

TAKING ONE FOR THE TEAM
Acts 16:1-5

Woodland Park Church of Christ
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Paul's Start on 2nd Missionary Journey

- *Then after certain days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.” Acts 15:36*
 - Good to check on matters.
 - Avoid autopilot – the opposition (Satan) is busy.
- Recall Paul's first missionary work from chapters 13 and 14.
- Paul and Barnabas have their disagreement and part ways – embarking on two separate works. **Acts 15:37-41**

Work at/with the Jerusalem Council

- Major event recorded prior to commencement of Paul's second missionary work.
- Note the dissention caused by certain Pharisees asserting that circumcision and keeping of the law of Moses was required (of the Gentiles) to be justified. **Acts 15:3-5.**
- Disciples required to abstain from:
 - Things offered to idols;
 - Blood;
 - Things strangled;
 - Sexual immorality. **Acts 15:20, 29**

*He (Timothy) was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and **circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region**, for they all knew that his father was Greek.*

Acts 16:2-3

Timothy's Humility & Understanding

- He could have raised Cain.
 - “Paul, remember what came out of the council – circumcision is not required!”
- But he understood that sometimes you simply have to **TAKE ONE FOR THE TEAM**
- Sometimes it's not about whether we have a right to do something, but rather, its impact.

- Paul routinely taught in Jewish synagogues
(**See Acts 14:1; Acts 17:1; Acts 18:4**)
- Having Timothy circumcised would make his job of conversion (and thus the cause of Christ) that much easier, especially given that Timothy's mother was a Jew.
- Sometimes we have to give up some liberties and freedoms for the good of the team (order).

Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

I Corinthians 8:13

- **See also Philippians 2:3-4**

- Personal growth is often gained and character is developed when we sacrifice for a higher bidding.
- To be God's man or woman, we should understand that we'll have to sacrifice some personal liberties, which are not always unlawful, in the major areas of my life —
 - Discipleship
 - Marriages
 - Parental responsibility
 - Profession / work

Christ – The Consummate Team Player

*But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was crushed for our wickedness [our sin, our injustice, our wrongdoing]; the **punishment [required] for our well-being fell on Him,** and by His stripes (wounds) we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, we have turned, each one, to his own way; **But the LORD has caused the wickedness of us all [our sin, our injustice, our wrongdoing] to fall on Him [instead of us].***

*. . . As a result of the anguish of His soul, He shall see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge [of what He has accomplished] the Righteous One, My Servant, shall **justify the many [making them righteous—upright before God, in right standing with Him],** For He shall bear [the responsibility for] their sins.*

Isa. 53:5-6,11 AMP

Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- **Be added to the Lord's body**

Hear the gospel (**Acts 15:7**)

Believe (**Acts 8:37, 15:7**)

Repent (**Acts 2:38**)

Confess (**Acts 8:37**)

Be baptized for the remission of sin
(**Acts 2:38, 8:38**) **or**

Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- **Be reconciled unto the Lord** (I John 1:8-9); or
- **Desire prayer** (James 5:16).

May GOD richly bless you!