

## C2 - The Life & Work of Paul

Study 1 - The First Missionary Journey  
Completed

### BIBLE READING:

**Acts 13: 13-32; 38-45;  
50-52 and 14: 1-28**

### KEY VERSE:

**“And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.”**

Acts 14: 27

After spending some time on the island of Cyprus, Paul and his party set sail from Paphos and landed at Perga. At this point John Mark took his leave of Paul and Barnabas and went home to Jerusalem. This decision, on the part of Mark, had repercussions at a later date, as we shall see.

The story now centres on several towns.

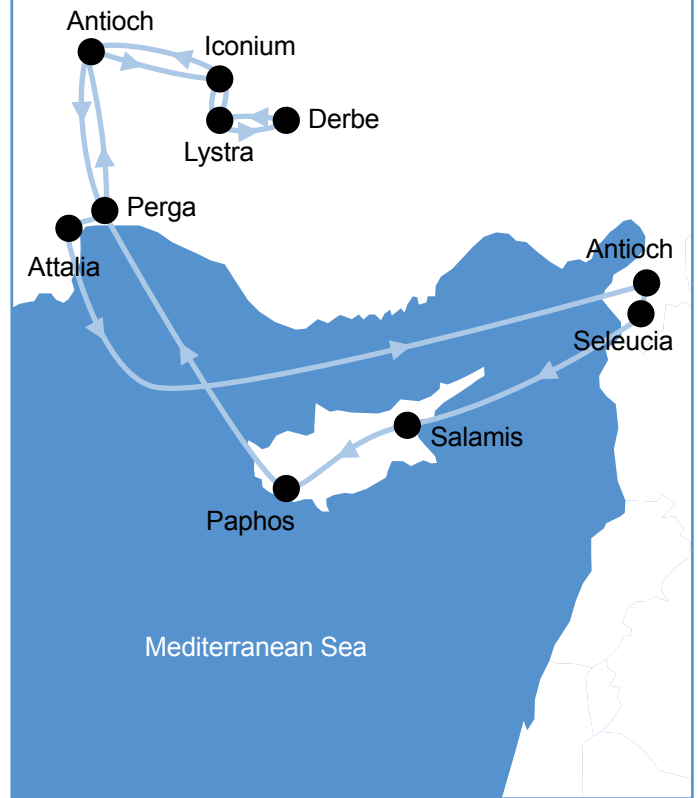
### ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA

Paul was invited to address the Jews in their synagogue service. It was a great opportunity to tell them about the Lord Jesus. He made it clear to them that **“through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you”**. (Acts 13: 38) Many people, especially the Gentiles (i.e. non-Jews) were very eager to hear more and when the next Sabbath day came around, **“almost the whole city gathered to hear the Word of the Lord”**. (13: 44) The Jews were extremely enraged at the idea that Gentiles, whom they totally despised, could be saved on exactly the same terms as Jews. Their jealousy was so great that they stirred up opposition against Paul and Barnabas and had them driven out of the area. (verse 50) But their visit was not a failure - the Gospel was preached, people believed, and a Christian church was formed - something which did not exist there previously!

### ICONIUM

Here Paul and Barnabas followed their usual pattern of using the Jewish synagogue as their starting point. (14: 1) Here too, there were numerous converts, both Jewish and Gentile. Once again, it was the Jews who stirred up trouble, and after an outburst of violence, the missionaries moved on to Lystra. We should understand that the message itself was good news, offering forgiveness of sins through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. But when people refused to believe in Him, they often became very opposed, not only to the message, but also to those who preached it.

## Paul's First Missionary Journey



### LYSTRA

Here, the instantaneous healing of a life-long cripple made a tremendous impression upon the local people. **“The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!”** (14: 11) they shouted. In their misguided enthusiasm, they started to prepare sacrifices to offer to Paul and Barnabas. The two missionaries had difficulty dissuading them and urged them to **“turn from these vain things to a living God”**. (verse 15) Once again it was the unbelieving Jews who caused trouble. Paul was stoned and left for dead. Thankfully, he survived, and next day he and Barnabas moved on to Derbe.

### HOMeward BOUND!

After a successful time of preaching the gospel at Derbe, the two preachers returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch. In each place they encouraged the Christians in their new faith, and strengthened their church-life, by appointing elders in each church. (verses 22, 23) After a brief visit to Perga, they embarked for Antioch, in Syria, which they had set out from, perhaps a year earlier.

What stories they would have to tell! They were careful, however, not to talk about what THEY had done, but about what GOD had done. (See Key Verse) In particular, they told how large numbers of non-Jews had responded to the message and had been saved on the very same terms as Jews. The great **“whoever”** of **John 3: 16** was proving to be a reality in the experience of many, both Jews and Gentiles!

## C2 - The Life & Work of Paul

### Study 2 - The Gospel reaches Europe

#### BIBLE READING:

**Acts 15: 36-41, 16: 1-12**

#### KEY VERSE:

**“...immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”**

Acts 16: 10

After some time, Paul was eager to undertake another ‘missionary journey’. In particular, he wished to re-visit the churches, which had been started on the previous journey. It was at this point that Barnabas and he had a sharp disagreement; this resulted in Paul choosing a new partner, Silas by name. With the approval of the church at Antioch, Paul and Silas set off. Paul’s commitment to spreading the gospel, in spite of difficulties such as are mentioned in **chapter 15**, is a good example for us all.

Travelling overland, Paul and Silas came to Derbe and Lystra, where a young man named Timothy lived. It is very likely that Timothy had become a believer in the Lord Jesus at the time of Paul’s earlier visit. (See Study 1) In the intervening period, Timothy had progressed spiritually, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him. Paul was convinced that he would be a valuable asset to the spreading of the gospel, and so he urged him to join Silas and himself. Timothy was willing to do this, and in a little while the ‘team’, now three in number, moved on. As time

progressed, Timothy became a very close friend of Paul, and a most useful man in God’s work, in spite of his frequent illnesses. (**1 Timothy 5: 23**) We wonder how different his life would have been if he had failed to respond to God’s call in his first years as a Christian. We, too, will miss what is BEST, if we do not put God FIRST!

Paul and his companions trusted God to guide them at each stage of their travels. This is indicated by such expressions as **“having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia” (verse 6)** and **“they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them” (verse 7)**.

When they eventually reached Troas, they may well have been puzzled why God had prevented them from entering either Asia or Bithynia. Soon they were to know! The answer came by means of a remarkable vision which Paul had. Read **verses 9 and 10** again. The **“man of Macedonia”** belonged to what we call Europe, and here he was, pleading with Paul to **“come over... and help us”**.

This, indeed, was an ‘open door’ - following on the experience of two ‘closed doors’ (**verses 6-7**) Paul and his associates were convinced that God was calling them to take the gospel into Europe. (See Key Verse) Without delay, they set sail. In two days’ time, they disembarked, for the first time, on European soil.

This has been recognised as a very significant event in the spread of Christianity. Subsequently the good news of salvation was brought to many in Europe and over the years, millions have gladly received it and been saved. The challenging question for each of us is: Have I personally believed in the Lord Jesus?

It appears that Luke joined the other three at this stage. We know this because Luke, who wrote Acts, changes from using **“they”** to **“we”**. In using **“we”** he is clearly including himself in the narrative of what took place. (Note **“they”** five times in **verses 6-8**, and **“we”** three times in **verses 10-12**) We conclude, therefore, that the ‘team’ now consisted of four men! They were all different, but they had this in common - they all loved the Lord Jesus and they wanted to serve Him by telling others about Him. We, too, should aim at being good witnesses for Him.



# Answer Sheet

## C2 - The Life & Work of Paul

Study 1 - The First Missionary Journey  
Completed

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Return address on back of answer sheet

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. "John left them and returned to Jerusalem." (Acts 13: 13)

a) Suggest TWO possible reasons why John, who had been "**their assistant**" (13: 5) decided to leave Paul and Barnabas. \_\_\_\_\_

b) According to **Acts 15: 36-39**, what after-effects did his departure have for Paul and Barnabas? \_\_\_\_\_

c) Suggest some factors which could cause a Christian TODAY to give up serving the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

□ /6

### 2. Answer these questions about the visit of Paul and Barnabas to Antioch in Pisidia:

a) What building did they go to? \_\_\_\_\_

b) Which day of the week was it when they went there? \_\_\_\_\_

c) What TWO parts of the Scriptures were the readings from? \_\_\_\_\_

d) What were Paul and Barnabas invited to do? \_\_\_\_\_

e) Which one of them accepted the invitation? \_\_\_\_\_

□ /5

### 3. Read again Acts 13: 38, 39. These verses contain the main point, of Paul's message.

a) Explain why "**the forgiveness of sins**" is available to us ONLY through "**this Man**" - the Lord Jesus Christ. \_\_\_\_\_

b) To be "**justified**" means to be "**declared righteous**" by God. What makes it possible for God to justify sinners? \_\_\_\_\_

□ /4

### 4. In this study, we have noted that opposition and violence from the Jews who refused to believe that Jesus is the Christ, or Messiah was a common occurrence.

a) Write two verse references of separate incidents where this is mentioned in the Bible Reading. \_\_\_\_\_

b) Why were the Jews so opposed to what Paul and Barnabas preached? \_\_\_\_\_

□ /4

### 5. Answer these questions about the visit to Lystra:

a) How did the local people react to the healing of the paralysed man? \_\_\_\_\_

b) Why do you think Paul and Barnabas restrained them from offering sacrifices? \_\_\_\_\_

□ /2

### 6. Paul and Barnabas retraced their steps, passing through places they had already visited.

a) In what ways did Paul and Barnabas help the new Christians on their way back? \_\_\_\_\_

b) On returning to Antioch, in Syria, what did Paul and Barnabas do? \_\_\_\_\_

□ /4

**THINK:** Reflect on your answer to question 6a) and consider how you have been helped by others in your life as a Christian.

TOTAL = □ /25

# Answer Sheet

## C2 - The Life & Work of Paul

### Study 2 - The Gospel reaches Europe

#### 1. Answer these questions about Paul and Silas' companion.

- a) Who joined Paul and Silas on their journey, at Lystra? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Look up **2 Timothy 1: 5** and write the names of his mother and grandmother. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Why does Paul refer to him as "**my true child in the faith**" (**1 Timothy 1: 2**) and "**my beloved child**"? (**2 Timothy 1: 2**) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Why did Paul want this young man to accompany them? (**Acts 16: 2-3**) \_\_\_\_\_

/5

#### 2. In deciding which parts to go to, Paul and his partners depended upon God to guide them.

- a) Name TWO areas to which the Holy Spirit prevented them from going. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) How did God show His servants where the 'open door' was? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Why was the short sea voyage described in **verse 11** of special importance? \_\_\_\_\_

/5

#### 3. In the Psalms we read about God being willing and able to guide his people in their decisions. Fill in the missing words:

- a) **Psalm 25: 9** "He leads the humble in \_\_\_\_\_."
- b) **Psalm 32: 8** "I will instruct you and teach you \_\_\_\_\_."
- c) **Psalm 48: 14** "He will guide \_\_\_\_\_."
- d) **Psalm 78: 72** "He guided them with \_\_\_\_\_."

/4

#### 4. Write out, from **Psalm 23**, the two sentences in which David speaks about God leading him.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

/2

#### 5. Write TRUE or FALSE after each statement in which "he" relates to Luke.

- a) He wrote The Acts of the Apostles. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) According to **Colossians 4: 14**, he was a lawyer. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) In changing from "**they**" to "**we**", he includes himself in the events which he is writing about. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) He was the third member of the missionary team. \_\_\_\_\_
- e) He joined the others at Troas. \_\_\_\_\_

/5

#### 6. Give some reasons why all Christians should help to spread the gospel of the Lord Jesus, using these Bible references to help. **Matthew 28: 19, Acts 1: 8, 2 Corinthians 5: 20, 1 Peter 3: 15.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

/4

**THINK:** Pray for opportunities and ask God to guide you to speak to a specific friend or contact about the gospel.

TOTAL = /25

# Answer Sheet

## C2 - The Life & Work of Paul

### Study 3 - Events at Philippi

#### 1. Give short answers to these questions about Lydia:

- a) From where did she originally come? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) In what business was she engaged? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Where, and when, did Paul first meet her? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- d) How did she respond to Paul's message? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- e) How did she care for Paul and his friends? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

/5

#### 2. Answer TRUE or FALSE to these statements:

- a) The slave girl was able to tell fortunes. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) She shouted out that Paul and his friends were servants of God. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Paul commanded the evil spirit to come out of her. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Her owners were pleased about this. \_\_\_\_\_
- e) The magistrates ordered that Paul and Silas should go free. \_\_\_\_\_

/5

#### 3. Answer the following:

- a) Explain, as clearly as you can, why Paul and Silas were put in prison at Philippi. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Write down two things that they were doing at midnight. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- c) What was the effect of the earthquake upon the prison? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- d) What was the jailer's reaction when he saw all the doors open? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Why did he not proceed with his intention? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

/10

#### 4. From this chapter, write down who said:

- a) **"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved"**. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) **"These men are servants of the Most High God"**. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) **"...come to my house and stay"**. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) **"These men... are disturbing our city"**. \_\_\_\_\_
- e) **"I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her"**. \_\_\_\_\_

/5

**THINK:** The people that we read about in this chapter had their lives transformed by the good news of the Lord Jesus. We should each ask: Is the gospel working effectively in ME?

TOTAL = /25

# Answer Sheet

## C1 - The Life & Work of Paul

Study 4 - The Second Missionary Journey  
Completed

### 1. Give short answers to the following questions:

a) How did Paul use the "**Scriptures**" (Old Testament) when he preached in the synagogue in Thessalonica?

b) What were the two responses to the gospel message in Thessalonica? \_\_\_\_\_

c) Explain in what ways the Jews in Berea were more "**noble**" (fair-minded) than at Thessalonica.

d) In what ways have they given us a good example? \_\_\_\_\_

e) Why do you think the Jews in Thessalonica and Berea would not believe the gospel and stirred up trouble?  
(see Acts 17: 5, 8, 13) \_\_\_\_\_

f) Suggest some reasons why people in your neighbourhood do not believe the gospel. \_\_\_\_\_

/12

### 2. Write answers to these clues about Paul's visit to Athens.

a) These two men arrived in Athens after Paul. \_\_\_\_\_

b) Two kinds of philosophers. \_\_\_\_\_

c) The name of the place where Paul gave his address. \_\_\_\_\_

d) The inscription on the altar. \_\_\_\_\_

e) A man and a woman who believed and became Christians. \_\_\_\_\_

/5

### 3. Read again Acts 17: 30-31 and briefly explain the importance of repentance.

/1

### 4. Answer these questions regarding Aquila and Priscilla:

a) Why had they recently moved from Rome to Corinth? \_\_\_\_\_

b) In what way was it to Paul's advantage to stay with them? \_\_\_\_\_

c) Why do you think Paul worked at his trade? (Acts 20: 33-35 may help you with your answer!) \_\_\_\_\_

/3

### 5. The Key Verses were written by Paul to the church at Corinth; they sum up what he had preached.

a) Write down the three things which, according to these verses, had happened to the Lord Jesus.

b) Explain clearly why these events, which happened so long ago, are important to us.

/4

**THINK:** To whom could YOU tell the good news about Jesus?

Return your completed answer sheet to:

TOTAL =  /25

UNIT TOTAL =  /100

02/2024

© Bible Educational Services.  
Visit [www.besweb.com](http://www.besweb.com) for information.  
Registered Charity UK CIO 1186004

## C2 - The Life & Work of Paul

Study 3 - Events at Philippi

### BIBLE READING:

**Acts 16: 11-40**

### KEY VERSE:

**“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...”**

Romans 1:16

On disembarking, Paul and his friends proceeded inland for about ten miles, to Philippi, an important city and the capital of that part of Macedonia. (See map, Study 2) The missionaries faced a challenging situation. How would they begin the work to which God had called them?

The story centres around three people:

### LYDIA

She was a well-off business lady from Thyatira, in Asia, but who was now living in Philippi selling ‘Thyatira purple’, a much sought-after type of cloth. Lydia was a very religious person and each Sabbath she and some other ladies met for prayer by a riverside. Paul and his friends joined them and began to speak to them about the Lord Jesus. We do not know what the other women thought about this ‘new’ teaching, but Lydia was very interested! **“The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.” (verse 14)**

As far as we know, Lydia was (or became) the first convert in Europe to Christ. Not only she, but also her entire household, were baptised as Christians. **(verse 15)**

God has wonderful ways of bringing people to faith in the Lord Jesus! Perhaps you have come into contact with the gospel when away from home, like Lydia, or perhaps through unexpected circumstances! The really important thing, however, is to pay attention to heed the message, and to believe in the Saviour!

### THE SLAVE-GIRL

She was under the control of an evil spirit and had the power to act as a fortune-teller. People paid her owners lots of money, in return for having their fortune told! She followed Paul and his friends, and kept shouting, **“These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation”.** **(verse 17)** This continued for days on end! What she was saying was true, but Paul was greatly annoyed because it was really Satan who was in control of the girl. Eventually, Paul ordered the spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ, to leave the girl! That

was the end of both her fortune-telling, and also of her noisy shouting at the missionaries!

The gospel was proving how powerful it is! First, a religious, respectable business woman is saved, and then a Satan-controlled slave is freed and has a new and better life!

### THE JAILER

The girl’s owners tried to ‘get their own back’ on Paul and Silas by falsely accusing them. The result was that the missionaries were severely beaten and put in prison. Undaunted, they prayed and sang hymns to God! Then came a terrible earthquake which wrecked the prison. The jailer awoke and was seized with terror at the thought of his prisoners having escaped! He was greatly relieved, however, to find no one had gone! Shaking all over, he helped Paul and Silas out, and then asked his well-known question, **“What must I do to be saved?”** Without delay, they gave him the answer! **“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...” (See verses 30, 31)** That very night the jailer and his family heard **“the word of the Lord” (verse 32)**, believed it and were baptised. What a happy finish to a terrifying night!



These events of so long ago are important to us because from these small beginnings, the gospel has spread and reached us. Lives were changed in those far-off days, and are still being changed! The gospel is still **“the power of God for salvation”**, as the Key Verse tells us.

## C2 - The Life & Work of Paul

Study 4 - The Second Missionary Journey  
Completed

### BIBLE READING:

**Acts 17: 1-34 and 18: 1-11, 22**

### KEY VERSES:

**“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”**

1 Corinthians 15: 3, 4

For Paul and Silas personally, the good thing about the earthquake was that they were released from prison! After a brief visit to Lydia and the other converts, they went on to Thessalonica.

### 1. THESSALONICA

In Thessalonica Paul followed his normal pattern of speaking first to the Jews in their synagogue. The Old Testament was his ‘textbook’, as he tried to convince his hearers that the Christ had to suffer, die and rise again. Paul’s argument was the Jesus is the Christ; He is the fulfilment of all the Old Testament promises and prophecies. Some Jews were persuaded and believed. In addition, many Greeks and leading women of the city became Christians, and a church came into being. Unbelieving Jews, however, succeeded in stirring up opposition, and for a time it looked as if a riot was breaking out. The Christians managed to get Paul and Silas away to Berea under cover of darkness.

### 2. BERE A

Unafraid, Paul and Silas went to the synagogue. Here, the Jews were more fair-minded (noble) than at Thessalonica. They listened carefully to this new message and spent time every day searching their Old Testament Scriptures to find out if these things were really true! What a good example for us! Let us, as Christians, allow the Bible - the Word of God - to be the standard by which we test what we are taught! Opposition again came from unbelieving Jews who travelled down from Thessalonica, and incited the crowds. It was time, once again, to move on!

### 3. ATHENS

Athens was the heart of Greek culture and learning, a place where multitudes of gods were worshipped. Paul was deeply stirred when he saw that **“the city was full of idols”**. (verse 16) As he spoke each day in the marketplace about **“Jesus and the resurrection”**, he met some philosophers

who were eager to know more about **“this new teaching”**. (verse 19)

They invited Paul to come to the famous Areopagus, or Mars Hill - the meeting-place of a very powerful and respected Court, or Council, which was made up of men of the highest rank.

Paul gave a great address to all present. (See **verses 22-31**) He spoke about God as the Creator, and exposed the foolishness of making an idol to represent Him. He emphasised the need for all to repent, in view of the fact that the world’s future Judge - the Lord Jesus - has been raised from the dead.

That was too much for most of them! The idea of a Person being raised from the dead caused them to mock, and to reject the message. Only a few of Athens’ philosophers became believers in the Lord Jesus.



*Areopagus Hill with Athens in the background.*

### 4. CORINTH

This busy seaport was the last main stopping point on this journey. Here, the missionaries remained for eighteen months. It was a very immoral place, but once more the gospel proved its power to save people from lives of sinfulness. (See **1 Corinthians 6: 9-11**) It was at Corinth that Paul met Aquila and Priscilla who became his faithful helpers in the work of the Lord.

Eventually Paul arrived back in Antioch, from which he had set out several years before. In spite of all he had suffered, he had great joy in knowing that many people had been saved, and new churches had been formed. That made it really worthwhile!

This is the second of three units on **The Life & Work of Paul.**

02/2024

© Bible Educational Services.  
Visit [www.besweb.com](http://www.besweb.com) for information.  
Registered Charity UK CIO 1186004