

## Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Trip

Acts 15 (Part 2)

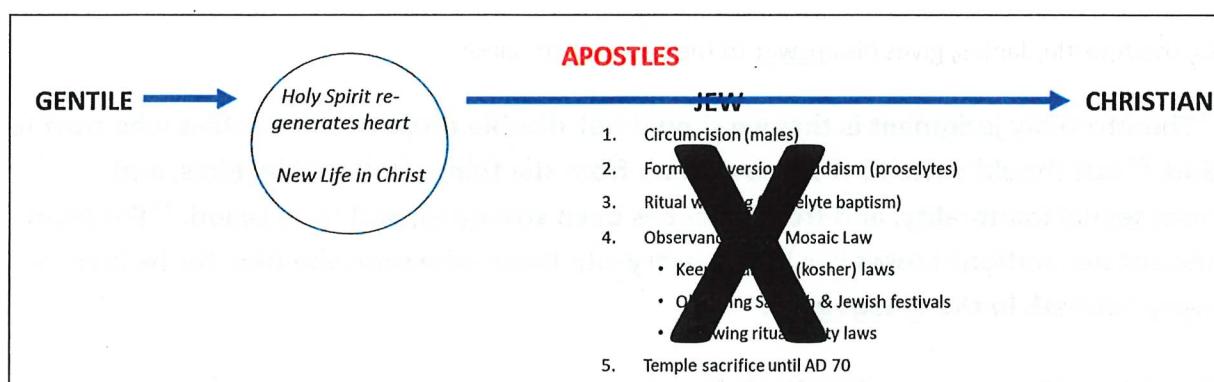
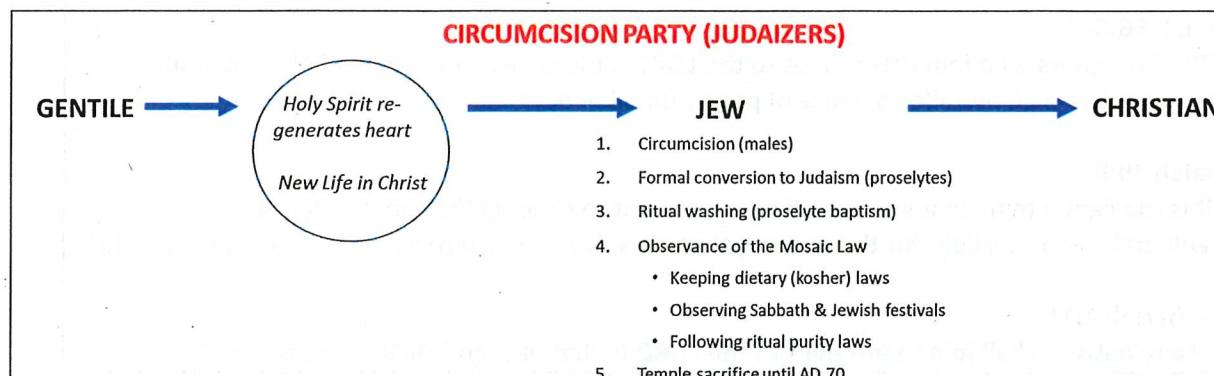
Acts 16 (Part 1)

Jay Hohfeler

### Review Last Week (Ch 15)

- Paul & Barnabas had completed their 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey:
  - Traveled to Cyprus and multiple cities in Asia Minor (modern Turkey)
  - Returned to Antioch – home base
- In Antioch, confronted by Judaizers
  - Former Jews, now Christians, tied to Mosaic traditions & rituals
  - Required new Gentile converts to be circumcised & follow Mosaic traditions
  - Wrongly believed salvation is accomplished by a mixture of:
    - Grace (thru Christ)
    - Works (thru human effort keeping the Mosaic Law)
  - Claimed that Gentiles could become Christ followers, but had to become Jewish converts first...on the way to becoming Christians.

### HOW ARE WE SAVED BY CHRIST?



### Council of Jerusalem

SPEAKER	ARGUMENT
Peter	God saved these Gentiles by the Holy Spirit (just like He did with us).
Paul & Barnabas	God provided miracles to these Gentiles – and they believed! - No circumcision or Jewish rituals required
James	Theologically, it's always been God's plan to save Gentiles. See Scripture!

Amos 9:11-13     **16** "After this I will return,  
and I will rebuild the **tent of David** that has fallen;  
I will rebuild its ruins,  
and I will restore it,  
**17** that the **remnant of mankind** may seek the Lord,  
and all the **Gentiles** who are called by my name,  
says the Lord, who makes these things **18** known from of old.'

Promise of the Davidic Kingdom

Redeemed from all nations

Israel was chosen as the channel, not the boundary, of God's blessing

Genesis 18:18

"All the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him [Abram]"

Isaiah 45:22

"Turn to me and be saved,  
all the ends of the earth!  
For I am God, and there is no other.

Isaiah 56:6–7

"The foreigners who join themselves to the LORD... these I will bring to my holy mountain...  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

Isaiah 49:6

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob...  
I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Zechariah 2:11

"Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people."

So, the Apostle, James, gives his answer to the question at hand:

**19** Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, **20** but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. **21** For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

### The Council's Letter to Gentile Believers

**22** Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers, **23** with the following letter: "The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. **24** Since we have heard that some

persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions,<sup>25</sup> it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,<sup>26</sup> men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>27</sup> We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth.<sup>28</sup> For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements:<sup>29</sup> that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

<sup>30</sup> So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter.<sup>31</sup> And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.<sup>32</sup> And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words.<sup>33</sup> And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them.<sup>34</sup> But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

Overall, this letter to the churches was saying:

**To become Christians, Gentiles don't need to become Jews—but they cannot remain pagans either!**

They were free from the yoke of the Jewish law--but must exercise their liberty with:

- ✓ Wisdom
- ✓ Restraint
- ✓ Love

The only parts of their culture new converts have to lay down are things that conflict with Christ and the unity of the body. And the only culture they need to pick up is the culture of Christ and His kingdom—not that of Judaism. The Spirit doesn't homogenize; He unifies.

Tara Leigh Cobble

### Paul and Barnabas Separate

<sup>36</sup> And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.”<sup>37</sup> Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark.<sup>38</sup> But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.<sup>39</sup> And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus,<sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.<sup>41</sup> And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Paul later refers to John Mark with restored confidence:

Col 4:10	<sup>10</sup> Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him),
Philemon v23-24	<sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, <sup>24</sup> and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.
2 Tim 4:11	<sup>11</sup> Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

## ACTS 16



## Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

16 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.<sup>2</sup> He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium.<sup>3</sup> Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.<sup>4</sup> As they went on their way through the cities, they

delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem.<sup>5</sup> So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

## The Macedonian Call

<sup>6</sup> And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup> And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. <sup>8</sup> So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” <sup>10</sup> And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

### Timothy

- Son of a Greek father and a Jewish mother
- Age: late teens/early twenties
- Probably first heard/responded to the gospel when Paul & Barnabas first came through Derbe
- Already recognized by the elders; distinguished himself as “faithful”
- Churches in Lystra and Iconium vouched for his maturity
- Paul described him as:
  - Having genuine faith—same as his mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois)
  - “My true son of the faith”
- Later in life would:
  - Represent Paul at churches in Corinth & Philippi
  - Serve as a pastor at Ephesus
  - Help Paul write New Testament letters of:
    - 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Philemon
- Suffered an undisclosed chronic illness
- Timothy joined Paul & Silas on the 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey.