

The Prevailing Purposes of God

Acts 15:36-16:15

At the conclusion of the Jerusalem Council, Paul embarks on his **2nd Missionary Journey**.

"And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." (15:36)

The ultimate result was _____ for the first time!

"One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." (16:14-15)

But there were **difficulties along the way** ... Acts 15:36-41

Some thoughts on **conflict** in the Christian life:

- Some conflict is _____, but our aim is always _____ (Romans 12:16-18).
- _____ at all costs is not _____. Sometimes _____ is the best outcome*.
- God can/will use conflict to advance His purposes ___ and _____ us.
- Conflict among Christians is always _____. (1 Cor. 9:6; 2 Tim. 4:11)

From this conflict ...

- The mission work was _____.
- John Mark was _____.
- Paul and Barnabas both _____.
- Silas added _____.
- Timothy _____.

Why did Paul have him circumcised?

Was Paul inconsistent in his theology? (Cf. to situation with Titus in Galatians 2:3-5)

Open doors and open hearts – **How God advances the gospel** ... Acts 16:6-15

Why did the Holy Spirit *forbid* them from going to Asia? Isn't the gospel for everyone?

- The prohibition was _____.
- God's _____ is _____.
- _____ was not the only weapon in God's arsenal! (Cf. 1 Peter 1:1-2)

Some lessons for us?

Keep pushing forward until God Himself clearly _____ and _____ our efforts.

We discover God's will and direction thru _____ ...
_____ God and _____ his leading.

Lydia – Europe's 1st Believer!

A _____ appointment; an _____; a _____

My takeaways today: