

# ONE message. people. mission.



## Christ Builds to Strengthen & Advance

Acts 15.36 – 16.40

### Main Idea

In building His Church, Christ wanted not only to advance and grow the church, but also to strengthen the church.

### Overview

- **Christ builds in order to strengthen**
  - Paul & Barnabas set out on the second missionary journey in order to check on previously planted churches (15.36)
  - Missionaries are clearly interested in strengthen the church: (15.32, 36, 41, 16.5)
  - Two parts to strengthening
    - Organize for the health of the body and reflection of Christ
    - Strengthening is the building of Faith...and faith comes by hearing the word of Christ
  
- **Christ builds in order to advance**
  - Church in Philippi planted with Lydia (seller of cloth), Slave girl, Jailer
    - Three different socio economic classes...same Gospel
  - God has to open Lydia's heart b/c she cant open it herself to see the good news because her sin
    - Romans 3.11b-12
    - Jeremiah 17.9
    - Ephesians 2.1,3
    - Our hearts are too wicked on their own, the Holy One must intervene in order to give us eyes to see the glories of the Gospel (2 Cor. 4.4-6)
  - Because our salvation is grace based the church is unique in that it is the only gathering of the "unworthy"
    - Every other gathering in the world is merit based
    - The local church is diverse across age, socio economic status and ethnicity on the basis of each one confessing their don't deserve to be a member of Christ's church

### Questions

*Discussion starter: Name some other diverse gatherings...why is it there is something unique and attractive about gatherings that are diverse?*

1. What is the immediate motive of the second missionary journey? (15.36)
2. What does this, along with the other passages in Acts that discuss the strengthening of the church tell you about the importance of the church to be strengthened?

3. What does it mean to be “strengthened?”
4. How does Restoration Church do this?
5. Share some ways Restoration Church or churches you have been involved in the past have helped you be strengthened in your faith.
6. How does strengthening help you to “advance” in evangelism?
7. How do you see God’s role in Lydia’s salvation?
8. Explain the two “compatible” sides of salvation (God being the author of salvation combined with the necessity of the human agent sharing the Gospel and the one to believe the Gospel).
9. How do these three stories of people in Phillipi encourage you to share your faith?
10. How do you see yourself at Restoration Church as a member of the “unworthy”?

*Accountability Question: What are some areas you need to be strengthened in order to advance to gospel both to edify and evangelize?*