**Truth Sowers Life Group**

April 20, 2013

**Who Was the Apostle Paul?**

**Paul’s 2nd Missionary Journey**

**Introduction:**

Our key scripture for this study is:

**1 Thess 5:12, 13**

*12And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves.*

**PAUL’S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY**

**Paul and Silas in Prison**

### Acts 16

New King James Version (NKJV)

Paul had just cast the “Spirit of Divination” our of the young girl in Philippi and it angered her masters because they couldn’t make a living from her anymore.

20And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, “These men, **being Jews**, exceedingly trouble our city; 21and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.” **Romans were very zealous for their national worship. Great care was taken that no one introduce a new religion. On this account Jews were banished from Rome. This was the charge against the apostles here.** 22Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their **(Paul and Silas’s)** clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods. **Could this be the Evil Messenger from Satan stirring up trouble again? This happened 3 times to Paul.**

**Jews gave only 39 stripes, but Romans had no such law. They gave as many as they chose. This is referred to by Paul in** [**2Cor. 11:23**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+11%3A23)**, "stripes above measure" or moderation.** 23And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

### The Philippian Jailer Saved

25But at **midnight** Paul and Silas were **praying and singing** **hymns to God**, and the prisoners were listening **(intently)** to them.

**Zephaniah 3:17** *For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."*

**What do you think the other prisoners were thinking?**

26Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. **Chains would normally absorb the shock of an earthquake. This was a supernaturally strong earthquake! Notice that Paul and Silas did not run away.** 27And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. **He probably feared a worse fate by the hands of the Romans for not guarding the prison better.** 28But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.”

29Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” **The jailer had obviously heard some of the Gospel and he knew there was more to this earthquake than met the eye!**

31So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” 32Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized. 34Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

### Paul Refuses to Depart Secretly

35And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, “Let those men go.”

**Why do you think the magistrates changed their minds?**

36So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, “The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace.”

37But Paul said to them, “They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, *and* have thrown *us* into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out.” **It was unlawful for any Roman citizen to be bound or beaten without proper trial or be put to death without an appeal to Caesar. Paul's strategy was to teach these magistrates a lesson and to show the people that they had been unjustly condemned, and that the majesty of Rome had been insulted by this treatment of them.**   
38And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. **They had a right to fear, for if this case was taken to Rome they would be deposed or probably executed for this violation of Roman law. Romans were zealous in protecting their citizens.**   
39Then they came and pleaded with them and brought *them* out, and asked *them* to depart from the city. 40So they went out of the prison and entered *the house of* Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

# Acts 17 (New King James Version)

### Acts 17

New King James Version (NKJV)

### Preaching Christ at Thessalonica

17 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to **suffer and rise again from the dead**, and *saying,* “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.” 4And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.

### Assault on Jason’s House

5But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious,[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+17&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27529a)] took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. 6But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. 7Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus.” 8And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. 9So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

**1 Thessalonians** 1:1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Thessalonians+1&version=NKJV" \l "fen-NKJV-29562a" \o "See footnote a)]

### Their Good Example

2We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, 4knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. 5For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

6And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. 9For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

**Paul Worked and Made His Own Living While in Thessalonica**

1 Thess 2:9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

2 Thess 3:7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; 8nor did we eat anyone’s bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, 9not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

**The Philippians sent offerings to Paul while he was in Macedonia**

**Philippians 4:15, 16 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.****16For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities.**

### Ministering at Berea

10Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11These were more fair-minded **NOBLE** than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. 12Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

**Will you have the mind of the Pharisees or will you have the mind of the Bereans?**

**Truth will always withstand scrutiny!**

**In the Essentials, UNITY; In the Non-Essentials, Liberty!**

~~13~~~~But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds.~~ ~~14~~~~Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there.~~ ~~15~~~~So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.~~

### ~~The Philosophers at Athens~~

~~16~~~~Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.~~ ~~17~~~~Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the~~ *~~Gentile~~* ~~worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.~~ ~~18~~~~Then~~~~[~~[~~b~~](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+17&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27542b)~~]~~ ~~certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this babbler want to say?”~~

~~Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.~~

~~19~~~~And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine~~ *~~is~~* ~~of which you speak?~~ ~~20~~~~For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.”~~ ~~21~~~~For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.~~

### ~~Addressing the Areopagus~~

~~22~~~~Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious;~~ ~~23~~~~for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:~~

~~TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.~~

~~Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:~~ ~~24~~~~“God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.~~ ~~25~~~~Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.~~ ~~26~~~~And He has made from one blood~~~~[~~[~~c~~](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+17&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-27550c)~~]~~ ~~every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,~~ ~~27~~~~so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;~~ ~~28~~~~for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’~~ ~~29~~~~Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising.~~ ~~30~~~~Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,~~ ~~31~~~~because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”~~

~~32~~~~And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this~~ *~~matter.~~*~~”~~ ~~33~~~~So Paul departed from among them.~~ ~~34~~~~However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.~~