



“GRAND OPENING, GRAND CLOSING: CHRIST IS KEY”

ACTS 16:9-15 BIBLE STUDY

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CONTEXT

- 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. (Ac 16:6-8, NIV)
 - Many are the **plans** in a **person's heart**, but it is the **LORD's purpose** that prevails. (Pr 19:21, NIV)
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ACTS 16:9



- And at night, a vision appeared to Paul: a man of Macedonia was standing and calling him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us".
(Ac 16:9, AT)





ACTS 16:10



- Now when he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go out into Macedonia, concluding that God had summoned us to proclaim the Gospel to them. (Ac 16:10, AT)





ACTS 16:10
SUFFERING FOR
THE SAVIOR



- 29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, **but also to suffer for him**, 30 since you are going through the **same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.** (Php 1:29-30, NIV)





ACTS 16:10 SUFFERING FOR THE SAVIOR



- 10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!”
- “Yes, Lord,” he answered.
- 11 The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named **Saul**, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”
- 13 “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”
- 15 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much **he must suffer for my name.**” (Ac 9:10-16, NIV)



ACTS 16:10
SUFFERING FOR
THE SAVIOR



- We had previously **suffered** and been **treated outrageously in Philippi**, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of **strong opposition**. (1 Th 2:2, NIV)





ACTS 16:11
GODSPEED



- And setting sail from Troas, we traveled directly into Samothrace, [and] the following day into Neapolis [New City], (Ac 16:11, AT)
- But we **sailed from Philippi** after the Festival of Unleavened Bread, and **five days later** joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days. (Ac 20:6, NIV)





ACTS 16:12
IMPORTANT
HISTORY



- and from there into Philippi, which is a leading district of the city of Macedonia – a [Roman] colony. And we stayed in this city some days.
(Ac 16:12, AT)





ACTS 16:12 IMPORTANT HISTORY



- 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.
(1 Cor 15:3-8, NIV)





ACTS 16:12
IMPORTANT
HISTORY



- And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is **useless** and so is your faith. (1 Cor 15:14, NIV)
- And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is **futile**; you are still in your sins. (1 Cor 15:17, NIV)





ACTS 16:13

- And on the Sabbath we went outside of the city gate by the river where we assumed there to be a place of prayer. And having sat down, we were speaking to the women who had gathered together. (Ac 16:13, AT)
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ACTS 16:14 GRAND OPENING



- And a woman by the name of Lydia, a purple cloth merchant of the city of Thyatira who was worshipping God, was listening. The Lord had opened her heart to heed that which was being said by Paul. (Ac 16:14, AT)
- So give your servant a discerning **heart** to govern your people and to **distinguish between right and wrong**. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?” (1 Ki 3:9, NIV)





ACTS 16:14 GRAND OPENING



- The god of this age [i.e., Satan] has **blinded the minds of unbelievers**, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Cor 4:4, NIV)
- “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. (Jn 6:44, NIV)
- “You **stiff-necked** people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always **resist the Holy Spirit!**” (Ac 7:51, NIV)





ACTS 16:14 HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY



- We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. (2 Cor 5:20, NIV)
- 19 Therefore **go** and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and **teaching** them to **obey** everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Mt 28:19-20, NIV)
- 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now **he commands all people everywhere to repent**. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given **proof** of this to everyone by raising him from the dead." (Ac 17:30-31, NIV)





ACTS 16:15 HOLY HOSPITALITY FAITH IN ACTION



- And when she was baptized, along with her household, she called out saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come in and stay at my house." And she persuaded us. (Ac 16:15, AT)
- Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice **hospitality**. (Rom 12:13, NIV)
- Offer **hospitality** to one another without grumbling. (1 Pet 4:9, NIV)
- Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show **hospitality** to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Heb 13:2, NIV)
- After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left. (Ac 16:40, NIV)