

Acts to Revelation
The World of the First Christians

Session 8 – The Second Journey Continues – Philippi & Thessalonica

Session Summary – Paul and his team continued their missionary journey through Macedonia in present-day Greece. After crossing the Aegean Sea, they landed at Neapolis and traveled to nearby Philippi. We will visit the ancient ruins of Philippi and investigate the Biblical accounts that happened there. Then take a road trip to ancient Thessalonica, where Paul and his team preached the Gospel, but were ultimately run out of town by a violent mob. Despite growing persecution, the church continued to grow throughout the Roman Empire.

“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, begin confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 1:4-6

Paul kept a soft spot in his heart for the Christians in Philippi. Later in his life, when he was imprisoned in Rome, he wrote them a very personal letter. Paul was facing some rough circumstances, yet he focused on encouraging themes such as courage, triumph, and thanksgiving. Paul’s letter (Philippians) is only four chapters long. However, it is full of joy and encouragement. *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” – Philippians 4:4*

Scripture Reading: Acts 16:11-40, 17:1-9

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Philippi get its name?
2. What was Lydia’s business in Philippi?
3. What were the two villages that Paul visited on his trip from Philippi to Thessalonica?
4. What Macedonian city did Paul visit that is now considered the second most important city in all of Greece?
5. What were the city officials called in ancient Thessalonica? Why is this little known fact important?

Scripture for Next Week: Acts 17:10-34

