

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: September 6, 2020

Summer Quarter: Rejoice! The Book of Philippians

Title: "A Vision & A Visit: Foundation Laid"

Scripture: Acts 16:6-40

INTRODUCTION: Paul's Second Missionary Journey (A.D. 49-52). There were several new elements in this second journey.

1. A New _____ (15:36-41)
2. A New _____ (16:1-5)
3. A New _____ (16:6-40). We see 3 wonderful openings: God opened the way (6-12); Lydia's heart (13-15); prison doors (16-40).

THE CALL TO MACEDONIA (16:6-12)

1. God's _____ (16:6-9)
Twice God prevented them fr. going where they had planned. Instead he directed them across the sea to Macedonia. He interrupted their travel plans and interjected His plan.
 - A. Closed doors (i.e., Asia & Bithynia)
The Gospel got there at another time (Acts 18:19-19:41; 1 Peter 1:1)
 - B. Open door (i.e., Macedonia; on the European continent)
In sovereign grace, God led Paul west into Europe, not east into Asia. It's interesting to speculate how world history might have been changed had Paul been sent to Asia instead of to Europe.
2. The missionaries' _____ (16:10-12)
Note the pronoun "we" in Acts 16:10, for Dr. Luke, who wrote the Book of Acts, joined Paul and his party at Troas. There are three "we sections" in Acts: 16:10-17; 20:5-15; and 27:1-28:16.

THE MINISTRY IN PHILIPPI (16:13-40)

During this period of mission there must have been other converts. But Luke selects only three for mention, not because they were particularly notable in themselves, but because they demonstrate how God breaks down dividing barriers and can unite in Christ people of very different kinds.

1. A business woman named Lydia (16:13-15)
Reminder: Pray for (1) open doors; (2) open mouths; and (3) open hearts!
2. An anonymous slave girl (16:16-18)

- A. She had a spirit by which she predicted the future.
 - B. As a slave she was exploited by her owners.
 - C. The slave girl was delivered from demon possession, but saved? Though Luke doesn't explicitly refer to either her conversion or her baptism, the fact that her deliverance took place between the conversions of Lydia and the jailor leads us to infer that she too became a member of the Philippian church.
 - D. The deliverance of the slave girl was too much for her owners. F. F. Bruce's comment: "When Paul exorcized the spirit that possessed her, he exorcized their source of income as well." Their fury had some very unpleasant consequences, especially for Paul and Silas.
3. The Roman jailer (16:19-40)
 What about so-called "household salvation"? It has _____ _____ in the Word of God. The phrase "you and your household" does not mean that the faith of the jailer would automatically bring salvation to his family. Each sinner must trust Christ personally in order to be born again, for we cannot be saved "by proxy."

THE DATE OF PHILIPPIANS

A date of A.D. 61 or 62 is likely since this is the last of Paul's 4 prison epistles (preceded by Philemon, Colossians, and Ephesians). Ten years after the established of the church (cp. Acts 16:11-40).

THE MESSAGE OF PHILIPPIANS

- 1. _____ & _____ permeate the book of Philippians.
 The terms "joy" and "rejoice" are found sixteen times in Philippians!
- 2. Paul's prison epistles are noted for their _____.
 The central and unifying theme is actually "Christ" Himself (38 times).
 - A. Christ: He is our _____ (ch. 1)
 To exalt Christ by life or by death (1:20, 21)
 - B. Christ: He is our _____ (ch. 2)
 To have the mind of Christ in humility (2:5-11)
 - C. Christ: He is our _____ (ch. 3)
 To know Christ and be like Him (3:8-11)
 - D. Christ: He is our _____ (ch. 4 ... verse 13)
 To be content in Christ always (4:11-13)

