

The Book of Acts

Study Guide and Discussion Questions

Week 14

Chapter 15-16: A NEW WAY IS DECLARED

1. The chapter opens with a discussion regarding circumcision. Why was this important to the Jews? Let's look back at when this covenant was established. Genesis 17

2. After reading that passage in Genesis we can better understand the apostles quandary. How do they resolve it? Notice the basis for their decision.

3. They send letters of their decisions – epistles – to the churches. They also include several other mandates. What else was included as instruction for the churches?

4. In verses 37-39 we see Barnabus and Paul have a disagreement, which leads to their separation. What was the issue? What is the result of their disagreement?

5. Chapter 16 – in verses 1-3 we see a deviation from what the apostles had just decided. Why did Paul circumcise Timothy?

6. Notice how they are being lead by the Holy Spirit – where to go and where NOT to go. They decide to go to Macedonia. Why?

7. In verse 13 we see Paul, Silas and Timothy preaching the Word to women. One woman, named Lydia, a worshipper of God, responds and opens her home to them. Again, we must ask why is this in here?

8. Next we see a female slave who was following them shouting out that they were messengers of God. How does Paul know she has a demon? Why does he cast it out?

9. This causes her owners to bring them before the magistrate. Why? What did they care if her demons were gone?

10. Paul and Silas (and Timothy) are beaten with rods and flogged (whipped) and then thrown into prison. In prison the men are bound with chains and put in an inner room. In the night they sing songs unto the Lord and what happens?

11. What does the jailer want? Why?

12. Why does Paul linger when he is ordered to leave?

14. Why does being a Roman citizen change anything?

13. When they are finally released from prison where do they go? Why? Why not just leave that town?
