

the remotest part of the earth

#18, on the road again – Acts 15:36-16:24

About this time two painful events happened at the church at Antioch. The first event is from Paul's epistle to the Galatians. He, Paul, records this event.

Galatians 2:11, But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed (stood against) him to his face, because he stood condemned (at fault).

12 For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. 13 The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.

14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

[1.] Gal 2:11, he stood condemned. In Gal 2:1-10 Peter is described as one of reputation, a pillar and an apostle to the circumcised. What would you think is the magnitude of the problem Paul had to confront him about?

[2.] v:11 again, opposed him to his face, Why or why doesn't it seem Paul used "kid gloves"?

[3.] v:12-13, the coming of certain men from James, OK, to start, Peter ate with the Gentiles. Write down the domino effect caused by the new arrivals.

1st domino _____

2nd domino _____

3rd domino _____

[4.] question [3.], In this whole motley scene, who were the ones that were unconcerned about the new arrivals?

[5.] v:14, not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, Regarding the gospel truth, how was each "domino" an act of false teaching?

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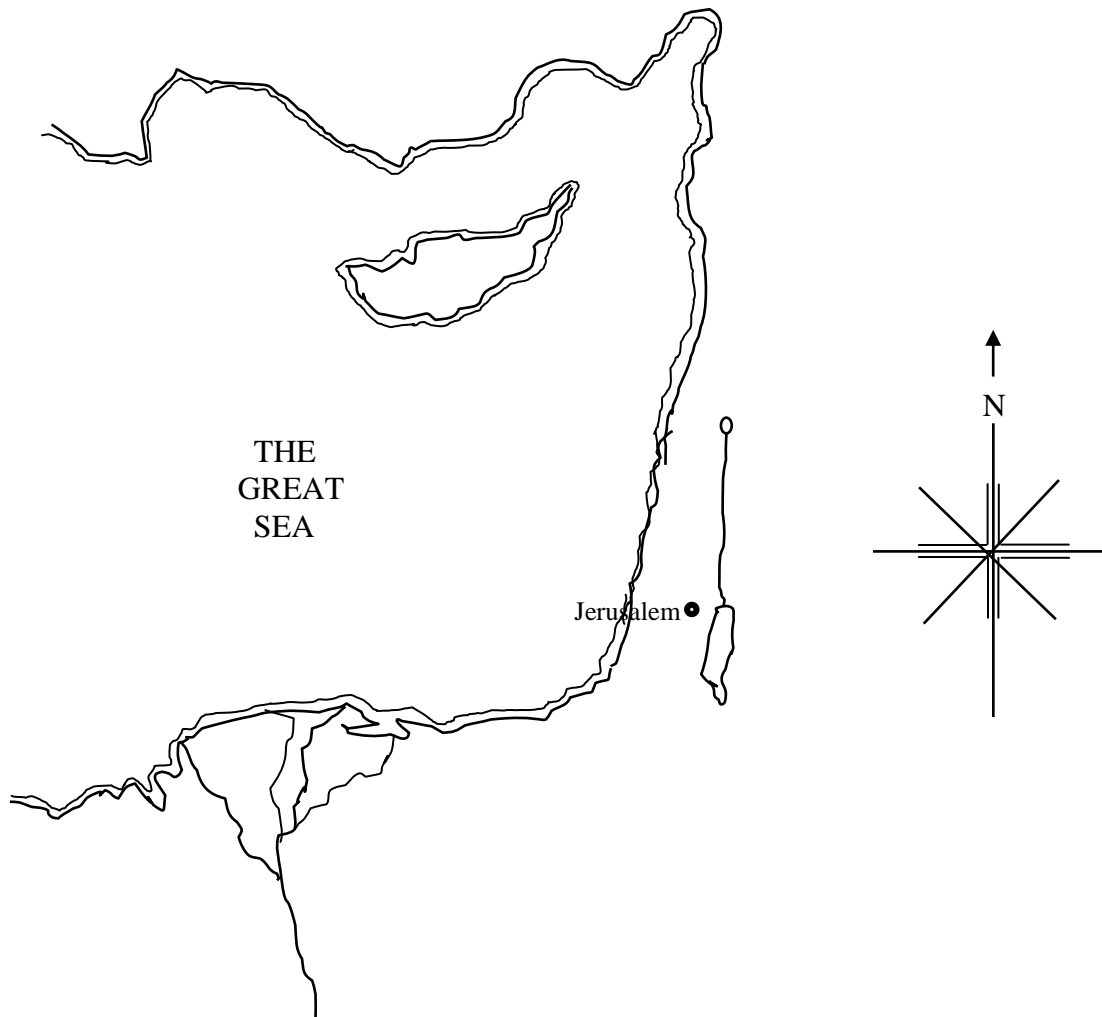
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Soon after the assumed Jewish elitism thing was cleaned up, another painful event happen at Antioch. Paul and Barnabas decided to make a return visit to brethren that had been saved during their last mission trip. So far so good! However, Barnabas wanted to bring along John Mark.

Acts 15:36 After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." 37 Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. 38 But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. 39 And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. 40 But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. 41 And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

[6.] v:36-38, Why or why wouldn't Barnabas' weakness in the "domino effect" have been a factor in their differences?

[7.] v:39-41, they separated from one another, **On the map below, draw in the different routes that the two followed.**



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Acts 16:1, Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, 2 and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

4 Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe. 5 So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.

6 They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; 7 and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; 8 and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

[8.] Acts 16:1-2, Derbe, Lystra and Iconium. Locate these places and identify them.

[9.] v:3, took him (Timothy) and circumcised him, We have studied the Christian thoughts on circumcision performed in the flesh by human hands. So, why would Paul circumcise Timothy?

[10.] question [9.], Study I Corinthians 9:19-23. Why or why isn't this Paul's motive for circumcising Timothy?

[11.] v:4-5, delivering the decrees, What decrees are these?

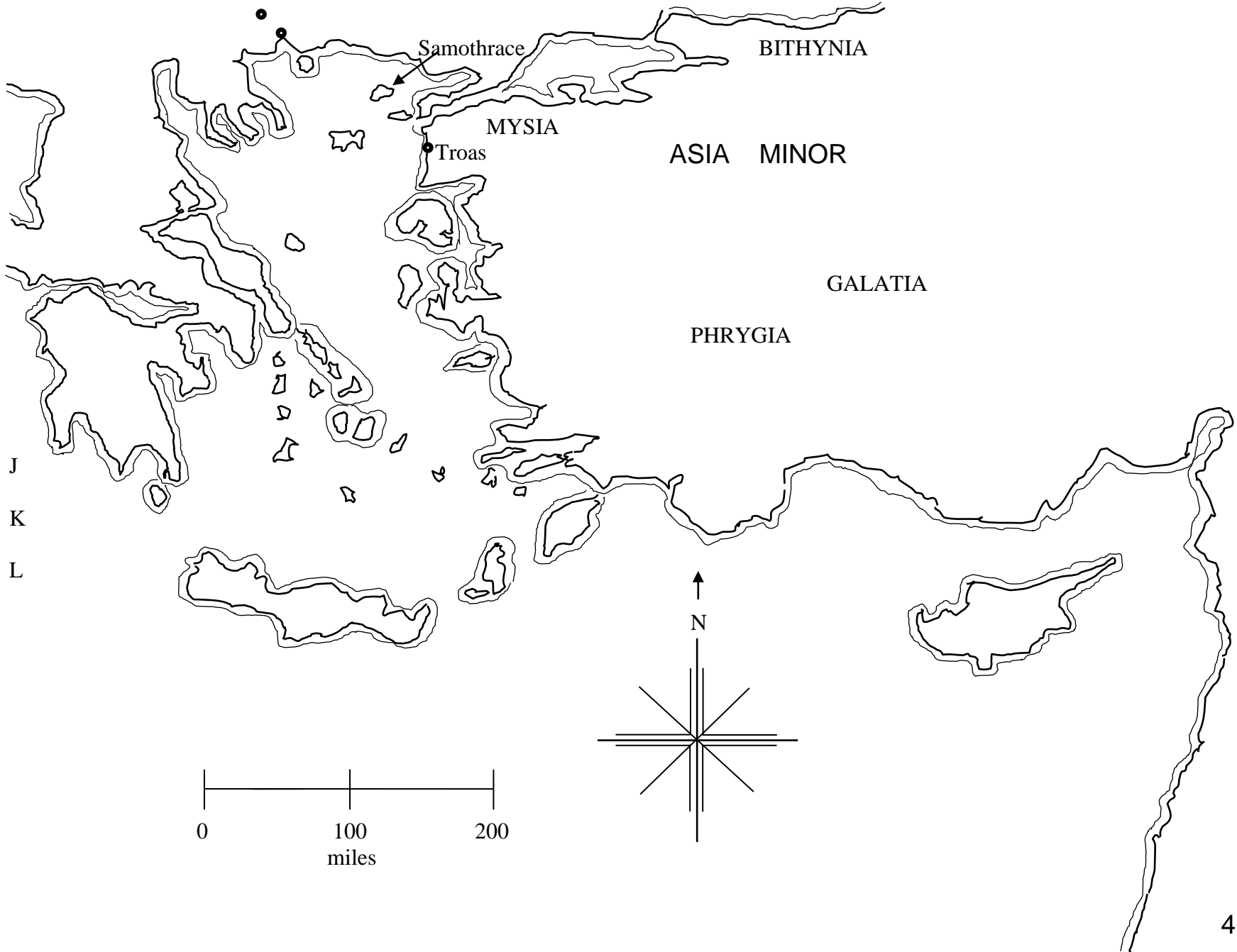
[12.] v:6-8, On your map (pg 4) draw in Paul's route.

[13.] v:6-8 again, forbidden by the Holy Spirit, did not permit them; How do you think the Spirit passed on these messages?

[14.] Since God still works with Christians today, what might hinder our communications with the Spirit?

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9 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

11 So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days.

13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.

14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

15 And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

[15.] v:9-10, A vision appeared, From the vision Paul concluded that they should go to Macedonia to:

- a) Build a church building.
- b) Construct a Bible college.
- c) Introduce better farming methods.
- d) Preach the gospel.
- e) None of the above.

[16.] v:11-12, So putting out to sea,

- a) Draw in the sea voyage (map pg4).
- b) The body of water crossed was? _____
- c) Identify Neapolis and Philippi (map pg4).

[17.] v:13, Sabbath day, riverside, supposing a place of prayer; As a "new-comer" Why might Paul suppose this?

[18.] v:14, A woman named Lydia, Write down what we can conclude about this woman.

[19.] v:15, come into my house and stay, Can you name another woman, from our studies, who showed hospitality to a servant of the Lord? (reference please!)

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16 It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." 18 She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.

19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities,

20 and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, 21 and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans."

22 The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. 23 When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; 24 and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

[20.] v:16-17, proclaiming to you the way of salvation, **Right up front this seems like a good deal! Why or why wasn't it true what the slave girl was saying?**

[21.] v:18, and said to the spirit, **What spirit is this verse talking about?**

[22.] v:19, their hope of profit was gone, **So what was wrong with these guys making a few bucks from the girl's fortune-telling?**

[23.] v:20-21, customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, **What was untrue about this accusation?**

[24.] v:22-24, Looks like another "domino" thing to me! Describe the dominos?

[25.] If as a Christian you regularly give out the word of God, what can you also expect?

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NOTES