



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study Scripture Theme: 2 Timothy 2:15

May 21, 2024

Dr. Ingrid Bethune, Instructor

The Book of Acts

THEME: CAN I GET A WITNESS - THE GOSPEL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

THEME SCRIPTURE: ACTS 1:8

Lesson Topic: UNITY DESPITE DISAGREEMENT

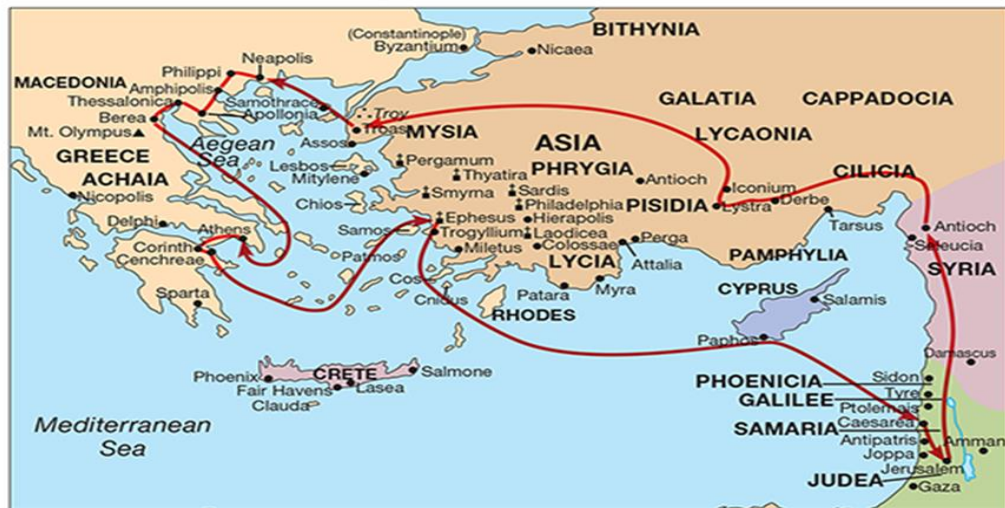
Lesson Scripture: Acts 15:36-41

I. BACKGROUND

A. People: Paul, Barnabas, John Mark, Silas – Acts 15:22, 27, 32, 16:37; 1 Peter 5:12; 1 Thes. 1:1; 2 Thes. 1:1.

B. Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Paul's Second Missionary Journey • AD 49-51 • Acts 15:36-18:22



TRAVELERS: Paul, Silas, Timothy, Priscilla and Aquilla, Luke

MAIN ROUTE: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Jerusalem (2,800 miles; 4,506 km)

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II. PRIORITIZE THE MISSION DESPITE DISAGREEMENTS

- A. Spiritual Maturity Does Not Erase Personality Differences
 - B. We Should not Let Personality Clashes Cause Us to Quit Serving the Lord
 - a. Personality Clashes Can Arise Between Men Who Share the Same Basic Theology
 - b. Personality Clashes Can Arise Between Men Who are Godly and Committed to the Cause of Christ
 - c. Personality Clashes Can Arise Between Men Who have Served Together for Years in the Cause of Christ
- Remember that D _____ don't have to D _____ love.

III. PURSUE UNITY DESPITE DISAGREEMENTS

- A. Dealing With Conflicts
 - i. What Not to Do
 - a. Tell others
 - b. Cold Shoulder/Lash Out
 - c. Complain
 - ii. What to Do
 - a. Try to Work it out
 - b. Overlook it
 - c. Move Forward
 - d. Unite under a common cause
 - e. Be defrauded
- Christians must be diligent to M _____ U _____ and to continue S _____ the Lord in spite of P _____ clashes.

IV. PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

- ✓ A Person's Greatest Strengths Are Often the Area for His Greatest Weaknesses.
- ✓ Since God Always Uses Imperfect Instruments in His Service, We Should Not Put Too Much Trust in Men, But in God, Who Alone Is Perfect.
- ✓ Christian Unity Does Not Mean That We All Must Work Closely With One Another, But Rather Is a Matter of Shared Life and Shared Light.
- ✓ When you face a personality clash with another Christian, as you surely will, try to disengage your emotions and objectively think through the answers to these four questions:
 - ✓ What Is the Real Nature of the Difficulty?
 - ✓ Is There an Important Biblical Principle at Stake?

- ✓ What Godly Character Qualities Is the Lord Trying to Develop in Me Through This Clash?
- ✓ Would The Cause of Christ Be Furthered or Hindered by My Continuing to Work Closely With This Person?

When we face personality differences in the church, we need to be diligent to guard the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We need to seek to work out our differences if possible, in a spirit of love and kindness. If we must part ways, we should continue serving the Lord and not let the enemy get us to attack those whom God has given different personalities than He has given us.

NOTES: _____
