

Acts 16:1-15

A NEW *Beginning*



LOOK TO THE CROSS FOR ETERNAL HOPE

Acts 16:1 Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father *was* a Greek:

2 Which was **well reported of by the brethren** that were at Lystra and Iconium.

3 Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.

4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.

5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

11 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next *day* to Neapolis;

12 And from thence to Philippi, which is **the chief city of that part of Macedonia**, *and* a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and **we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither***.

14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard *us*: **whose heart the Lord opened**, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

15 And **when she was baptized, and her household, she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there***. And she constrained us.

I. THE COMMITMENT TO FAITHFULNESS

1. The act of committing.
2. The state of being committed.
3. The act of committing, pledging, or engaging oneself.
4. A pledge or promise; obligation:

We have made a commitment to pay our bills on time.

5. **Engagement; involvement:**

They have a sincere commitment to religion.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/commitment?s=t>

A. They were faithful to their calling, Acts 16:1-4a

Acts 16:1 Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father *was* a Greek:

2 Which was **well reported of by the brethren** that were at Lystra and Iconium.

3 Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.

4 And **as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep...**

B. They were faithful to their church, Acts 16:4b



Acts 16:4b ...that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.

5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. ...

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

C. They were faithful to Christ, Acts 16:6-8

Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,
7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.
8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

II. THE CONFIRMATION WITH FRUITFULNESS

Acts 16:5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

A. The Proof via Fruitfulness — Mt. 7:16, 20, 12:33, Col. 1:10



Mt. 7:16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ...

20 Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them.**

Mt. 12:33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for **the tree is known by *his* fruit.**

Col. 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, **being fruitful in every good work**, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

B. The Praise via Fruitfulness – Jn. 15:8

Jn. 15:8 Herein is **my Father glorified**, that ye **bear much fruit**; so shall ye be my disciples.



III. THE COMPLETION THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

A. The Foresight and the Future

Prov. 29:18 Where *there is no vision, the people perish*: but he that keepeth the law, *happy is he*.

Acts 16:9 And **a vision appeared to Paul in the night**; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately **we** endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

11 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next *day* to Neapolis;

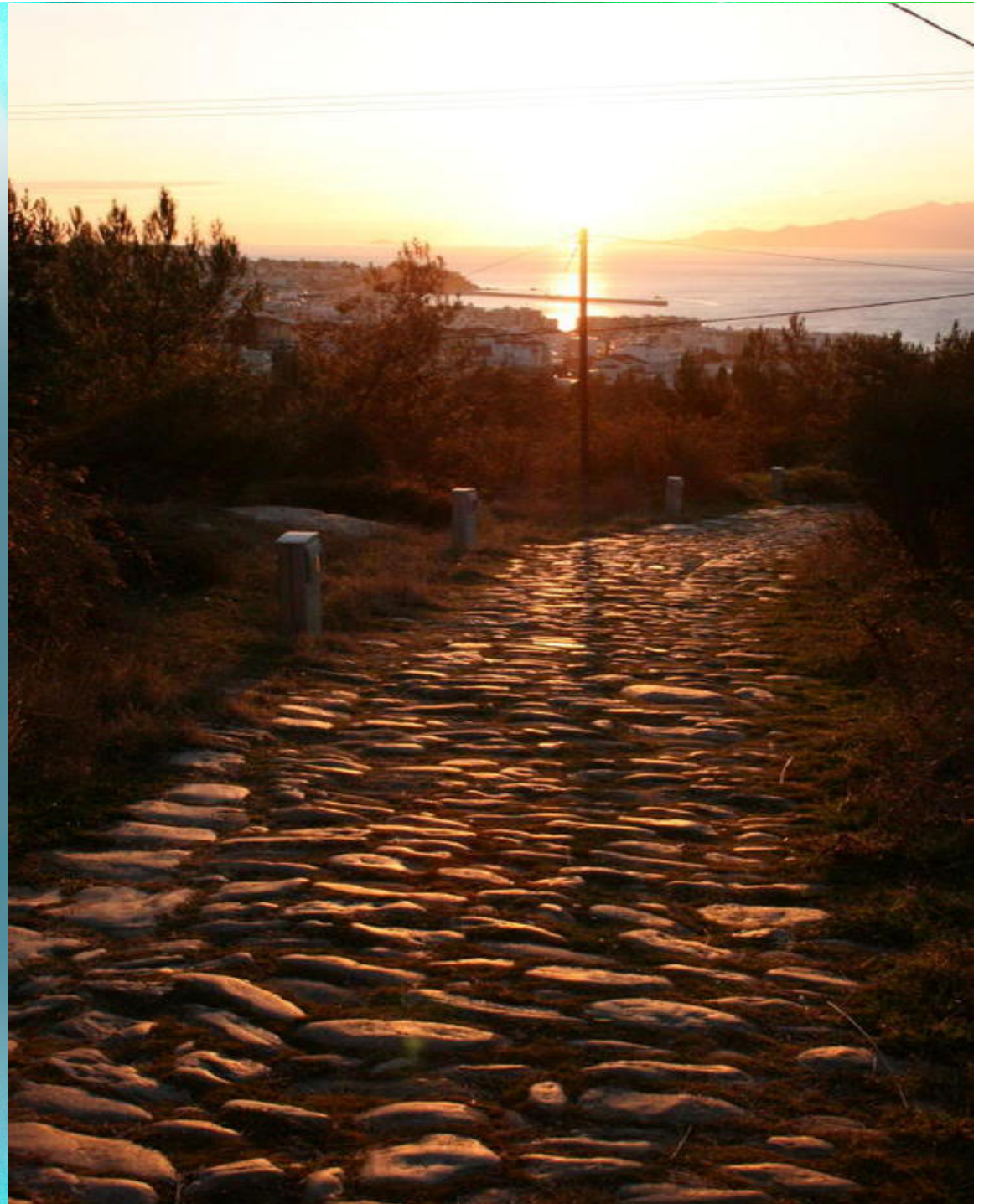
12 And from thence to Philippi, which is **the chief city of that part of Macedonia**, *and* a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Paul%27s+Second+Missionary+Journey&view=detailv2&&id=33F938D7EB3152B47CD8FEEE1945C1402D14C576&selectedIndex=2&ccid=wZ7LDtvh&simid=608011634274536193&thid=JN.xXWxD9rYFTbiiXjNv5wEVA&ajaxhist=0>

Sunrise over the Egnatian Way. This is the road Paul took from the harbor of Neapolis towards Philippi.

<http://reasontobelieve.blogspot.ca/2007/01/philippi-and-neapolis.html>





This is the traditional location of Lydia's baptism.

<http://reasontobelieve.blogspot.ca/2007/01/philippi-and-neapolis.html>

B. The Fellowship = Fruitfulness

Acts 16:13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and **we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*.**

14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard *us*: **whose heart the Lord opened**, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

15 And **when she was baptized, and her household, she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*.** And she constrained us.

The church + the called + the focus + their faithfulness =
FRUITFULNESS

Conclusion

- The believers were faithful and committed to their calling.
- They followed the example of their “mother” church.
- They were faithful and consequently, fruitful.
- The fruitfulness was by-product of their faithfulness to their vision.

1 Thess. 5:24 Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will *do it*.

2 Thess. 1:11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

