

The Patterns of Pentecost

Plant the Church

Chapter Seven

Audio lesson: New Testament 37



Objective: To learn from Paul's example as he planted churches.



“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

—Acts 16:31

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

—Romans 1:16

Many people found it hard to believe that Saul, the persecutor of the church, had been saved—especially Ananias, whom the Lord commanded to heal and baptize him. Paul immediately began to witness in Damascus that Jesus was the Christ. This began the ministry of the most influential Christian in the New Testament.

According to Galatians chapter one, Paul spent several years with Jesus in Arabia, learning what he later wrote in his letters. Then Paul met with the other apostles and began his church planting ministry to the Gentiles. Paul began his missionary career with Barnabas, and they spread the gospel in the Mediterranean area. His plans to go into Asia were redirected by the Holy Spirit, so he went into Europe instead. As a result, he met Lydia and used her home as his base to reach out to the Philippians with the gospel. The city of Philippi was turned upside down, but not before Paul cast a demon out of a fortune-telling girl and was arrested, whipped, imprisoned, and then set free through supernatural events.

Despite his fondness for Philippi, Paul continued his journey spreading the gospel to Athens and Corinth and laid the foundation for the church to continue fulfilling the Great Commission.

1. True or false? When God first told Ananias about Saul's conversion, Ananias was afraid.
2. True or false? When Saul (Paul) encountered Jesus on the Damascus road, Jesus showed Saul the whole plan for his life.
3. True or false? Saul never consulted with the other apostles at any point in his life.
4. True or false? Paul only preached the gospel to Jews, never to Gentiles.



5. True or false? If Paul had not gone into Europe instead of Asia, history would have unfolded very differently.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

6. Why are Paul's letters important?
- They help us understand history.
 - They show us how to deal with problems that confront the church and the spread of the gospel.
 - They show us how perfect the church is.
 - They give us detailed prophecies of the end times.
7. What did Paul find when he first arrived in Philippi?
- A large synagogue where he preached to Jewish men
 - A Roman temple where he preached to Gentiles
 - A small gathering of Jewish women by a river
 - An angry mob that wanted to stone him
8. Why was Lydia significant?
- She is one of the first women to be highlighted in Acts.
 - Her home became Paul's base in Philippi.
 - Her home became the first house church in Europe.
 - All of the above
9. What did Paul and Silas do when they were in prison in Philippi?
- They sent for a lawyer to help them get out.
 - They plotted an escape.
 - They worshiped and sang hymns to God.
 - They lost hope because God had not protected them.

10. What does it mean to “believe in the Lord Jesus Christ”?
- Simply to believe that Jesus existed
 - To believe that Jesus is the Messiah and that He is Lord, and to commit to Him
 - To intellectually understand every detail of the gospel
 - To agree with other Christians
11. What did Paul think about the Philippian church?
- It was probably his favorite church.
 - He grieved over how many problems the church had.
 - He was angry at the Philippians’ stubbornness.
 - He thought they should have done more to keep him out of prison.
12. What was the theme of Paul’s letter to the Athenians?
- The truth of Greek philosophy
 - The simple truth of the gospel
 - His love for the church in Athens
 - None of the above; he did not write a letter to the Athenians.



How does God want us to respond when we hear His Word? Have you found it easy to accept His Word as truth? Why or why not?

Have you chosen “to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ”? If so, how has your life changed by following Him as your Lord? If not, how do you think your life would change if you believed and followed Him? Would you consider making a commitment to Him now?



Thank God that we can worship Him even in the most difficult circumstances, like Paul and Silas when they were in prison, because He is always with us and caring for us. Ask Him to help you worship Him today, even if you are going through a difficult time. Ask Him for His comfort and for Him to use your circumstances as a testimony to Him and to help spread the gospel.



Going Deeper

1. How did the Lord overcome the prejudice of Peter so that He could use Peter to reach the first Gentiles in the home of Cornelius, the Roman centurion? _____

2. How should we relate to and apply this experience of Peter with these Gentiles and the vision he had of a sheet with unclean animals on it? _____

3. Do you have any prejudice about people that convinces you that you should not present the Gospel to them? What might they be? _____

4. Describe and explain a three-link chain that exists between God and a lost person. _____

5. Why did water baptism play such an important role in the ministries of the apostles? What were the significance, the meaning, and the purpose of their baptizing those who professed to have become disciples of Jesus? (Consider Matthew 28: 18-20) _____

6. How are we to apply the Holy Spirit's leading of Phillip to leave a fruitful evangelistic crusade among the Samaritans and go out into a desert to reach one man from Ethiopia? _____

7. How are we to apply what we understand when we summarize and paraphrase the defense of Peter before the Jewish Church leaders in chapters 11 and 12, concerning why he entered a Gentile home of one of their Roman enemies and proclaimed the Gospel? _____
