

TAUPO BAPTIST CHURCH

SERMON STUDY NOTES

13th September 2020
Speaker: Chris Hayden

Paul's 2nd Journey

Background: Paul's 2nd Journey: 50-52AD; some 1800mils (nearly 3000kms) on foot Taupo to Wellington nearly 8 times)!

Key Events: In his 2nd journey, Paul goes farther West into Macedonia (northern Greece) • He meets Lydia and starts the first Christian Church in Philippi – here he cast a Spirit out of a fortune teller; her 'owner' claimed loss of income and has Paul and Silas thrown in Prison • Travels to Thessalonica and Berea, then to Athens where he gives his famous speech in Acts • Then to Corinth for 3 years (he writes his first letters to the Thessalonians).

1st Lesson – The Direction of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit was Paul's Travel Agent – giving clear direction, but how? We have many clues in the scriptures:

1(a) Agreement with others (Acts 15): Paul and Barnabas are sent out: ⁴“When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them...²²” **Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas...**²⁸ “Seemed good to the Holy Spirit and us not to burden you...”

“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”
(Prov. 15:22)

1(b) Agreement with God's Word: “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, **he will guide you** into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; **he will speak only what he hears**, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” (Jn 16:13); “Sanctify them through **thy truth: thy word is truth.**” (Jn 17:17)

2. Peace: “**Peace** I leave with you; my **peace** I give you. I do not give to

you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (Jn 14:27) and Isaiah 30:15

3. Fruit of the Spirit “...**the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” (Acts 5:22-23)

4. Excitement: “And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.” (Acts 3:8). It’s exciting when the Holy Spirit is at work!

5. Road Blocks: “**Paul and his companions** travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but **the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them** to. So, they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.” (Acts 16:6)

6. Fellowship: On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate (Philippi) to the river ... to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those **listening** was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a **worshiper** of God. The Lord **opened her heart to respond** to Paul’s message. When she and the members of her household were **baptized**, she **invited us** to her home. (Acts 16:13-15); Rev 3:20

7. Divine Call: “...Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, **concluding that God had called us** to preach the gospel to them. From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to *Neapolis*. From there we travelled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.” (Acts 16:9-12)

2nd Lesson – Be Like the Bereans and Study the Scriptures

“As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.” (Acts 17:10)

1. **noble character** (= “generous”, not higher status)
2. **great eagerness** (hearts keen to learn about Christ)
3. **examined the scriptures daily** (source of revelation)
4. **believe** (life changing acceptance of “the truth”)

Paul may have shown the Bereans, from Old Testament scriptures, that Christ was the Messiah – e.g.

Old Testament Prophecies	Christ Fulfilled
He would be human, born of a woman (Genesis 3:15)	Gal. 4:4-5, Matt. 1:18
He will reconcile people to God (Genesis 3:15)	Heb. 2:14, 1 John 3:8
He would be a descendant of Jesse's son King David (Isaiah 11:1)	Matt. 1:1
He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)	Matt. 2:1-5
He would perform miracles (Isa. 35:4-6)	Mark 10:51-52, Mark 7:32-35, Matt. 11:4-5, Matt. 12:10-13, Matt. 9:32-33
He would teach in parables (Ps. 78:1-2)	Matt. 13:3, 13-15
His hands and feet would be pierced (Ps. 22:16)	John 19:37, 20:27
King David prophesied about resurrection (Ps. 16:8-11)	John 20:9

Peter Stoner, Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena College, along with 600 students from the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, looked at eight specific prophecies about Jesus and the probability for each one being fulfilled.

They then considered the likelihood of Jesus fulfilling all eight of those prophecies. The conclusion to his research was staggering.

The prospect that anyone would satisfy those eight prophecies was just 1 in 10¹⁷. If we took that many coins, they would cover NZ to a depth of 1.58m. “Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these 8 prophecies and having them **all come true** in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote using their own wisdom!”

Back to the beginning (something that fascinates astronomers and scientists alike): The apostle Paul spoke Greek, Aramaic, and possibly some Latin. As a highly educated Pharisee, he also read a scribal form of Hebrew, so he may have referred the Bereans back to the beginning of Scripture – Genesis:

Hebrew letters are also pictograms – pictures that show what each letter means. Let’s take Genesis 1:1

(read from right to left)

What story do the letters show (again reading from right to left)?

Paul started his second journey to encourage the churches he helped start and ended up taking the good news of Christ into Europe. He left Berea to go to Athens and then delivered his powerful speech on “The Unknown God”. He explained with great clarity that Christ had to suffer for our sins on a cross and rose again; and that he will return again soon. (Acts 17:31-32). Paul’s journey demonstrated for us the importance of:

1. Having a clear testimony of God’s love and forgiveness in our own lives
2. Following the leading of the Holy Spirit
3. Studying the scriptures for ourselves to check for the truth
4. Fellowship and companionship of other believers
5. Being prepared to suffer for Christ

*“The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell.
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell.”*

(Famous Hymn by Frederick Martin Lehman)