****

***“VISION & VICTORY IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE!”***

ACTS Chapter 16

**> All Christians must:**

**> (v1-15) *Be on a MISSION with a VISION!***

**(v1-2) Paul takes Silas on his second missionary deployment (49-52 AD). He finds Timothy a disciple, his name means “honoring God”.**

**- Who influenced Timothy’s life in the Christian faith? Our discovery is in 2 Timothy 1:5- *when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice***

(v3) Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised, since we were told in chapter 15 that we are not under the Law? Our insight is found in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 - *For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.*

**(v4-5) The key to Church growth is to *strengthen the churches in the faith* - Romans 10:17 - *faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* And the numbers increase daily!**

(v6-10) The Holy Spirit says “no” to Asia & Bithynia, then “yes” to Europe (Macedonia).

**- Observation:**

**(1) They were led to reach out to religious people. (v13)**

**(2) God opens Lydia’s heart and she gets saved! (v14)**

**(3) Lydia’s household gets saved and baptized!**

**(4) God provides a house for His disciples to stay in.**

**(v15) How many religious people do you know that need to be born again? Pray for them and be that voice of salvation!**

***> (v16-18) PRAY and be VICTORIOUS over demons!***

**(v16) Once again these soul-winners PRAY! Notice *“as we went to prayer;”* give yourself to prayer and find prayer partners and warriors!**

**(v17-18) Paul received the gift of “discerning of spirits” (1 Cor. 12:10) and cast out the demon in the name and authority of Jesus Christ!**

***> (v19-34) Be VICTORIOUS over the world and its persecutions!***

**(v19-24) *Remember* how Paul exhorts us in 2 Timothy 3:12-13 - Yes*, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.***

**(v19-26) What is our remedy for persecution?**

**- It is WORSHIP and PRAYER! – Let us be forever Spirit filled, and let God do the impossible! We read in Ephesians 5:18-21- *be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

***-* Praying & singing sets the captives free!**

**(v27-34) ALWAYS EVANGELIZE!**

**- Who is the jailor to believe on? Always share Jesus Christ! Have faith for the whole family to get saved!**

***> (v35-40) Be VICTORIOUS over corrupt governments!***

**- Remember Jesus said in Matthew 5:13-16- "*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.***