

These Things Do - cont.

others (verse 10). Do we answer the call today to serve others (Matthew 16:24; Philippians 2:4)?

Second, he zealously sought out opportunities to preach (verses 13, 16). Do we take advantage of our opportunities today to speak to others about the saving gospel (John 4:35; Colossians 4:3)?

Third, he boldly preached to both religious and non-religious men and women (verse 14, 30). Do we speak boldly to others today without being ashamed of the truth (Ephesians 6:19)?

Fourth, he joyously faced severe persecution (verse 25). Do we face our trials today with sorrow or with joy (Matthew 5:11-12)?

Fifth, he willingly sacrificed - he was beaten - to save others (verse 33). Do we give up and suffer wrong for others today in order to save them (Acts 15:26; Philippians 2:19-30)?

Lastly, he constantly exhorted others when he himself needed encouragement (verse 40). Do we regularly encourage others today to help them to remain faithful (1 Thessalonians 5:14; Hebrews 12:12-13). - *Chris Reeves*

Word of the Week

- Adoption -

“Adoption”, used only by Paul, refers to Christians who have been adopted into God’s family by baptism (Rom. 8:15, 23; etc.). This means that we have all the full rights, privileges, and inheritance that come from God. Let us thank God each day for our spiritual family and privileges!

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

These Things Do

When the Apostle Paul was in Philippi preaching in Acts 16, a local church was established. Later, after about 10 years, he wrote these words to the Philippian brethren:

The things which ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do: and the God of peace shall be with you (Philippians 4:9).

Paul wanted the Philippian brethren to look back and follow his example. What he taught them and what they saw him do, they were to do the same things. Since they were to follow his example, we would do well to ask ourselves: What did Paul do in Acts 16 that is worthy of imitation? Let's answer this question in this article.

Before we answer this question, let us first consider the importance of what we call "approved apostolic examples". When the apostles of Jesus said and did what God approved of, their example was to be followed – "these things do" (Philippians 4:9).

Consider some other New Testament passages that teach the principle of following apostolic example:

Brethren, be ye imitators together of me,

and mark them that so walk even as ye have us for an ensample (Philippians 3:17).

I beseech you therefore, be ye imitators of me (1 Corinthians 4:16).

Be ye imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

And ye became imitators of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit (2 Thessalonian 1:6).

not because we have not the right, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you, that ye should imitate us (2 Thessalonians 3:9).

Can we say today that we are following "approved apostolic example" in our service to God? Or, are we following the ways of man? Also, can we say the same thing of our own example? Can we say to others, "What you see me doing, do the same thing?" As a parent, spouse, citizen, employee, neighbor, or church member, can we say, "Follow my example"?

Here are some New Testament passages that teach that we, like Paul, are to be a good example to others:

Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify

your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:13-16).

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is proclaimed throughout the whole world (Romans 1:8).

that ye may become blameless and harmless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom ye are seen as lights in the world (Philippians 2:15).

so that ye became an ensample to all that believe in Macedonia and in Achaia. For from you hath sounded forth the word of the Lord, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith to God-ward is gone forth; so that we need not to speak anything (1 Thessalonians 1:7-8).

having your behavior seemly among the Gentiles; that, wherein they speak against you as evil-doers, they may by your good works, which they behold, glorify God in the day of visitation (1 Peter 2:12).

So how did Paul act in Philippi that was an example for them to follow years later?

First, he unselfishly obeyed the Lord and answered the call to help