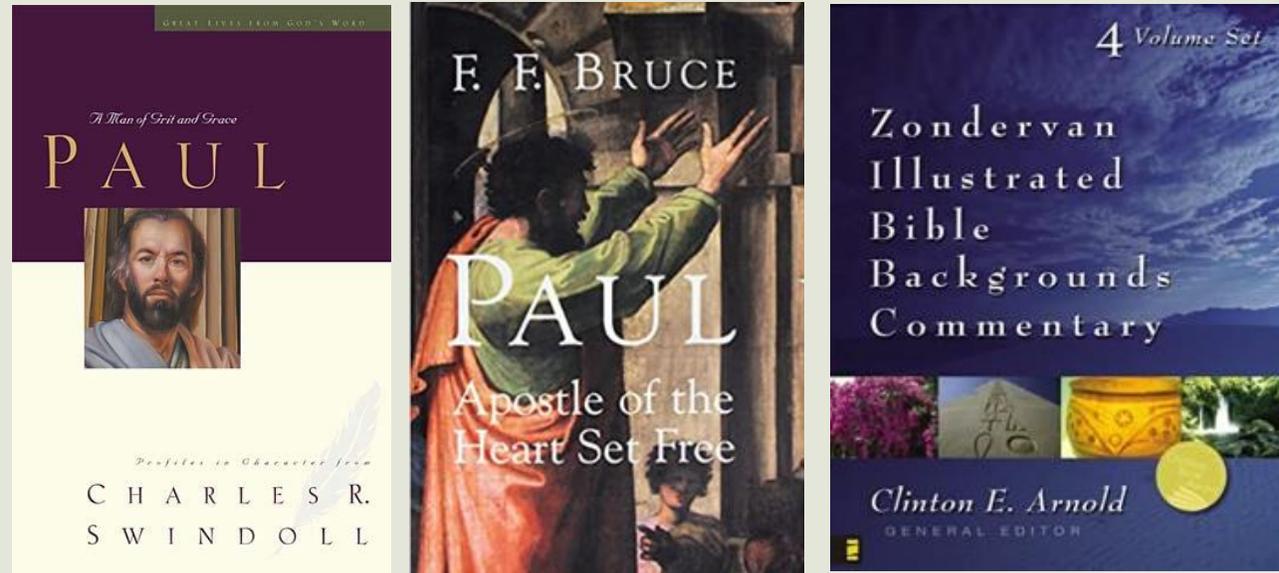
The background is a dark grey chalkboard with various white chalk sketches. On the left, there's a large drawing of a microscope. Above it, a globe of the Earth is sketched. In the bottom left, there's a drawing of a stack of books. In the bottom right, there are sketches of a percentage sign, an exclamation mark, and a right-angle symbol. The text is centered on the board.

Paul – Lesson 8

New Testament Studies

CBC B&B Sunday School
May 14, 2023

Source Material



Companion Sources

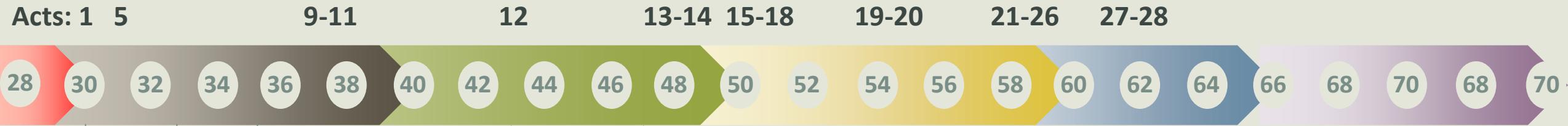
Lesson 8 Intro...

- Acts 15:35-41 (~ AD 51):
 - Paul had just engaged in an intense disagreement with his friend and ministry partner – Barnabas – that effectively ended both of their teaching ministries in Syrian Antioch
 - Barnabas took his cousin Mark and started ministries in Cyprus
 - Paul invited Silas to join him on a ministry journey to Galatia through Cilicia.

Acts 16:1-10 [NASB]

The New Mission and the New Team

Chronology of Acts / Life & Ministry of Paul



 Galatians AD49

1 Ascension – Acts 1
Pentecost – Acts 2
Apostles before Sanhedrin – Acts 5

2 Stoning of Stephen – Acts 7

3 Paul's Conversion – Acts 9

4 Paul to Antioch – Acts 11

5 Paul's First Missionary Journey – Acts 13-14

6 Jerusalem Council – Acts 15

7 Paul's Second Missionary Journey Begins

Acts 16:1-5 [NASB]

¹ Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. ² The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. ³ Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers..

*Map used by Permission – Standard Bible Atlas

Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Timothy

- Grew up / raised in Lystra (Acts 16:1)
 - Mother and Grandmother were both Jewish (2 Tim 1:5)
 - Father was a Gentile (Acts 16:1)
 - Raised to be versed with OT Scripture (2 Tim 3:15)

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- Circumcised for the purpose of Paul's mission objective (Acts 16:4)

Paul's Second Mission Objectives

- To clarify the confusion over doctrine of Grace on salvation to the Jewish Christians with Gentile communities (Acts 16:4)
 - Silas was chosen for mission because he was specifically mentioned in the letter drafted by the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:27)
 - Timothy was circumcised for the benefit of Jewish Christians as it relates to the purpose of the mission
 - Mission journey route designed for this mission objective (visit churches with Jewish Christians and Gentiles)
 - Mission strategy likely followed same strategy as first journey (i.e.. Start in the synagogues, conversation with converts, etc.).

Paul's Ministry Strategy

- Start in the Jewish Synagogues

- Theological: Paul maintains his conviction that the gospel should first be presented to the Jews, then to the Gentiles (Rom 1:16)
- Practical: Gentile proselytes and God-fearers who have already turned from their idols and are seeking the one true God gathers regularly in the synagogues

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Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Acts 16:6-10 [NASB]

Case Study –

The Hypocrisy of Ministry Leadership (?)

John Mark vs Timothy

The Case FOR Timothy...

The Case AGAINST Timothy...

Acts 16:6-10 [NASB]

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

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- Ministry “Stop Working” !!???

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Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Acts 16:6-10 [NASB]

Case Study –

Why Didn't Ministry Work as Planned?

Acts 16:6-10 [NASB]

Possible Causes for why Ministry Objectives were not met:

- Wrong Motive – the reason Paul launched this mission was to prove Barnabas wrong (cf Acts 15:35-41). The heart was not in the mission; or this may be a sin issue.
- Wrong Team – Bringing on Timothy was a bad idea as he lacked the needed qualifications (cf. John Mark)
- Wrong Initiative – the mission was not called by the Holy Spirit, unlike the previous mission (cf Acts 13:2)
- Poor Planning – the mission and vision was not properly defined or properly scrutinized before the trip. Church should have spent more time debating, discussing, fasting, and praying (cf Acts 13:2-3)
- Poor Leadership – Paul has proven too stubborn and too inflexible to change his strategies to adapt to the new realities from city to city

Acts 16:6-10 [NASB]

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Acts 16:6-10 [NASB]

Possible Causes for why Ministry Obstacles Occurred

- Wrong Motive – Paul has wrong (cf Acts 15:35) – not in the mission, or this may be a bad idea as he lacked the needed resources (cf Mark)
- Wrong Initiative – the mission was not initiated by the Holy Spirit, unlike the previous mission (cf Acts 13:2)
- Poor Planning – the mission and vision was not properly scrutinized before the Church should have spent more time discussing and praying (cf Acts 13:1-3)
- Poor Leadership – Paul did not change his strategies to adapt to the new reality.

Acts 16:6-10 [NASB]

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Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Acts 16:6-10 [NASB]

Possible Causes for why Ministry Objectives were not met:

- Paul was spending too much of his time and effort on ministry responsibilities that is NOT his calling (Acts 9:15)
- Paul's ministries need to be re-calibrated – on the fly
 - He did not return to Antioch to reset
 - He changed his mission objectives at the prompting of the Spirit / Vision
 - He adapted to the leading of the Spirit

Acts 16:6-10 [NASB]

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia, so that they would not enter Mysia, nor travel through Bithynia, but were to stay in Troas. ⁷ A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, **we** got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Luke – a physician – joined Paul's mission team as a Gentile representative from this point forth

Acts 16:1-10 [NASB]

The New Mission and the New Team

Principles

- **Ministry is about God's Mission, not about Our Mission** – Paul set out on this mission trip with his own mission objective, and his hand-picked mission partner in Silas validates this objective. He evidently was looking to replicate the results he had with Barnabas during this trip, but was not seeing the same results as before. When shown the vision towards Macedonia, he recognizes that his mission objective needs to change, and he adjusted accordingly. We should always be sensitive to make sure our initial mission objective is aligned (or continues to be aligned) with God's mission objectives; and adjust accordingly.
- **Ministry must be flexible especially when the Objective changes** – Paul could have maintained his stubbornness to keep his mission parameters in place, and force his way into Bithynia, circling back towards Galatia end his trip, but he didn't. He was sensitive to what the Holy Spirit wanted him to do, which in this case, means to scrap his mission statement, objectives, and strategies and simply do ministry as the Spirit leads. Mission statements, strategies, and objectives are good organizational practices, but sometimes, we need to put them aside and simply do ministry as the Spirit leads, especially when our man-defined objectives come into conflict with people ministries.

Principles

- **Ministry leaders must be sensitive to the members God brings on board** – Paul may have hand-picked Silas for his ministry team based on his mission objectives, but he didn't expect to meet Timothy or to have Dr. Luke join his ministry team. While Dr. Luke's participation was made clearer after the new mission objectives was revealed, Timothy's participation could not have been anticipated. Neither would have met the minimum qualifications to lead God's ministry at the time, but un-ironically, both ended up playing a major role in God's Kingdom. As ministry leaders, we must always be sensitive and receptive to who God brings into our ministry at any point.
- **Ministry leaders must avoid the “human” perspective** – All of the failed efforts through Asia Minor could have led Paul to over rationalize the meaning, to include the possibility that the ministry to the Gentiles have closed; or worse, that he is no longer useful in God's ministry plan. These are all human perspectives that are dangerous for ministry leaders to entertain. The proper approach would be to take our life and our ministry to prayers and seek God's guidance for a path forward. This was likely what Paul did that led to the vision he had received.

Questions