



## Acts 15:36-16:3

### Paul, Silas and Timothy Visit Churches

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## Visiting the Churches

### Acts 15:36 (NASB)

After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are."

- "Visit" is *episképtomai* which means to inspect or examine (sometimes used of God's visitation)
- In this context it also implies that they will make sure of the well-being of the churches
- The same word is used in Acts 15:14 for God's visitation to save Gentiles

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## A Dispute About Co-workers

### Acts 15:37-39 (NASB)

Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.

- Barnabas is not mentioned again in Acts
- Mark is likely the author of the Gospel of Mark

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## Paul and Silas Strengthen Churches

### Acts 15:40-41 (NASB)

But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

- Being "committed" is used like this also in Acts 14:26 but means "betrayed" in other contexts
- "Strengthening" is also used in Acts 14:22; 15:30; 18:23.

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### Luke Introduces Timothy

#### Acts 16:1-2 (NASB)

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium.

- Paul had preached at Derbe and Lystra before as narrated in Acts 14:6-23
- Having a Jewish mother would mean that the Jews would have considered him Jewish

### Paul Circumcises Timothy

#### Acts 16:3 (NASB)

Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

#### Galatians 2:3 (NASB)

But not even Titus, who was with me, though he was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.

#### Galatians 6:15 (NASB)

For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.

### Evil and God's Forbearance

#### Genesis 8:21-22 (LEB)

And Yahweh smelled the soothing fragrance, and Yahweh said to himself, "Never again will I curse the ground for the sake of humankind, because the inclination of the heart of humankind is evil from his youth. Nor will I ever again destroy all life as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seed and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will not cease.

- Context: animal sacrifice (8:20) and the command to multiply and fill the earth (9:1)