

"TO THE JEW, I BECAME A JEW"

Acts 16:1-5

Introduction:

A. Paul and Barnabas Separated

- 1) Barnabas chose Mark and sailed to Cyprus
- 2) Paul chose Silas and went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

B. Paul then came to Derbe and Lystra

- 1) Here he found Timothy, a disciple
- 2) He was not circumcised
- 3) Paul circumcised him
- 4) He had refused to allow the Jews in Jerusalem to circumcise Titus
Gal. 2:3
- 5) Why this contradiction?

I. Timothy, The Son of a Certain Woman

Vs. 1

A. Timothy was a disciple

- 1) We are not sure when he was converted
- 2) No "credit" is taken by anyone

B. He was the son of a believer

- 1) His Mother and Grandmother
- 2) II Timothy 1:5
- 3) His father was a Greek

C. He was "well reported" of Vs. 2

- 1) "well reported" = martueo = "to have a good witness bourn in favor of",
"a good testimony"
- 2) He had more than local recognition

D. Paul wanted him to accompany him

- 1) "would have him go forth with him"
- 2) He saw Timothy as a great servant

E. Paul circumcised him

- 1) "Because of the Jews which were in those quarters"
- 2) "quarters" = topos = "a place", "a spot", Antioch
- 3) Vs. 21 Chapter 15:21

II. Why Did Paul Do This? There are 2 reasons

A. Paul did it to gain access. Jew

- 1) I Cor. 9:19-23
- 2) "gain" = kerdaino = "to derive profit or advantage" Vs. 19
- 3) "means" = pantos = "wholly", "altogether", "entirely", "so that in one way or another"

B. To avoid offence Gentile

- 1) I Cor. 8: 6-13
- 2) We should be careful to claim "offence"

III. Paul and Timothy and Their Work Vs. 4-5

A. They delivered the decrees Vs. 4

- 1) "decrees" = dogma = "that which seems true to one", "an opinion", "an authoritative opinion"
- 2) "ordained" = krino = "to divide", "to separate", "make a distinction", "come to a decision"

B. God blessed their work Vs. 5

- 1) churches were established in the faith
- 2) "established" = stereoo = "to make stable", "strong", "to strengthen"
- 3) churches increased in number
- 4) "increased" = perisseuo = "abound more and more", "to be over and above the number"

