

The Gospel Goes to Europe Acts 15:36-16:15

Conflict—a split leads to two missions teams. 15:36-39

- ◆ Paul strongly thinks it *not wise* to give Mark (Barnabas' nephew, Col. 4:10) a 2nd chance (recall 13:13), but years later Paul will call for his help, II Tim. 4:11.
- ◆ This split actually doubles their efforts, and Silas is a great choice, 15:22, 32.
- ◆ How should this reported conflict affect us?

Change of direction—the gospel goes west. 15:40-16:10

- ◆ Timothy is circumcised only for the sake of ministry (pragmatic) as in 21:21ff. Recall the Jerusalem decree and compare to Titus in Gal. 2:3-5, I Cor. 7:18.
- ◆ Paul's tries to go northeast but is redirected west through a vision. Again the Holy Spirit is actively directing evangelism, see 8:29, 39, 10:19, 13:2.
- ◆ Note pronoun in v.10 = 1st person—Luke will now travel w/Paul off and on.
- ◆ How should this redirection affect us?

Conversion—a business woman is Europe's first convert. 16:11-15

- ◆ Lydia is on business from Thyatira and is a God-fearing Gentile, 13:43, 17:4, 17.
- ◆ God initiates the direction of the gospel and “opens Lydia's heart” to respond to the gospel, similar to Lk. 24:45, and see Acts 2:47, 13:48, Matt. 16:17.
- ◆ Note Lydia's responses after baptism: Rom. 12:12, I Pt. 4:9, Heb. 13:2
- ◆ What does Lydia's conversion experience reveal to us?

