



## All Citizens Christian Church

**Bible Study:** Thursday, August 25, 2016.

**Topic:** Acts 16

**INTRODUCTION:** On his second missionary journey, Paul and his companion Silas returns to the same cities which Paul visited on Paul's first missionary journey. These cities are Lystra and Derbe. You will recall that Derbe was where Paul was stoned and left for dead in Acts 14. There they came across a young believer called Timothy whose mother was a Jew and father Greek. Based on Paul's evaluation of Timothy and his acceptance by the people, he decided to add him to his team on this journey. However before he could do that he needed to circumcise him so may be acceptable to the Jews. He therefore went ahead and circumcised him according to Jewish laws.

It was their intention to evangelize areas in Asia but the spirit will not let them but were later convinced by a vision at Troas that the Lord was calling them to Macedonia. This led them to Philippi. At Philippi, they encountered some believers, notable amongst them was a woman called Lydia a trader in purple. This woman got baptized and made the evangelistic team stay at her house.

When Paul exorcised a demon from a woman who was possessed, he fell on the wrong side of a set of people who were using the woman for profit. These people set the crowd against them and had them beaten and put in jail. When in Jail, their worship of the Lord generated an outstanding miracle where their chains and those of other prisoners were broken. This experience made the Jailer and his family to become worshippers of the Almighty God. Upon a decision by the authorities to release them the next morning, Paul resisted a secret release because as a Roman citizen, he was not supposed to be beaten and jailed without proper questioning and subsequent guilt. Eventually the authorities had to appeal to them before they were released.

## Outline:

1. Will your reputation enhance the work of God or destroy it. I Tim 4:12, Titus 2:7, I Pet 5:3, I Cor 10:33.
2. Can you think of an example where the Lord asked you to do something not because it was "necessary" for your salvation, but because it was necessary for you to reach others?
3. Paul was traveling among the Gentiles but he was still concerned about the Jews. Why? What does this tell us about ministry in general?
4. The circumcision of Timothy, was it an act of hypocrisy or what? Gal 2:3-4, I Cor 9:19-23, Rom 11:14
5. Considering the word immediately, how urgent to you respond to the call of God? Heb 3:7, 15.
6. Why did God not want to them to go to Asia? Ecc 3:1,11. Do you think you should give God the time to operate in your life? How?
  - a. Be flexible to the dictates of God. Rom 8:28, Matthew 2:12,
7. How did they finally get the direction they should go? Do we still get visions or other forms of guidance from God today? Hab 2:2, Acts 2:17.
8. Examine Paul's strategy for reaching out. Seeking out for opportunities to get things done. Opportunities do not just come. You look for them. Matthew 10:16
9. Why was the prayer meeting at Philippi held outside the city? Acts 16:20-21
10. Consider the influence and effect of resources in the preaching of the gospel. This woman was obviously not a poor woman. Matthew 27:57, Gen 13:2. II Kings 4:10. How can we use our resources to serve God?
11. The entire household almost often followed when the house leader to accepts Christ why?. Cornelius Acts 10:23-54, 44, Phillipian jailer, Acts 16:31, Lydia etc. What is the importance of the household accepting the Lord?
12. What must you do to ensure that your household follows your belief?
13. What is the importance of hospitality to the advancement of the Gospel: Luke 10:5-8, 38, II kings 4:8-10. The gospel has always relied on hospitality to thrive
14. Why does God hate fortune telling? Lev 18:10-11, 19:26.

15. Why did Paul cast out this demon? What should be our response to people or organizations that use familiar spirits to operate?
16. Let it be established here and now that God hates fortune telling
17. Why was it important to the accusers to accuse the disciples the way they did? Acts 18:2. Acts 16:13. The enemy knows how to accuse us in this world so that their accusation will appear authentic. Is there anything we can do to forestall these accusations?
18. What is the similarity in Acts 12:5-9 and Acts 16:25 i.e. comparing the response of Paul and Silas and the disciples when Peter was arrested? What should therefore be our approach to tragedy? Matthew 5:44
19. Who gets the ultimate glory when we respond appropriately to persecution? Dan 3:23-25
20. How did the jailer know that what has happened was as a result of the operations of Paul and Silas? Luke 11:33, Matthew 5:16
21. Should the Gospel bring joy or sadness to the people? Luke 2:10
22. Only in two places in acts was Paul harmed or threatened.
23. a, Philippi and b, Ephesus. In these two places money was involved. Acts 19:23-41. The church must be careful when it comes to money.
24. Why do you think Paul did not mention to them that he was a Roman Citizen before he was beaten and imprisoned or even during the beating?
25. Citizenship of a nation can be seen to be this powerful. Think for a second the power and authority you command as a heavenly citizen.