

“...walk worthily...” from the Book of Philippians

Scripture Block:	n/a
Theme:	Introductory Material
Life verse:	n/a
Today's passage:	Acts Chapter 15

Notes

Comments

As we have discussed, Paul visits Philippi during what we refer to as his 2nd Missionary Journey. But what about his first Journey and the events between these two adventures?

1. The first Journey is recorded beginning in Acts 13. Paul and Barnabas are commissioned by the Church at Antioch and sent out to preach the Gospel

2. Their first journey's included stops throughout the island of Cyprus, Perga, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. Both Gentiles and Jews responded to their preaching, and they founded churches in many of these towns in the face of strong opposition from legalistic Jews—in fact Paul was stoned and left for dead after legalistic Jews stirred up trouble for him at Lystra.

3. Paul and Barnabas concluded their first Journey by returning to Antioch and reporting all that had happened to them. It was during this interlude between missionary journeys that the events of Acts 15 occurred beginning with the following:

Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers; “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” Ac 15:1

4. As the passage makes clear, Paul and Barnabas sharply disagreed with this claim. This led Paul and Barnabas to journey to Jerusalem and discuss this matter with the Apostles. Peter gives an impassioned speech (no surprise), the last line of which summarizes the council's answer:

No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we (Jews) are saved, just as they (Gentiles) are. Ac 15:11 (parenthesis mine)

5. It is after this decision, that Paul is again ready to depart on further missionary travels.

Application

1. The Gospel of grace will always come under attack when rightly proclaimed to a lost and dying world. Don't be surprised at opposition.