. She and her whole house believed and were baptized. Lydia then graciously gave lodging to Paul and his team.

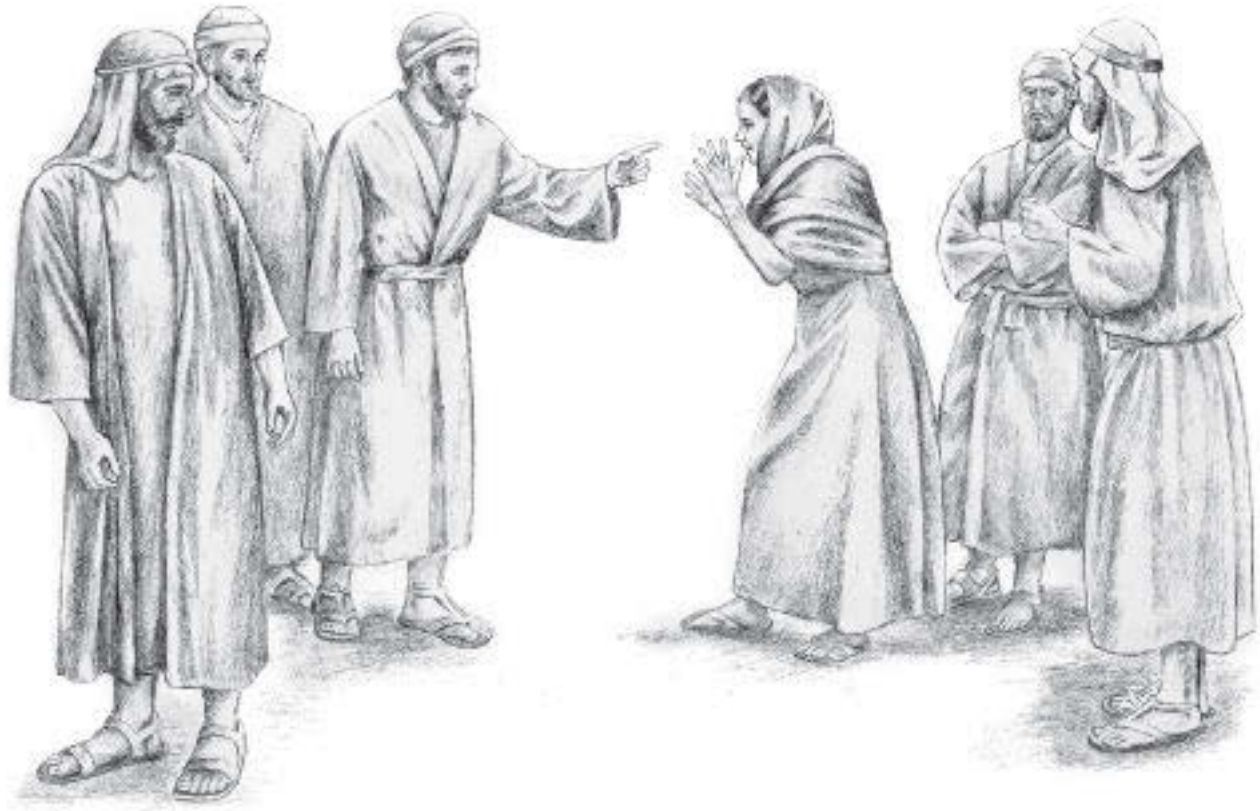
God knows whose heart is ready for the Gospel. John 6:44 says that no one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws him. Kingdom builders need to know this. It is our responsibility as Christians to preach Christ. As we do, we need to pray that God's grace would draw souls to Jesus. Unless God does a mighty work with His Holy Spirit, people hear the Gospel but they do not receive it and are not converted. Many Jews and Gentiles heard Paul's preaching in Philippi, but most chose not to accept the message.

As the brethren continued to work in Philippi, a demon-controlled girl harassed them with demonic utterances. These utterances were from

an evil spirit, which grieved Paul. Finally, using Jesus' name, the apostle commanded the demon to come out of the girl. The girl was miraculously freed from demon control, but this got Paul and Silas into trouble. The girl's masters had made a lot of money by using this girl as a fortune-teller. These evil men craved money so much that they were willing to exploit this poor girl. Now that she was free from the demon, she had no strange power; their source of money was gone.

The men grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them to the marketplace, where the city's rulers held court. There they accused them of disorderly behavior and teaching strange doctrines. The rulers, without due process of law, tore off the apostles' clothes and had them severely beaten. Then they cast them into prison, ordering the jailer to secure them well.

The jailer threw Paul and Silas into the most secure part of the prison. Paul and Silas spent the night in tremendous discomfort. Their feet were clamped in rough stocks. Their backs had been torn open by their beating. Physically, they were miserable, and it is no surprise that they could not sleep. But Paul and Silas drew on God's grace by



praying and singing praises to God. There is no better response to dire circumstances than to pray and sing.

God was honored, the missionaries were encouraged, and other prisoners in the jail received an amazing testimony of grace. Then God sent a great earthquake. The doors of the prison swung open and everyone's shackles fell off. The jailer saw the doors opened and, thinking that all the prisoners had escaped, drew his sword to kill himself. Paul cried out to him, "We

are all here; do yourself no harm."

The jailer was overwhelmed by God's convicting Spirit. He saw that God was working through Paul and Silas. Calling for a light, he rushed into the cell and fell at the apostles' feet. "What must I do to be saved?" he asked. Paul and Silas shared the Gospel with him and his household. That night, the jailer and his whole household were converted to Jesus Christ and baptized in His name. God had used the faithful testimony of patient suffering to bring more souls into His kingdom.

UNDERSTANDING THE LESSON

Circle T if the statement is true or F if it is false. Correct any false statements.

7. **T** **F** God opened *Lydia's* heart to the Gospel and she was converted.
8. **T** **F** *If God does not convict* people of their need, they will shrug off the Gospel message.
9. **T** **F** The girl was able to tell people their fortunes because of *her superior intelligence*.
10. **T** **F** *Paul and Silas were the only prisoners left* in the prison after the earthquake.

Answer the question.

11. Why were the masters of the demon-possessed girl upset with the apostles when Paul cast out the demon? _____

Circle the letter of the answer.

12. Paul and Silas sang at midnight ____ .
A. to keep everyone awake C. to make the jailer pity them
B. to encourage themselves in the Lord D. all of the above
13. Which three of the following were good results of Paul and Silas's singing in prison?
A. They were encouraged in the Lord.
B. The other prisoners heard their testimony.
C. The jailer knew whom to ask about the way to salvation.
D. No one was sleeping when the earthquake struck.
E. The jailer had pity on Paul and Silas.

Check the blanks that are true. You may need to look in today's Scripture reading for some answers.

14. The earthquake's effects ____ .
A. _____ were only slight
B. _____ unshackled the prisoners
C. _____ helped bring conviction to the jailer
D. _____ happened late at night
E. _____ were predicted by Paul
15. The demon-possessed girl ____ .
A. _____ harassed the missionaries
B. _____ brought a lot of gain to her masters
C. _____ was baptized immediately
D. _____ made money by healing people
E. _____ used demonic power to know the future
F. _____ was set free from a demon through Jesus' name

THE BIBLE FOR TODAY

Answer the question.

- △ 16. Why do you think the jailer asked Paul and Silas what he needed to do to be saved? Why did he not ask one of the other prisoners?

Circle the letter of the answer.

17. When we present the Gospel to lost souls, it is important to pray that God would ____ .
- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| A. give us convincing arguments | C. cast demons out of them |
| B. show them how Christians pray | D. open their hearts |

BIBLE MEMORY**Write the verse from memory.**

18. _____
- _____

REVIEW**Answer the questions.**

19. What effect did the decision of the Jerusalem Conference have on the church?
- _____
20. Who started out together on the second missionary journey? _____
21. A new helper for Paul.
- A. Who joined Paul's evangelistic group at Lystra? _____
- B. What was his family background?
- _____
22. How did Paul know he was supposed to preach in Macedonia?
- _____
23. What did Paul do to help Timothy avoid offending the Jews?
- _____

Complete the sentences.

24. We evaluate cultural practices according to _____ .
25. What is the connection between the Holy Spirit and mission work? The Spirit knows where and how to build the church, therefore _____ .

Circle the letter of the answer.

26. Which sentence tells how we should respond to cultural practices different from our own?
- A. If the practices are not sinful we can ignore them and continue our own customs, but we must call others to abandon sinful practices.
- B. We should excuse sinful cultural practices because the people do not know any better.
- C. If the practices are not sinful we may adapt to them, but we must avoid sinful practices and call others to repent of them.
- D. None of the above.