

## I. THE MISSION MEMBERS

- A. Great contention among the members of the original team
  - 1. Barnabas, the Encourager wanted to take John Mark with them
    - a. But John Mark had left them on the field and Paul didn't like that
    - b. ACTS 13:13 – “Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.”
      - i. “I reserve the right to get smarter.” (Auditor)
      - ii. Give even Paul a chance to grow more mature!
      - iii. Paul wasn't many years from throwing “heretics” in jail!
      - iv. Give him a chance!
      - v. 2 TIM. 4:11 – “Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.”
    - c. We see the dispute in the last chapter ACTS 15:36-41
  - 2. God used it for GOOD
    - a. ROM. 8:28 – “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”
    - b. Be CAREFUL with that verse!
    - c. Don't forget the last part of it! It has a restriction – “HIS” purpose
  - 3. Barnabas and John Mark go one way, Paul and Silas go another
    - a. Now there are two missionary teams out of Antioch
    - b. Maybe God must hit some of us in the head with a 2x4
    - c. It's a lot easier just to not be a knucklehead though
    - d. Do what God says
- B. Don't make too much of ACTS 15:40
  - 1. Barnabas was the lead when Antioch ordained them ACTS 13:3
  - 2. The church ALSO ordained and authorized Paul as a second missionary
  - 3. The first sending hadn't changed – a second one was simply added
- C. Directions
  - 1. Barnabas and John Mark SAILED South Southwest to the island of Cyprus
  - 2. Paul and Silas headed West Northwest towards Tarsus
    - a. They were retracing their former steps
    - b. Derbe, then Lystra
    - c. Heading generally West, around the Aegean Sea
    - d. Part of the Mediterranean Sea
      - i. There's Italy then Greece
      - ii. Between Italy and Greece is the Adriatic Sea
      - iii. On the OTHER side (East) of Greece

- iv. Is the Aegean Sea
- 3. It's important to know that Asia is NOT the Orient!
  - a. It's part of modern-day Turkey, North of Egypt
  - b. Turkey (Asia) is at 12:00 on the clock's face
  - c. Syria is at 2:00, Lebanon at 3:00, Israel at 4:00
  - d. Egypt at 6:00

## II. THE MOTHER'S MARK

- A. Timothy joins the party! (vs. 1-5)
  - 1. We know his name – Paul wrote (probably) MANY letters to him
    - a. Two of the letters were Holy Spirit inspired and part of the Bible
    - b. Timothy became Paul's trusted son in the faith
    - c. Timothy and Titus were both young men trained by Paul
      - i. Why do we have Bible Institute?
      - ii. Why is it a big deal to have boys and men called to preach?
      - iii. That is the FUTURE of this church and others
  - 2. The Bible tells us of Timothy and gives us some of his character
    - a. He is willing to be circumcised as a man
      - i. His mother was Jewish and his father a Greek (gentile)
      - ii. Perhaps only nominally religious before hearing the Gospel
      - iii. Now things are different in their family!
    - b. He didn't HAVE to be circumcised (they just ended that nonsense)
    - c. In FACT, they were carrying those same LETTERS (vs. 4)
  - 3. Why was he willing to do that?
    - a. To not be a stumbling block to the lost!
    - b. Don't confuse liberty with license
      - i. Just because we won't go to Hell as Saved People
      - ii. Doesn't mean we can live like the devil!
      - iii. How we live DOES matter!
      - iv. It matters to God, and it matters to the lost around us
    - c. Timothy had GREAT Character and a GREAT Testimony
      - i. "Well reported of..." (vs. 2)
      - ii. He was a living testimony of what God can do in a life
    - d. ROM. 14:7 – "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself."
- B. Who taught Timothy to be so strong in the faith? His Mother and Grandmother
  - 1. This is important to see: 2 TIM. 1:1-5
    - a. Paul is signing off, transferring the torch to Timothy
    - b. And reminds him of where he started, his roots, his influences
    - c. The "unfeigned faith" that is in him
      - i. Oh, for a people of unfeigned faith!
      - ii. You know what it's like to meet someone like that
      - iii. And you know what it's like to meet the opposite!

2. The faith was first in Timothy's grandmother Lois 2 TIM. 1:2
  - a. And was also in his mother Eunice
  - b. And Paul was convinced was in Timothy also
  - c. His mother may have been a Hellenistic Jewess before
  - d. But NOW she was a godly Christian lady
3. We have so many examples of the power of a mother's influence
  - a. Particularly on a son
  - b. We know the influence that Jochebed had on Moses
  - c. Can there be the Three Hebrew Children standing in the fire
  - d. Without Three Godly Mothers who taught them before?

#### C. Children

1. We could take the time to go to PROV. Chapter 31
  - a. The virtuous woman is a vital and biblical ideal!
  - b. But here are the results!
  - c. 3 JOHN 1:4 – "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."
2. Some women become "mothers," but SOME become MODELS
  - a. They exemplify godly character and conduct
  - b. They LIVE it every day so that their children can see God at work
  - c. They enforce, they explain, they enable biblical standards
3. 2 JOHN 1:4 – "I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father."
4. That was Timothy's testimony. He learned it from his mother!

### III. THE MISTAKES MADE

- A. They had gone through Galatia and were at a city named Phrygia (vs. 6)
  1. At the edge of Galatia, right at the border of Asia
  2. And the Holy Ghost FORBADE them to go in (South)
  3. So, they skirted Asia along the northern border to the city of Mysia
- B. God wouldn't let them go South, so they decided to go North (vs. 7)
  1. They wanted to head into Bithynia and Pontus, but God said NO.
  2. And they keep heading West over the Northern border of Asia to Troas
  3. THIS is where God wanted them to be!
- C. In Troas, God gave Paul the vision for Macedonia
  1. But also, IMPORTANTLY, they met Doctor Luke!
    - a. Look at the change in the narrative
    - b. Vs. 6 – "they" / vs. 7 – "them"
    - c. But vs. 10 – "WE"
  2. Luke likely was Saved under Paul's preaching here at Troas
  3. And because the Holy Spirit wouldn't let them go to Asia or Bithynia
  4. We benefit from Luke's writing in the Gospel of Luke and this book Acts

#### IV. THE MACEDONIAN MESSAGE

- A. Macedonia wasn't on Paul's list
  - 1. They were heading back through Syria and Cilicia to confirm the churches
  - 2. I don't think Paul expected to be anywhere NEAR Troas
  - 3. But he was SUBMISSIVE to God's will (Holy Spirit led – vs. 6 & 7)
    - a. Don't ignore God's leading in your life – it's dangerous
    - b. Don't let your flesh lead you out from under God's protection!
    - c. Don't let CIRCUMSTANCES lead you away God's COURSE
- B. He had a vision of a man crying out for Salvation (vs. 8 & 9)
  - 1. HELP US! It is a cry of desperation
  - 2. Please come to us. Please give us the Gospel too!
  - 3. How selfish we can be to keep Salvation to ourselves!
- C. The response to the call was IMMEDIATE (vs. 10)
  - 1. Just like rushing into a burning building, they did not stand back and wait
    - a. The Lord had ASSUREDLY called them
    - b. The Lord had given them a MESSAGE – preach the Gospel
    - c. They made a straight course (vs. 11) NO WAVERING!
  - 2. This is our responsibility
  - 3. MARK 16:15 – “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

#### V. THE MEDICAL MEANING

- A. What was it all about?
  - 1. In some ways, this passage highlights the impact of a mother
    - a. How important it is to be a godly parent
    - b. To raise children God's way
  - 2. In other ways, this passage illustrates the impact of one person Saved
    - a. Luke doesn't mention himself in the narrative
    - b. But his Salvation and addition to the team impacts us even today
  - 3. Both mother's and doctors care for us, help us, heal us physically
- B. But there's more to this passage than just that!
  - 1. There is a CRY from a hopeless lonely soul, desperate for HELP
  - 2. A man, a woman, a child in imminent danger of death and hell
  - 3. A dear person succumbing to the wounds of sin
  - 4. Can you hear them call?
    - a. We talked of mothers today
    - b. We talked of doctors today
  - 5. It is a lost person who needs the Great Physician
  - 6. This is a lost child who needs a Heavenly Father
- C. Maybe that's you today? Does your soul cry out for help?
  - 1. Only Jesus can heal the sin-sick soul
  - 2. Come to Him today!