

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

Church – The Beginnings, Part 45
Paul, Silas, Timothy and their European Mission
Acts 16:1-15



Acts 16:1-15 New King James Version (NKJV)

16 Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the* son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. ³ Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek. ⁴ And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.

⁶ Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. ⁷ After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. ⁸ So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision



Paul, Silas, Timothy and their European Mission - Acts 15:1-15

1. Paul found and chose to **ADD** Timothy to his Missionary **Team**. The churches of Derbe, Lystra and Iconium (Galatia) spoke highly of Timothy. Paul circumcised Timothy because he was half Jewish – so that they didn't have issues when they shared the Gospel with Jews as well as Gentiles. It seems like the opposite of what you'd expect Paul to do, right? What about “we don't need to follow the Law of Moses, get Circumcised ... etc.... ?” ???

Timothy was Jewish, raised as a Jew by his mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois). His dad was of Greek-speaking background, a Gentile (Gaelic, more than likely). So, really, Timothy was a Jew, but uncircumcised. He was circumcised by Paul so that there would be less distractions on the Mission Field with Jewish People, etc. (ref. 2 Timothy 1:3-7) → **RELEVANT** with the Gospel

Paul, Silas, Timothy and their European Mission - Acts 15:1-15

2. Paul, Silas, along with Timothy – went throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia and the surrounding region – to all of those churches – delivering copies of The Decree (see Acts 15) to the Gentiles about how Gentiles who come to Christ do NOT need to be circumcised and follow the Law of Moses, etc. and **STRENGTHENED** the faith of those churches (EQUIPPING)
How long do you think that might take – on foot? (Acts 16:1-5)
3. The Team encountered **CLOSED DOORS** (verses 6-8). Why did God, via His Holy Spirit – forbid them to preach in the areas of Asia, Mysia and Bithynia (areas of Northwest Turkey)? I thought God wanted everyone to be saved. Does God sometimes close doors? Why would God do that? **TIMING**. Sometimes picking fruit too early or too late ... well, you know what happens. **SOVEREIGNTY**
→ Adoniram Judson – Burma - 7 long years until ...



3. The Team encountered CLOSED DOORS (Acts 16:6-8).

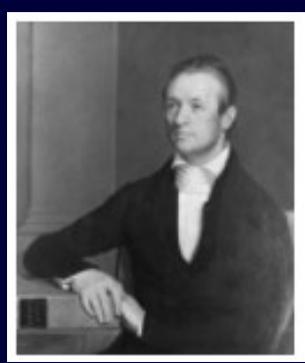
→ Adoniram Judson – Burma - 7 long years until ...

The East India Company forbade his prosecution of missionary labors in India; and, after various vicissitudes, he landed in **July, 1813**, at

Rangoon, Burma, taking up his residence at the Mission House of Felix Carey.

Judson devoted himself to the acquisition of the language, in which he afterward became a proficient scholar. **After six years of labor, the first convert, MOUNG NAU, was baptized at Rangoon, June 27, 1819.** He was the first Burman accession to the Church of Christ.

From 1824 to 1826, during the war of England with Burma, Judson suffered almost incredible hardships. **He was imprisoned for seventeen months in the jails of Ava and Oung-pen-la, being bound during nine months of this period, with three, and during two months with no less than five, pairs of fetters.** His sufferings from **fever, excruciating heat, hunger**, repeated **disappointments**, and the **cruelty** of his keepers, form one of the most thrilling narratives in the annals of modern missionary trial.



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In 1826 Judson transferred the headquarters of his mission to Amherst, in Tenasserim, **Lower Burma**; and in **1830** he began **preaching** to the **Karens**. In **1835** he completed the revision of the Old Testament in the Burmese language, in **1837** that of the New Testament. In the latter year there were **1,144 baptized converts in Burma**.

AT FIRST there WERE CLOSED DOORS ... but later OPEN DOORS
God's Sovereignty and TIMING

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- Adoniram Judson – Burma - 7 long years until ...

LESSON: Keep trying to Find the Open Doors, Open Windows, an Open Vent PIPE – anything – just don't give up ...

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Galatians 6:9

4. The OPEN DOOR – the MACEDONIAN CALL → Paul, Silas, along with Timothy – went to Philippi – into EUROPE (Acts 16:9-15)

Paul kept on trying to find open doors – he never gave up – then God sent him a vision. (similar to Peter – thus we can conclude he was in prayer)

Paul sees a MAN – dressed like a Macedonian ...

So, the Team headed to Philippi and they encounter women by the river. So, where's that MAN dressed like a Macedonian?

Not enough Jewish men to form a synagogue, and it turns out, there were no men mentioned other than Paul's team. So, we might concluded that they only found devout Jewish women. Household – can include servants. It does not say that Lydia was married. So, similar to Cornelius' household – employees included. Typically includes family, relatives, friends, etc. as well.

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First EUROPEANS Saved By Christ – in History. The Gospel has spread to Europe & *[already]* North Africa, the Middle East, parts of Syria, Turkey (of the Continent of Asia – Western Asia, today). Three Continents Touched with the Gospel – 20 years in ...

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an Open Vent PIPE – anything – just don't give up ...**

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KEEP SEEKING GOD for the Next GOSPEL OPEN DOOR

**Just like Paul and His Team did not Give up, but KEPT on Marching
forward, seeking God, Expecting from God – for the Gospel's SAKE. . .**

**And that is the KEY – it was not for selfish gain, just to survive, just to
get by, just to be comfortable and safe ... They were RISKING it ALL
for the GOSPEL's sake, just like Adoniram Judson ...**

They all encountered CLOSED DOORS - AND – They Never Gave up