



## Acts: Macedonia

Aug 16

**INTRODUCTION:** With the Jerusalem Council behind them, and the letter having caused encouragement into the Galatian churches, Paul's team now strikes out into new territory.

**KEY POINT:** mission, direction, discernment, providence

### A.M. SERMON RECAP (George Bell)

- What was the sermon about?
- What were the key points?
- Key takeaways...? Questions to keep considering?

### P.M. SERMON RECAP (Acts 16: 1–5, Timothy)

- Who was Timothy? What encouragement is his life?
- For missional reasons, what did Timothy do?
- Was this a contradiction of the Jerusalem Council?

**READ:** Acts 16:6–10

### QUESTIONS:

1. Acquaint yourself with the basic geography (Roman provinces). *Phrygia and Mysia were both areas of Asia. Troas was the main harbour of Asia facing Macedonia:*



2. *V. 6– Having been in Derbe and Lystra (v. 1), the team continued east through “the cities” (v. 4). Having completed their initial plan (15:36) they now cast their missionary eyes further afield.*
3. *Vv. 6–7– “The Holy Spirit” and “Spirit of Jesus” are synonymously used for Jesus sent His Spirit at Pentecost.*
4. *Despite heading east the Spirit (God) twice prevented them from [temporarily] fulfilling His general will (Acts 1:8) which may have taken them west or north.*
5. **Did God not want them to hear the Gospel (“pass by”) or does it show God has a specific plans for us in the midst of His wider mission? (i.e. who went to Bythnia, 1 Pet 1:1?). Can we minister to everyone or must we consign ourselves to minister to some?**
6. **If we are open and active to do God’s will how can we trust that He will direct us to His specific will?**
7. *Luke doesn’t tell us how they were prevented (i.e. inward impression, outward illness, opposition, prophecy). **Has God ever negatively guided you away from something in life/mission, even when it was good?***
8. *They were negatively led to Troas. Next they were positively led to Macedonia. This may be where we get “when God closes a door He opens a window,” though this can be abused (it isn’t an absolute). Often there is such a thing as double guidance: prohibition and opportunity. **Have you ever experienced this?***
9. *V.10– “concluding”: a bringing together of the data to make a conclusion. **How did God use double guidance, time, circumstances, personal revelation (vision), reason and corporate discussion to direct the team? What should we rely on in life/missional decisions?***
10. *V. 9b– **HELP** (a military distress call). **Why did they need help? What help could Paul bring them?***
11. *V. 10– “we”. Here Luke joined the team. (Possibly as a doctor but perhaps as a native of Macedonia). Like Timothy (16:3), he is another reminder of team ministry.*
12. *Though the team wouldn’t have made the geographical divide we do today (they were just crossing a well-travelled body of water to another Roman province, we know they crossed from Asia to Europe. If you are a European Christian this is the heritage that made salvation possible. Little did the team know the impact this*

*would have re: Acts 1:8 for Europe became the first Christian continent and helped bring Christianity to the others? **How might God use our mission?***

**NEXT:** Aug 23- Acts 16:11–16, The Conversion of Lydia