

Lesson Thirteen: Paul and Silas

Strengthening the churches (*read verses 15:36 – 16:5*)

- 1) Why did Paul return to churches he had already founded? What did he do there and why were those things important? (15:41; 16:4-5)?

Philippi (*read verses 16:6-40*)

- 2) In what sense is the Holy Spirit “the Spirit of Jesus” helping guide your decisions (16:7)? What does this phrase tell you about the nature of God?
- 3) Why was it necessary for God to open Lydia’s heart to respond to Paul’s message (16:14)? What significance does this fact have for you personally in your evangelism and in your prayers?
- 4) Bloody and battered in the stocks of a lightless prison, Paul and Silas spent the night “praying and singing hymns to God” (16:25). Why do you think they did this? What attitudes toward self, God, circumstances, other prisoners, and the jailer did these actions show?
- 5) How did Paul and Silas deal with the Roman officials in Philippi (16:35-39)? Why do you think they didn’t just leave submissively? What principles for dealing with authority do their actions suggest?

Thessalonica (*read verses 17:1-9*)

- 6) In response to the gospel, Lydia and Jason both invited the missionaries to stay in their homes (16:15; 17:7). What kinds of trouble and expense were they risking by doing this (16:20-22; 17:5-9)?
- 7) What can Lydia and Jason teach us about Christian fellowship/partnership?

Berea (*read verses 17:10-15*)

- 8) How did the Berean Jews respond differently to Paul’s message than the Thessalonian Jews did (17:5, 11)?
- 9) Why was the Bereans’ reaction the better way to deal with a new and startling teaching?

