

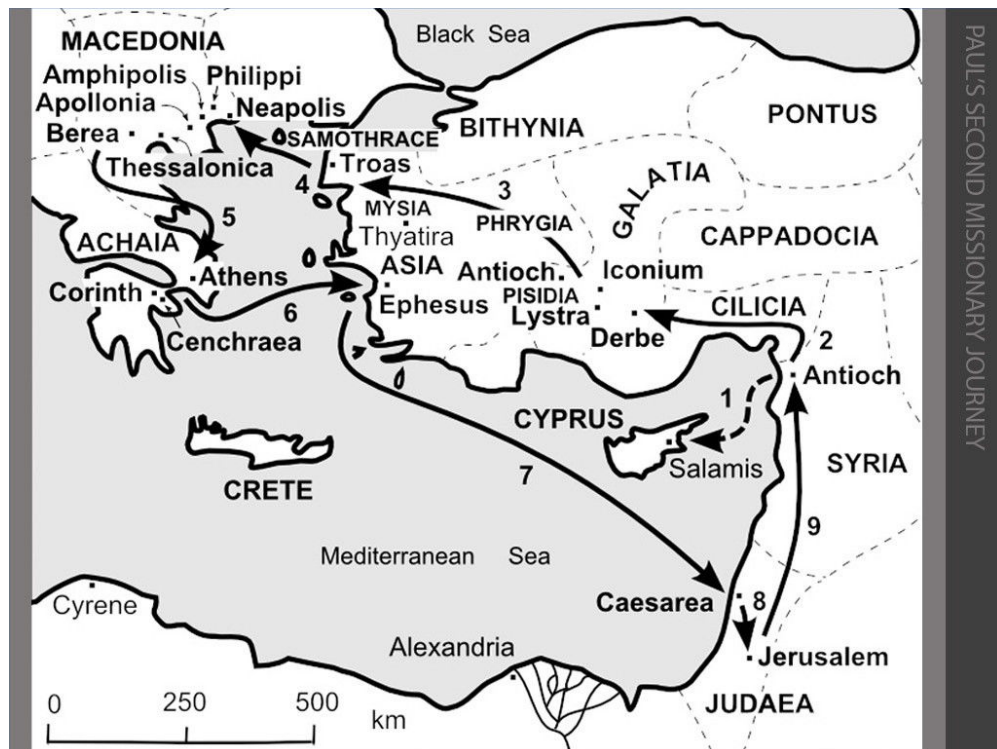
PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (Acts 15:36-18:22)—PART ONE

We are in the third and final part of Acts.

- In the first part of Acts, believers witnessed in Jerusalem (Acts 1– 7).
- In the second part, persecution drove them to witness in Judea and Samaria (Acts 8– 12).
- This third part of Acts tells how the good news spread into their entire world (Acts 13– 28).

The biblical geography of this second trip is very important for four reasons.

- Learn the geography of this trip. Then you will know most of the places Paul went on all three trips.
- Studying biblical geography will help you understand the Bible.
- Knowing biblical geography will help your memory.
- Knowing biblical geography will help when you study Paul's letters.



Six principles related to Paul's second missionary trip:

1. It is important to conserve the _____.

Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing" (Acts 15: 36).

Paul did not want to plow new ground until he checked on the old. He did not want to build more until he examined the foundation. He did not want to extend the gospel further until he strengthened the base of believers. So they walked about 400 miles (644 km) from Antioch in Syria to Antioch in Pisidia. This was hard walking over a lot of mountains. But the Spirit led them in this type of follow-up ministry.

It is good to focus on the lost. But it is easy to focus on the lost and forget the found! New believers are like babies. They must be fed to grow. They must be cared for, or they will die. So let us remember to teach those we reach. The Great Commission includes more than preaching. We obey the command of Christ only as we make disciples out of those we reach (Matt. 28: 19-20).

2. Sometimes two people who disagree are both _____.

37Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 38but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. 39They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, 40but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. 41He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches (Acts 15: 37-41).

Paul was an apostle. Everyone knows he was a godly man. But Barnabas was also a spiritual man. He was generous (Acts 4: 36-37). He was committed. It appears that he, like Paul, chose not to marry (1 Cor. 9: 5-6). Barnabas is listed among the prophets and teachers (Acts 13: 1). Barnabas

was a chosen man. The Jerusalem church chose him to go to the new believers in Antioch (Acts 11: 22). The Antioch believers chose him to help carry the offering to Judea (Acts 11: 30). The Holy Spirit chose him to be a missionary (Acts 13: 2).

Barnabas liked to help others grow. His name means *Son of Encouragement*. And encouragement always brings out the best in others. Barnabas was among the first to welcome Saul as a brother (Acts 9: 27). And it was Barnabas who searched for Saul in Tarsus and brought him to help teach at Antioch (Acts 11: 25). Barnabas helped bring out the best in Saul. And he wanted to help bring out the best in his nephew, John Mark.

Mark deserted Paul about A.D. 46 on the first journey. Twenty years later, Paul's attitude toward Mark had changed. Paul asked Timothy to bring Mark who was useful for ministry (2 Tim. 4: 11). Also, Mark traveled with Peter to help minister (1 Pet. 5: 13). Mark grew up and wrote the Gospel of Mark. The encouragement of Barnabas brought out the best in him. Blessed is the young person who has a Barnabas to encourage him.

Was Paul right in his opinion about Mark? Yes, he was probably right also. Recall Paul's opinion. *"Paul did not think it wise to take him"* (Acts 15: 38).

Paul had a job to do. He chose to do it or die. He would not quit or turn back.

- Some stoned him. Did he quit? No! He wiped off the blood and went back into town (Acts 14: 19-20).
- Some beat him and put him in jail. Did this cause him to turn back? No! He sang praises at midnight (Acts 16: 25).
- Persecution did not cause Paul to turn back. He was different from most of us. The normal human does not choose hard times.

But recall the words Paul wrote about A.D. 55-56. *"For Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong"* (2 Cor. 12: 10).

The standard Paul set was probably too high for Mark, especially as a young man. It was too high for most of us! Review the list of Paul’s persecutions (2 Cor. 11: 23-29).

Prayer: “Lord, help us to listen for truth from those who disagree with us. It may be that they are right about something we have not seen. We are a body, and we need each other. Teach us to value the opinions of others. Each person sees only a part of the truth. We are wiser together.”

3. God _____ in at least five different ways.

God leads His children step by step. Usually, we cannot see very far ahead. James warns us not to boast about what we will do next year. Rather, he says we should always say, “If it is the Lord’s will” (James 4: 15). Likewise, Paul did not claim to be certain about God’s will for the future (Rom. 1: 10; 15: 32). God intends for us to depend on Him. He guides us as we walk with Him step by step.

Walking with God is the most important part of guidance. Why? Because who we are is more important than what we do. will for each believer is God’s will is for us to be like Jesus (Rom. 8: 29).

Guidance is 95 percent **being** and only 5 percent **doing**. Acts reveals that God guides these believers in at least five ways.

Method of Guidance	Example	Acts
The Word of God	The words of Jesus guided believers to wait in Jerusalem.	1:4
	The Scriptures guided believers to replace Judas.	1:20-21
	The Scriptures guided the lot to understand Pentecost and to accept Christ.	2:16-28 3:22-26
	The Scriptures guided the lost away from scoffing.	13:40-41
	The Scriptures guided the Church to accept the Gentiles.	15:15-21
Supernatural Revelation	An angel guided Philip to the	8:26

A Study of the Book of Acts

Class 8 – Student Notes

<i>(Angels, visions, dreams, and spiritual gifts)</i>	Ethiopian.	
	Jesus appeared to Saul and directed him to Damascus.	9:1-19
	Jesus appeared to Saul in a vision, preparing him to meet Ananias.	9:11-12
	The Lord appeared to Ananias and guided him to Saul.	9:9-19
	God used a vision to guide Peter to Cornelius.	10:9-16
	God used a vision to guide Paul to Macedonia.	16:9-10
Circumstances	Circumstances guided the Church to choose seven deacons.	6:1-6
	Circumstances guided believers to flee from Jerusalem.	8:1-3
	God used circumstances to guide Paul from Jerusalem to Caesarea.	23:23-35
An Inner Witness (<i>Some gifts of the Spirit—inner word of knowledge or wisdom—overlap with #2 above</i>)	The Holy Spirit guided Peter in the message he preached.	2:14-41
	The Holy Spirit guided Peter to deal with Ananias and Sapphira.	5:1-10
	The Holy Spirit guided Stephen in the words he spoke.	6:15-7:60
	The Holy Spirit guided Paul to return to where he and Barnabas had already preached.	15:36
	The Holy Spirit guided Paul to expect hard times in every city.	20:22-23
An Outer Witness	God guided Matthias through the church's decision.	1:23-26
	God guided seven men through the church's decision.	6:5-6
	Prophets confirmed Paul's call to be a missionary.	13:1-3
	God guided Timothy through Paul's decision.	16:1-3

4. We need good _____ to be fruitful workers for God.

Notice three things about Paul's attitude.

First, he had a servant's attitude toward _____.

Paul wanted Timothy to travel with him. One reason why they traveled was to announce that Jewish customs were not necessary for Gentiles (Acts 16: 4). And Timothy was half Greek. Still, Paul had Timothy circumcised. Why? To relate well to Jewish believers. Paul gave up some of his rights so he would not offend others (Matt. 17: 27). He had the humble attitude of a servant.

Second, he had a humble attitude toward _____.

Paul did not demand clear directions from God. Rather, he started walking, then he expected God to guide him.

God does not need to guide us if we are walking in the right direction. But He tells us if we take a wrong turn. Paul was humble toward God. He did not become upset when God said "No". Paul knew that a closed door can be as much of a blessing as an open door. A no from God is as helpful as a yes from Him.

Third, he had a loving attitude toward _____. At

Philippi, Paul did not complain. The first convert was a woman, not the man he saw in a vision. Paul was thankful that the Lord opened her heart (Acts 16: 14). He loved both men and women who were lost.

5. The Church of Jesus Christ includes people of _____ levels and cultures.

Rev. 7:9 tells us that in the Spirit, John saw a multitude that no one could number. They were the redeemed from every nation, tribe, people, and

language. Likewise, the church at Philippi included people who differed greatly. Luke contrasts three people the gospel touched there.

First, the gospel touched Lydia, a _____ Gentile woman. (Acts 16: 13-15). She sold purple cloth from Thyatira. This was a city about 75 miles (120 km) northeast of Ephesus, and 20 miles southeast of Pergamum.

Second, the gospel touched a _____ girl.

Third, the gospel changed the life of a _____. This jailer asked a question that every person should ask: “*What must I do to be saved?*” (Acts 16: 30). Paul answered that believing in Christ is all that is necessary to save one person or a household. We are saved by faith, not works.

In Luke 15, there are three examples of heaven’s joy over a sinner’s salvation. And in Acts 16 Luke shows us three sinners the gospel touched.

6. Believers should use their rights as _____.

HOMework:

1. Is it necessary for believers to agree on everything? Explain.
2. Why does encouragement bring out the best in people?
3. Do you think we already know about 95% of God’s will for us? Explain.