



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Leadership that Reproduces Itself

JUNE 28-30, 2017

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Acts 16:1-5 *“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was a Greek. 2) He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. 3) Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek. 4) And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. 5) So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.”* (NKJV)

“HOW PAUL LOVED TIMOTHY! THIS WAS THE BIRTH OF A RARE AND BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP. PAUL EVEN CAME TO CALL HIM HIS SON (1 CORINTHIANS 4:17). GOD’S GUIDANCE IS A MULTIFACETED JEWEL. LYSTRA WAS WHERE PAUL HAD EARLIER BEEN STONED AND TOSSED ON THE REFUSE HEAP, AND IT WAS IN LYSTRA THAT PAUL NOW FOUND AND RECEIVED TIMOTHY.” KENT HUGHES

Was there any other NT occurrence of the word for “*sharp contention?*” What capitol gets left out from the initial plan? What was so significant about Timothy as to be introduced with a “*behold?*” How was Timothy praised in Iconium? Why did Paul want him on the team? What was the logic behind the intense pain of circumcision? How were these churches related to the Jerusalem Council? What was the results of their work?

FOCUS ON FUTURE EVENTS:

- > SEPTEMBER 8: DELTAVILLE *THE LEGISLATIVE INVITATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT (LIFT)*
- > NOVEMBER 6: CAPITOL SQUARE *THE ELECTION-EVE CAPITOL COOKOUT AND PRAYER WALK*

Paul’s second missionary journey began with great difficulty and heartache as Barnabas suddenly left with John Mark and went back to Cyprus. Barnabas had opened every door of ministry for Paul, except that of Damascus and his own country. Though he was grateful, Paul had disagreed with and been deserted by his best friend. Paul knew that he was right and even the church agreed with him, but that didn’t remove either the pain or the work that needed to be done. The surprising move by Barnabas also logistically removed the opportunity for Paul to ever again see the king whom he was named after on the island of Cyprus. Since Paul was still responsible to deliver the letter from the Jerusalem Council to the churches of “*Syria and Cilicia*” (15:23) he needed someone available, from the Jerusalem church, who understood and agreed with the letter. He also needed a proven, strong leader whom he could trust would not forsake him due to intense hardship and deadly persecution, would follow his leadership and be willing to be trained in missionary work. Possibly the only other proven spiritual leader whose resume fit the description was Silas. As the Antioch church sent them out, commending them to the grace of God, Paul must have remembered sorrowfully, that the initial mission team had three.

“BUT YOU MUST CONTINUE IN THE THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE LEARNED AND BEEN ASSURED OF, KNOWING FROM WHOM YOU HAVE LEARNED THEM, AND THAT FROM CHILDHOOD YOU HAVE KNOWN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, WHICH ARE ABLE TO MAKE YOU WISE FOR SALVATION THROUGH FAITH WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS.”

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15

I. IDEAL QUALIFICATIONS

ACTS 16:1-2

Luke provides here his 20th “*behold?*” in Acts. The previous one was in 13:46 where Paul turned away from the Jews to the Gentiles for the first time and the next one is in 20:22 where Paul says that the Holy Spirit had

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 7:30AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – BOB EVANS ON RT. 3 & 12:00 NOON – OAKTON – BOB EVANS – 10443 WHITE GRANITE DR.

THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – CHESTER – SHONEY’S AT RT. 10 (IRON BRIDGE ROAD) & 301(12531 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY)

FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – NORFOLK – GOLDEN CORRAL, 6103 N. MILITARY HWY, NEAR THE NORFOLK AIRPORT

Virginia

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chosen for him to go to Jerusalem in spite of the persecution that awaited him. Suddenly Paul, in the place of his greatest persecution, realizes that he has just found the very best candidate for his mission team possible. Realizing that Lystra was a city so small that it did not even have a synagogue, meant that Timothy would have to walk eighteen miles to Iconium to borrow a scroll of the Scriptures which his mother and grandmother must have hand copied for him in order to teach him. Though Timothy's Greek father must have entirely rejected Judaism in that he would not allow him to be circumcised on the eighth day, yet he must have believed in a good education for Timothy and allowed his mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, to teach him with the Scriptures from his earliest days (2 Tim. 1:5). Timothy was probably so saturated with the Scriptures that Paul may have considered his education better than his own at the feet of the world-renowned Gamaliel. Paul was a full-blooded Jew, but brought up in his childhood in the metropolitan capital of Tarsus which gave him enough background to feel comfortable ministering to the Gentiles, but Timothy had a full heart for both in that he was literally half Jew and half Greek. He was so well versed and obedient to the Scriptures that he had a good reputation with everyone. Paul must have been thrilled to realize that he had such an excellent son in the faith who had probably seen him stoned to death by the Jews and yet given life.

**"FOR I HAVE NO ONE LIKEMINDED, WHO WILL
SINCERELY CARE FOR YOUR STATE."**

PHILIPPIANS 2:20

II. INESCAPABLE QUESTIONS

ACTS 16:3

Timothy's only disqualification seems to have come from his father who, according to many commentators by the tense of the verb used here, was probably dead. As his spiritual father, Timothy is adopted by Paul (1 Tim. 1:2), and assumes complete responsibility for him for the rest

of his life. Paul knew that at every synagogue they entered, they would be questioned about their Jewish identity and circumcision. Because Timothy was not circumcised, yet Jewish, Paul elevated him to full Jewish status with circumcision in obedience to the Old Testament law. The issue here was a Jew being unquestionably obedient and acquiring full access and opportunity for witness to the Jews in the synagogues, which had nothing to do with the Judaizers requiring that the Gentiles be circumcised in order to be saved. The passage makes it clear that the primary reason Timothy is circumcised is because all the Jews know that, in spite of his full saturation in the Scriptures, he is not circumcised.

**"IT SEEMS VERY LIKELY THAT PAUL SAW IN TIMOTHY HIS
OWN SUCCESSOR WHEN HE HAD TO LAY DOWN HIS WORK."**

WILLIAM BARCLAY

III. INCREDIBLE QUALITY

ACTS 16:4-5

Especially Paul, but even Silas and soon Luke would be amazed at the qualities in Paul's young protégé, Timothy. Much success is brought to the Mission Seal Team as this Spirit filled assistant so conscientiously serves them in love and obedience to Christ. Paul is not only excited to train his son in the faith, but he must have remembered his ideal number was again reached, "*and a threefold cord is not quickly broken*" (Eccl. 4:12). They delight to emphasize the decision of the Jerusalem council "*as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem.*" This pound of prevention against the false doctrine previously overcome in Jerusalem would encourage all these Gentile churches. Luke climaxes Paul's mission in summary, "*So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.*" After training with Paul, Timothy will be given the most difficult assignments and always succeed!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Is your discipleship revealed by saturation in the Scriptures so that you have a good reputation with those around you?
- 2) Do you identify and encourage young believers and guide them into spiritual leadership for Christ's kingdom?
- 3) Are you ministering the Word of God in such a way that others are being trained to do the same?