

A proper study of the letter to the Philippians should begin in Acts 15 & 16

1. Acts 15:36-41 – This is where the record of Paul's _____ missionary journey begins. After a sharp _____ with Barnabas over John Mark, Barnabas took John Mark and went to Cyprus, while Paul took _____ and went through Syria and Cilicia.
2. Acts 16:1-3 – Paul and Silas come to _____ & _____ and met _____, who is well spoken of by the brethren there and in Iconium. Timothy's mother was _____, but his father was a _____, so Paul had Timothy _____ to prevent any barriers in ministering to Jews.
3. Acts 16:4-10 – Luke records that Paul's entourage continued their journey strengthening the churches & delivering the _____ decided on by apostles & elders in Jerusalem regarding _____ coming into the kingdom (see Acts 15:6-29). The _____ had forbidden them to preach in Asia at this point and the Spirit of _____ also restrained them from going into Bithynia. They came to Troas, and while there, Paul was given a _____ of a Macedonian man asking them to come there and _____. Troas is also the point at which Luke begins to use the pronoun " _____", apparently having joined the group there.
4. Acts 16:11-15 – Arriving in Philippi of Macedonia, they meet some _____ who have gathered to pray by the river outside the city gate. A woman named Lydia, who was actually a purple merchant from Thyatira, was there. She was a worshiper of God, and he _____ her heart as she was _____ to Paul. As a result, she and all of her _____ were baptized. She then prevailed upon Paul & those with him to _____ in her house.
5. Acts 16:16-34 – Following an altercation regarding a slave girl with a spirit of divination, Paul & Silas were _____ and _____. As they were _____ to God around midnight while the other prisoners _____, a great earthquake occurred, opening the prison doors and _____ all the prisoners from their bonds. The _____, being encouraged by Paul that no one had fled, asked what he needed to do to be saved. After _____ Paul & Silas' stripes and hearing the word of the Lord, he and all of his _____ were baptized into Christ. Luke writes that after this, the jailor brought them into his own _____, set _____ before them and _____ with his whole household.

And thus, the church begins in Philippi, with a merchant woman, a jailor and both of their families.

Notes over the letter to the Philippians

1:1- 11 – Paul is accompanied by _____ as he writes this letter. He refers to themselves as “bond-servants” of Christ Jesus because they are in _____. The letter is addressed to the church at Philippi who by this time have _____ & _____ so they have apparently grown both in _____ & _____.

Luke records the establishment of the Philippian church in chapter _____ of Acts, and likely finished Acts around the early _____. At the conclusion of Acts, Paul is imprisoned in _____ (28:16-31) and was there for _____ years. The evidence points to Paul having written Philippians from his imprisonment as well as other letters.

The less than enthusiastic reception the _____ received from the _____ with whom Paul met in Rome, verse 3 of the letter to the church at Philippi seems to make all the more sense.

- ? What specific thing did Paul mention in the first part of the letter that must have endeared the Philippian saints to him?
- ? Paul’s prayer for them was that they would abound in _____, and it still more in real _____ & _____. For what purpose did Paul pray this prayer?
- ? What would approving of things that are excellent have to do with being sincere & blameless?
- ? What do you believe is the “fruit of righteousness”?