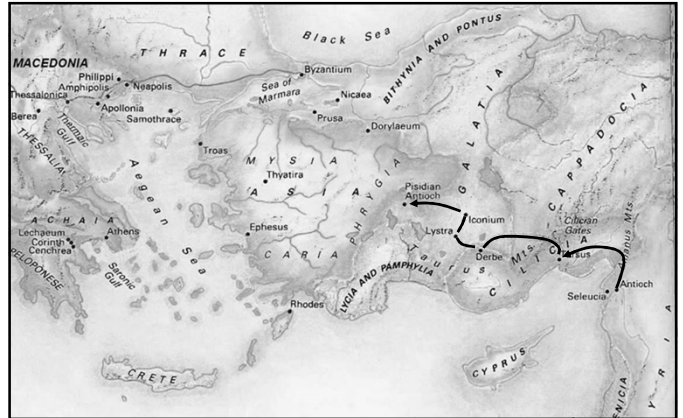


*ACTS

The Continuing Work of Jesus



*Acts 16-18

The Gospel Goes to Europe

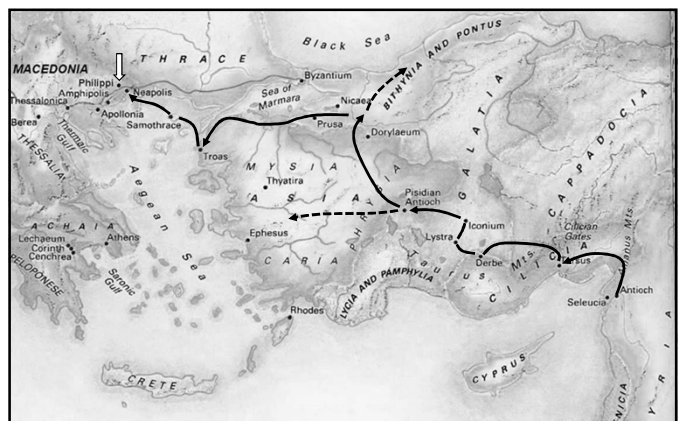
Gospel to Europe

1. Remarkable Guidance
2. A Strategic Conversion

⁶ And they passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; ⁷ and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; ⁸ and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹ So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days.

(Acts 16:6-12)



Gospel to Europe

1. Remarkable Guidance

- the exalted Jesus continued to direct the progress of the gospel through the Spirit
- this unusual form of guidance highlights this strategic advance of the gospel

Gospel to Europe

➤ Principles

- do not expect the regular guidance of visions and prophecies in our everyday decision making...
- but believe in God's sovereign intervention and overruling to direct the progress of His word and His people

¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a *Roman* colony; and we were staying in this city for some days.

¹³And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.

¹⁴A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

¹⁵And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

(Acts 16:12-15)

Gospel to Europe

2. A Strategic Conversion

- Lydia was a successful business woman and a worshiper of the God of Israel
- she was strategic in providing for this new church at Philippi (cf. 16:40)

Gospel to Europe

➤ A Paradigm of Conversion

1) The elements of conversion

- the proclamation of the gospel
- the sovereign, inward work of God to make the person responsive
- the response of faith in Christ as Savior signified by water baptism

Gospel to Europe

➤ A Paradigm of Conversion

2) The evidence of conversion

- the practice of hospitality and the sharing of possessions for the encouragement of gospel ministry and fellowship