Text:

Introduction:

1. PAUL'S DISCIPLE – TIMOTHY (16:1)

Acts 16:1
1 Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father *was* a Greek:

The work of missions is the work of the church.

Matthew 28:19-20
19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Timothy was going to be trained by Paul. We too should be investing our life in someone, teaching them what we have learned from God's Word, and those who have taught us.

2. PAUL'S DELIVERY – THE DECREES (16:4)

Acts 16:4
⁴ And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.

Its interesting understanding the decree's being delivered to these churches dealt with the confusion over circumcision and salvation.

Paul had opposed that with all his might; imposing circumcision upon the Gentile converts.

Why did Paul desire this for Timothy?

He knew Timothy was a man likely to do a great deal of good among the Jews and they may shun him if they see him as unclean.

He was against those who made circumcision necessary to salvation, but used it himself when it was conducive to edification; nor was he rigid in opposing it, as they were in imposing it.

These decrees being delivered were to help ground these newly founded churches.

The work of the church and missions is the work of grounding believers to be sound in doctrine, so that

they may not be tossed to and fro, with every wind of doctrine.

3. PAUL'S DESIRE – TO GO TO ASIA (16:6-7)

Acts 16:6-7
[6] Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, [7] After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

Asia needed the Gospel, but this was not God's time. Asia was an important region and God would establish churches there but for now Paul was forbidden to speak there.

We must be willing to lay down our will and plans for the direction that the Holy Spirit brings.

Certainly we as pastor and churches see great needs in many places for churches to be planted and strengthened, but we must follow the spirits leading.

4. PAUL'S DIRECTIVE – COME OVER INTO MACEDONIA AND HELP US (16:9-12)

Acts 16:9-12
[9] And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. [10] And after he had seen the vision, immediately we

endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. **11** Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next *day* to Neapolis; **12** And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, *and* a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

    A. Was Certain that God Had Called and Led Him to Macedonia

    B. Left Immediately Again Not Spending Time on Deputation, and Raising Support

    C. The Place That They Began was In Philippi; Which Was Chief City of the Part of Macedonia.

There is certainly something to consider here as we consider the method that Paul used when arriving at Macedonia.

He began in the chief city.

This city was mainly made up of Romans.

It seems that this was the method that Paul employed most in his missionary journeys.

Close:

Again notice the mobility of Paul.

Notice his going immediately

Notice where it is that he began the work

Notice how that he invested in the lives of others

Notice how that he oversaw the churches planted, he didn't pastor them