

PHILIPPIANS: ACTS 16

We're going to dig into Philippians over the next several weeks, but today we'll consider Paul's first visit to Philippi. We'll see how the word was received in order to have a better appreciation of Paul's letter to the saints in Philippi.

Vs. 6-10 Call to Macedonia

- One of those interesting passages. Some have speculated it was Luke (interesting theory). Reality, we don't know. It was a vision.
- First time "we" will be used in Acts. It's including Luke among Paul's traveling companions.
- Who's the "we"? Well, Paul, Timothy and, as we'll see in a bit, Silas (Silvanus).
- Next time "we" returns is in Acts 20:5-6. In this passage we have Luke joining Paul in Philippi.

Vs. 11-15 Let's Go Down to the River to Pray

- Paul's 2nd "Missionary Journey". Made their way to Troas.
- Paul arrives in Philippi. Typical dating:
 - Paul is converted around 33 A.D.
 - Paul first visits Philippi around 48-50 A.D.
 - Paul writes Philippians around 60-62 A.D.
 - Way before Paul's day, it was originally a mining town. By Paul's first visit, Augustus rewarded his soldiers with near by land, and Philippi became a Roman colony.
 - Romans allowed other religions, but it was to be practiced outside the city.
 - Not many Jews lived there.
 - If that's the case, keep in mind that a lot can happen in 10 years. May not have all the original members, etc. For example: Lydia isn't mentioned in Philippians (nor is the jailer, etc). Perhaps she was still there but not mentioned? Perhaps she went back to Thyatira, etc.
- Women are the audience. Lydia was a . . . worshiper of God, but yes, she also was a seller of purple goods.
 - Thyatira was one of the seven churches addressed in Revelation 2-3.
 - Interesting: seems that no synagogue was present. So, small Jewish population. We also don't hear of any Jewish converts nor do we see any Jews accusing Paul and Silas of disrupting their lives. We also notice the charge: pushing customs against Roman law. Nothing about teaching against "the law." Paul will later appeal to his Roman rights. Makes you wonder, in Philippians 3:2-8, if this was a major problem in Philippi or is he more warning about what may come? Most take the position that he was warning of what was close at hand, but not yet prevalent in the church.
 - Opened her heart. We say, "through the word." That may be all that is meant. If there's something else, that's okay with me, but I do see a pattern.
 - Faith comes by hearing.
 - What happens when they hear truth? "And after she was baptized, and her household as well, . . ."
 - Household babies? Why conclude that? Servants? Family members old enough to . . .
 - Hear. Believe. Repent (repent of what?). Confess. **Have faith in Jesus?**

Vs. 16-24 Well, That's Annoying

- What's wrong with the endorsement? Well, consider the source.

- They were disturbing the city because of their message. Of course, that wasn't the real problem.
- Paul and Silas took a beating. They shouldn't have. They were Roman citizens. Oops.
 - A Christian can exercise his/her rights, yet . . . they still took the beating.

Vs. 25-40 Who's Really in Prison?

- Paul would end up writing to the Philippian brethren while in prison, but not before taking a tour of their own cells first!
- Everyone comfortable this morning? We don't want you to be distracted from worshipping God. I couldn't bear to think that you could be burning up or freezing. I really hope the chairs aren't too uncomfortable. We kid with each other, but yet, it is good to remember.
 - Why sing? To be seen? Why pray? Well, they didn't do it to be seen or heard, but boy were they!
 - The thing is, if anyone was in prison, it wasn't them. They were free in Christ. It's the outsiders (though they had authority inside the prison) who were shackled to Satan.
 - So, they helped someone. Someone who probably couldn't have cared less, but there you are.
 - "What must I do to be saved?" Interesting to think about the words of their songs and prayers. It made an impression. When we worship God . . . we really are saying something.
- The message was to believe. Let's not overlook that.
 - Let's not overlook what that looked like.
 - See a familiar pattern?
 - Many times our practices speak volumes. Why the urgency behind baptism?
 - He rejoiced that he had believed in God.
 - Notice vs. 40. Luke is no longer included.
 - Many believe that Luke stayed in Philippi the whole time and was a crucial part to their growth.
 - How wonderful to think about Paul's relationship with gentiles. Philippians is arguably the most tender letter written by Paul . . . to gentiles.
 - Will we serve God only when He breaks us out of jail? Listen, this wouldn't be Paul's last rodeo. As we'll see, it would be the beginning for the saints in Philippi, but when the Lord is on your side, there's always hope and something to rejoice in.