

# Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.  
Number 47, 12th February 2021



## Acts 15:36 – 18:22

Quoted from the *Easy-to-Read Version* of the Bible

### Paul and Barnabas Separate

'Paul said to Barnabas, "We should go back to all the towns where we told people the message of the Lord. We should visit the believers to see how they are doing." Barnabas wanted to bring John Mark with them too. But on their first trip John Mark did not continue with them in the work. He had left them at Pamphylia. So Paul did not think it was a good idea to take him this time. Paul and Barnabas had a big argument about this. It was so bad that they separated and went different ways. Barnabas sailed to Cyprus and took Mark with him.

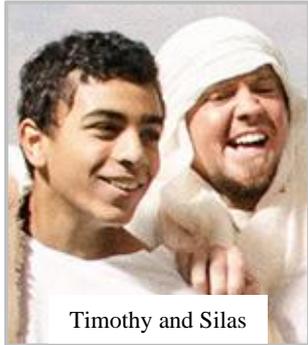
Paul chose Silas to go with him. The believers in Antioch put Paul into the Lord's care and sent him out. Paul and Silas went through the countries of Syria and Cilicia, helping the churches grow stronger.

### **SILAS** probably the same person as **SILVANUS**

Silas was perfectly suited to be Paul's companion on his second missionary journey. Silas (and Judas) were 'prophets (divinely inspired spokesmen), [who] encouraged and strengthened the believers' Acts 15:32, *Amp.* Silas was one of the leading men in the Church and was sent with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch to report on the Jerusalem Council. Silas suffered 'many stripes' with Paul, however, in prison 'at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God' Acts 16:23, 25, *NKJV.* He was probably a Roman citizen Acts 16:37. Silvanus is mentioned with Paul and Timothy in 1 Thess. 1:1 and 2 Thess. 1:1. He is also mentioned with Paul and Timothy preaching Jesus Christ 1 Cor. 2:19. Silvanus is also associated with Peter, acting as the bearer or scribe of Peter's first epistle 1 Peter 5:12.

## TIMOTHY

Timothy is probably one of Paul's converts from his first missionary journey Acts 14:6-7. Paul calls Timothy 'a true son in the faith', 'a beloved son' and a 'fellow worker' 1 Tim. 1:2, 2 Tim. 1:2, Rom. 16:21, *NKJV*. Paul also calls Timothy 'like-minded' and a person 'who will sincerely care' Phil. 2:19-20, *NKJV*. In six of Paul's epistles, he includes Timothy in his opening salutation. The name *Timothy* means *honour of God*, or *valued by God* and indicates the derivation and importance of Timothy's ministry. His mother, Eunice, was Jewish and his father (unnamed) was Greek, so Timothy had access to both cultures, a valuable asset in his missionary service. Paul's two epistles addressed to Timothy are rich in pastoral counsel, especially for young Christian leaders.



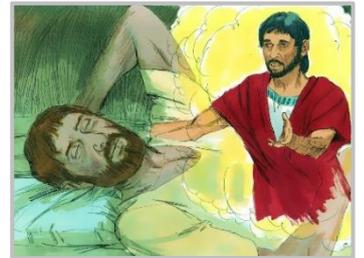
Timothy and Silas

### Timothy Goes with Paul and Silas

Paul went to the city of Derbe and then to Lystra, where a follower of Jesus named Timothy lived. Timothy's mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek. The believers in the cities of Lystra and Iconium had only good things to say about him. Paul wanted Timothy to travel with him, but all the Jews living in that area knew that his father was a Greek. So Paul circumcised Timothy to please the Jews. Then Paul and those with him travelled through other cities. They gave the believers the rules and decisions from the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. They told them to obey these rules. So the churches were becoming stronger in their faith, and the number of believers was growing every day.

### Paul is Called to Macedonia

Paul and those with him went through the areas of Phrygia and Galatia because the Holy Spirit did not allow them to tell the Good News in the province of Asia. When they reached the border of Mysia, they tried to go on into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not let them go there. So they passed by Mysia and went to the city of Troas.



That night Paul saw a vision. In it, a man from Macedonia came to Paul. The man stood there and begged, "Come across to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we immediately prepared to leave for Macedonia. We understood that God had called us to tell the Good News to those people.



### The Conversion of Lydia

We left Troas in a ship and sailed to the island of Samothrace. The next day we sailed to the city of Neapolis. Then we went to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city in that part of Macedonia. We stayed there for a few days.



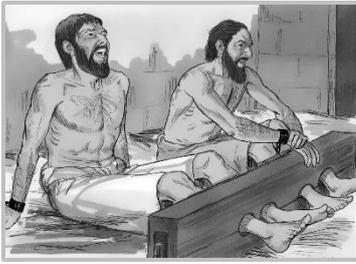
On the Sabbath day we went out the city gate to the river. There we thought we might find a special place for prayer. Some women had gathered there, so we sat down and talked with them. There was a woman there named Lydia from the city of Thyatira. Her job was selling purple cloth. She was a worshiper of the true God. Lydia was listening to Paul, and the Lord opened her heart to accept what Paul was saying. She and all the people living in her house were baptised. Then she invited us into her home. She said, "If you think I am a true believer in the Lord Jesus, come stay in my house." She persuaded us to stay with her.

### Paul and Silas in Jail

One day we were going to the place for prayer, and a servant girl met us. She had a spirit in her that gave her the power to tell what would happen in the future. By doing this she earned a lot of money for the men who owned her. She started following Paul and the rest of us around. She kept shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how you can be saved!" She continued doing this for many days. This bothered Paul, so he turned and said to the spirit, "By the power of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!" Immediately, the spirit came out.

When the men who owned the servant girl saw this, they realized that they could no longer use her to make money. So they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them to the public square to meet with the authorities. They brought Paul and Silas before the Roman officials and said, "These men are Jews, and they are making trouble in our city. They are telling people to do things that are not right for us as Romans to do."

The whole crowd turned against Paul and Silas. The officials tore the clothes off both men and ordered that they be beaten with rods. They were beaten severely and thrown into jail. The officials told the jailer, "Guard them very carefully!" When the jailer heard this special order, he put Paul and Silas far inside the jail and bound their feet between large blocks of wood.



About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God. The other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so strong that it shook the foundation of the jail. All the doors of the jail opened, and the chains on all the prisoners fell off. The jailer woke up and saw that the jail doors were open. He thought that the prisoners had already escaped, so he got his sword and was ready to kill himself. But Paul shouted, "Don't hurt yourself! We are all here!"



For tourists in Philippi this is called 'Paul's prison', however, nobody knows for sure that it actually was.

The jailer told someone to bring a light. Then he ran inside and, shaking with fear, fell down in front of Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?"

They said to him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved – you and all who live in your house." So Paul and Silas told the message of the Lord to the jailer and all the people who lived in his house. It was late at night, but the jailer took Paul and Silas and washed their wounds. Then the jailer and all his people were baptised. After this the jailer took Paul and Silas home and gave them some food. All the people were very happy because they now believed in God.

The next morning the Roman officials sent some soldiers to tell the jailer, "Let these men go free."

The jailer said to Paul, "The officials have sent these soldiers to let you go free. You can leave now. Go in peace."

But Paul said to the soldiers, "Those officials did not prove that we did anything wrong, but they beat us in public and put us in jail. And we are Roman citizens. Now they want us to go away quietly. No, they must come here themselves and lead us out!"

The soldiers told the officials what Paul said. When they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were afraid. So they came and told them they were sorry. They led them out of the jail and asked them to leave the city. But when Paul and Silas came out of the jail, they went to Lydia's house. They saw some of the believers there and encouraged them. Then they left.

**'Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.'**  
Acts 16:31, ERV

## Paul and Silas in Thessalonica

Paul and Silas travelled through the cities of Amphipolis and Apollonia. They came to the city of Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. Paul went into the synagogue to see the Jews as he always did. The next three weeks, on each Sabbath day, he discussed the Scriptures with them. He explained the Scriptures to show them that the Messiah had to die and then rise from death. He said, "This Jesus that I am telling you about is the Messiah." Some of the Jews there believed Paul and Silas and decided to join them. Also, a large number of Greeks who were worshippers of the true God and many important women joined them.



The Vlatadon Monastery in present-day Thessaloniki, Greece is built on the traditional site of Jason's house.



The sign says:  
HERE TOOK PLACE ST. PAUL'S  
SPEECH THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES  
CHPT XVII-I  
AND PASSING THROUGH AMFIPOLIS  
AND APOLLONIA  
THEY REACHED THESSALONIKI ...

But the Jews who did not believe became jealous, so they got some bad men from around the city centre to make trouble. They formed a mob and caused a riot in the city. They went to Jason's house, looking for Paul and Silas. They wanted to bring them out before the people. When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the other believers to the city leaders. The people shouted, "These men have made trouble everywhere in the world, and now they have come here too! Jason is keeping

them in his house. They all do things against the laws of Caesar. They say there is another king called Jesus.” When the city leaders and the other people heard this, they became very upset. They made Jason and the other believers deposit money to guarantee that there would be no more trouble. Then they let them go.

**‘They studied  
the Scriptures  
every day.’**

Acts 17:11, *ERV*

## Paul and Silas Go to Berea

That same night the believers sent Paul and Silas to another city named Berea. When they arrived there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. The people in Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica. They were so glad to hear the message Paul told them. They studied the Scriptures every day to make sure that what they heard was really true. The result was that many of them believed, including many important Greek women and men.

But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was telling people God’s message in Berea, they came there too. They upset the people and made trouble. So the believers immediately sent Paul away to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea. Those who went with Paul took him to the city of Athens. They returned with a message for Silas and Timothy to come and join him as soon as they could.

## Paul in Athens

While Paul was waiting for Silas and Timothy in Athens, he was upset because he saw that the city was full of idols. In the synagogue he talked with the Jews and with the Greeks who were worshippers of the true God. He also went to the public square every day and talked with everyone who came by. Some of the Epicurean and some of the Stoic philosophers argued with him.



Some of them said, “This man doesn’t really know what he is talking about. What is he trying to say?” Paul was telling them the Good News about Jesus and the resurrection. So they said, “He seems to be telling us about some other gods.”

They took Paul to a meeting of the Areopagus council. They said, “Please explain to us this new idea that you have been teaching. The things you are saying are new to us. We have never heard this teaching before, and we want to know what it means.” (The people of Athens and the foreigners who lived there spent all their time either telling or listening to all the latest ideas.)



This ‘altar of the unknown god’ was found in Rome in 1820. Similar words have been discovered on other ancient monuments. This altar is dated ‘late 2<sup>nd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> century BC’. It is in the *Palentine Hill Museum*, Rome.

Then Paul stood up before the meeting of the Areopagus council and said, “Men of Athens, everything I see here tells me you are very religious. I was going through your city and I saw the things you worship. I found an altar that had these words written on it: ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ You worship a god that you don’t know. This is the God I want to tell you about.

“He is the God who made the whole world and everything in it. He is the Lord of the land and the sky. He does not live in temples built by human hands. He is the one who gives people life, breath, and everything else they need. He does not need any help from them. He has everything he needs. God began by making one man, and from him he made all the different people who live everywhere in the world. He decided exactly when and where they would live.

“God wanted people to look for him, and perhaps in searching all around for him, they would find him. But he is not far from any of us. It is through him that we are able to live, to do what we do, and to be who we are. As your own poets have said, ‘We all come from him.’

“That’s right. We all come from God. So you must not think that he is like something people imagine or make. He is not made of gold, silver, or stone. In the past people did not understand God, and he overlooked this. But now he is telling everyone in the world to change and turn to him. He has decided on a day when he will judge all the people in the world in a way that is fair. To do this he will use a man he chose long ago. And he has proved to everyone that this is the man to do it. He proved it by raising him from death!”

When the people heard about Jesus being raised from death, some of them laughed. But others said, “We will hear more about this from you later.” So Paul left the council meeting. But some of the people joined with Paul and became believers. Among these were Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus council, a woman named Damaris, and some others.



## Paul in Corinth



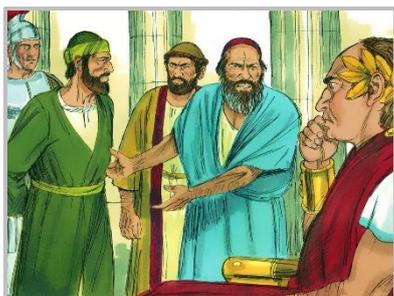
Some pillars still standing in the Archaeological Site of Ancient Corinth, Greece.

Later, Paul left Athens and went to the city of Corinth. There he met a Jewish man named Aquila, who was born in the country of Pontus. But he and his wife, Priscilla, had recently moved to Corinth from Italy. They left Italy because Claudius had given an order for all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to visit Aquila and Priscilla. They were tentmakers, the same as Paul, so he stayed with them and worked with them.

Every Sabbath day Paul went to the synagogue and talked with both Jews and Greeks, trying to persuade them to believe in Jesus. But after Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul spent all his time telling God's message to the Jews, trying to convince them that Jesus is the Messiah. But they disagreed with what Paul was teaching and started insulting him. So Paul shook the dust from his clothes. He said to them, "If you are not saved, it will be your own fault! I have done all I can do. After this I will go only to the non-Jewish people."

Paul left the synagogue and moved into the home of Titius Justus, a man who was a worshipper of the true God. His house was next to the synagogue. Crispus was the leader of that synagogue. He and all the people living in his house believed in the Lord Jesus. Many other people in Corinth also listened to Paul. They, too, believed and were baptised.

During the night, Paul had a vision. The Lord said to him, "Don't be afraid, and don't stop talking to people. I am with you, and no one will be able to hurt you. Many of my people are in this city." Paul stayed there for a year and a half teaching God's message to the people.



## Paul is Brought Before Gallio

During the time that Gallio was the governor of Achaia, some of the Jews came together against Paul. They took him to court. They said to Gallio, "This man is teaching people to worship God in a way that is against our law!"

Paul was ready to say something, but Gallio spoke to the Jews. He said, "I would listen to you if your complaint was about a crime or other wrong. But it is only about words and names – arguments about your own law. So you must solve this problem yourselves. I don't want to be a judge of these matters." So Gallio made them leave the court. Then they all grabbed

Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue. They beat him before the court. But this did not bother Gallio.

## Paul Returns to Antioch

Paul stayed with the believers for many days. Then he left and sailed for Syria. Priscilla and Aquila were also with him. At Cenchrea Paul cut off his hair, because he had made a promise to God. Then they went to the city of Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. While Paul was in Ephesus, he went into the synagogue and talked with the Jews. They asked him to stay longer, but he refused. He left them and said, "I will come back to you again if God wants me to." And so he sailed away from Ephesus.

When Paul arrived at Caesarea, he went to Jerusalem and visited the church there. After that he went to Antioch.'

See if you can memorise John 17:3

'This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.' John 17:3, NKJV

'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD'

You worship a god that you don't know. This is the God I want to tell you about.' Acts 17:23, ERV

'Paul explained the one true God to these educated men of Athens; although these men were, in general, very religious, they did not know God. Today we have a 'Christian' society, but to most people, God is still unknown. We need to proclaim who He is and make it clear what he did for all mankind through his Son Jesus Christ. We cannot assume that people around us truly know Jesus or understand the importance of faith in Him.'

Life Application Study Bible, footnote on Acts 17:3

# Word Search

PAUL            BARNABAS  
 SECOND        MISSIONARY  
 JOURNEY       THESSALONICA  
 ANTIOCH       NEOPOLIS  
 DERBE         SILAS  
 LYSTRA        TIMOTHY  
 ICONIUM       MACEDONIA  
 ANTIOCH       LYDIA  
 EPHESUS       JASON  
 TROAS         AQUILA  
 CORINTH       PRISCILLA  
 PHILIPPI      GALLIO  
 BEREAS        CAESAREA  
 ATHENS        JERUSALEM

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | A | R | N | A | B | A | Y | H | C | O | I | T | N | A |
| A | L | I | U | Q | A | D | P | H | C | O | I | T | N | A |
| A | I | N | O | D | E | C | A | M | T | I | M | O | T | H |
| S | I | L | A | R | U | M | U | E | C | O | R | I | N | H |
| P | A | U | B | S | A | A | E | J | R | K | M | B | M | T |
| A | Q | E | A | I | P | U | A | L | S | A | L | I | S | N |
| U | C | O | S | A | B | A | N | R | A | B | S | L | T | I |
| P | R | I | S | C | I | L | L | A | Q | S | J | E | U | R |
| T | I | A | N | E | O | P | O | L | I | S | U | I | A | O |
| X | P | E | E | O | A | I | A | O | F | D | J | R | O | C |
| Z | P | R | H | U | L | T | N | U | L | A | Y | T | E | J |
| D | I | E | T | L | U | A | O | I | T | U | Q | L | O | J |
| N | L | B | A | A | R | T | S | Y | L | B | A | U | Q | A |
| O | I | G | P | Y | U | Q | A | S | I | L | R | P | I | S |
| C | H | U | A | P | A | U | J | Q | E | N | I | E | U | O |
| E | P | A | U | S | P | S | U | S | E | H | P | E | D | M |
| S | M | U | I | N | O | C | I | Y | Q | X | T | R | O | A |

.....  
 Pictures are courtesy of and grateful thanks to: Satellite picture of east Mediterranean: *NASA*. Athens: *greece-is.com*, *athenstourgreece.com*, *Pinterest*. All Bible paintings, Second Missionary Journey map, photos of the unknown god altar and photos of Lydia and Timothy & Silas: *Sweet Publishing* and especially Jim Pagett (the artist), *freebibleimages.org*. Acts 17:1 stone inscription, 'Paul's prison' and Vlatadon Monastery: Nancy Silcox. Ancient Corinth: *Wikipedia*. Pictures not credited are believed to be all in the Public Domain.

Bible abbreviations: *Amp.*: Amplified Bible. *ERV*: Easy-to-Read Version. *NKJV*: New King James Version.

..... Disclaimer: The above material is taken from various sources, including the internet, so you need to check details for yourself. ....

Any questions, etc, please contact the UK GCI Watford Church Council or Geoff Sole, 01707 880782 or [geoff@geoffsole.co.uk](mailto:geoff@geoffsole.co.uk).