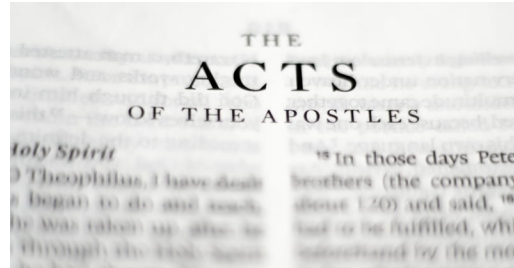


Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-teacher
Bible Study and Discussion Group
Topic: The Book of Acts



Handout #8

The Early Church Continues to Grow: Chapters 16 & 17

Key verse: *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

Outline (from The Knowledge Bible Commentary – NT Volume):

- I. The Witness in Jerusalem (1:1-6:7)
- II. The Witness in all Judea and Samaria (6:8-9:31)
- III. **The Witness to the End of the Earth (9:32-28:31)**

Introduction – Paul’s Second Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36-16:5)

- At the conclusion of chapter 15, we discover that Paul and Barnabas separate into two missionary teams over John Mark. (Note: After chapter 15, Peter, Mark, and Barnabas are no longer mentioned in the Book of Acts.)
- Paul’s new missionary team:
 - Silas – aka Sylvanus (Gk.) wise; an official representative of Jerusalem church, a Roman citizen, a prophet, known by the church at Antioch, and probably was skilled in the Greek language.
 - Timothy – from Lystra, was of mixed heritage, probably converted under Paul’s first visit to Lystra or led to the Lord by his mother and grandmother.
 - Luke also joins the team. (see first we section in Acts in 16:10)

Part I – Chapter 16

- I. The Circumcision at Lystra (Acts 16:1-5)
 - a. Paul circumcises Timothy. (v. 3b)
 - b. The reasoning for Timothy’s circumcision. (vs. 1-3a)
 - c. The team preaches the gospel with much success (vs. 4-5)

- II. The Call to Macedonia (Acts 16:6-10)
 - a. The Spirit directs Paul not to proceed north or south. (vs. 6-8)
 - b. The Spirit directs Paul to go west – vision of man pleading for help in Macedonia. (vs. 9-10)
- III. The Conversions at Philippi (Acts 16:11-34)
 - a. The conversion of Lydia. (vs. 11-13)
 - b. The deliverance of a slave girl. (vs. 16-18)
 - c. The conversion of a prison guard. (vs. 19-34)
 - d. The apostles freed (vs. 35-40)

Part II – The Journey Continues

- I. Paul and Silas in Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9)
 - a. The faithfulness of the missionaries. (vs. 1-3)
 - b. The fruits of the missionaries. (v. 4)
 - c. The foes of the missionaries. (vs. 5-9)
- II. Paul and Silas in Berea (Acts 17:10-12)
 - a. The Bereans are open to God's Word. (vs. 10-12)
 - b. The opposition to God's Word. (vs. 13-15)
- III. Paul in Athens – The Sermon on Mars Hill (Acts 17:16-34)
 - a. The need for the sermon. (vs. 16-17)
 - b. The audience for the sermon. (vs. 18-21)
 - c. The introduction to the sermon. (vs. 22-23)
 - d. The points of the sermon. (vs. 24-31)
 - e. The reaction to the sermon. (vs. 32-34)

Questions/Comments

Closing Prayer

Assignment: Read Chapter 16 for next week.