



Paul's Mission

*The Story – Chapter 29; Acts 13-14, 16-20; Rom. 1, 3-6, 8, 12, 15;
I Cor. 1, 3, 5-6, 10, 12-13, 15-16; Gal. 1, 3, 5-6, I Thess. 1-5*

Personal Study Guide

April 26, 2009

Read the chapter from The Story in one sitting (each chapter is about 12 pages long). Consider doing the reflection questions on three separate days to put space between your learning and allow for better and deeper retention. If three separate reflection times aren't practical, you may choose to read and answer all three days' questions in one extended personal devotional time.

Day One

1. Paul and Barnabas were sent off together to fulfill the Great Commission. What does that say about the power of teamwork? Who are you doing life with that helps you develop in your walk with Christ? What's keeping you from teaming up with others to grow? Who can you encourage to follow Christ in whole-hearted devotion?
2. Lydia is best remembered as the original convert for the gospel in Europe (page 341). She was the first person on record ever to respond to the message of Christ during the apostle Paul's original missionary journey into Europe. Her conversion marked the earliest foothold of the church on a continent that ultimately became the hub of the gospel's witness worldwide. As a Gentile Lydia was giving up what would have been a normal business day to meet together with Jewish women to pray. What does this tell you about the priority that she had placed upon getting to know God better? What priorities in your life are likely to change as you actively seek to know Him better?

Day Two

1. On the bottom of page 346 Paul mentions the process of sanctification (becoming like Jesus). In what ways are you sensing God's sanctifying work in your life? Take a moment to thank Him for being faithful to complete this process of holiness in your life.
2. When the believers needed to make a clean break with their occult past, what did they do (page 349)? What are some ways you may need to "clean out" your life from past sinful lifestyle influences?

Day Three

1. What can you learn from Paul's summary of the supremacy of love (page 353)? Which trait of love do you need to put into practice this week?
2. Paul contrasts the acts of our sinful nature with the fruit of the Holy Spirit (page 356). While we might not have all of the manifestations of the sinful nature in our lives, the "fruit" of the Spirit is singular: one thing, with multiple dimensions, meant to be fully displayed in us. Where have you been quenching the Spirit's work lately? How can you take steps to let his fruit be borne in you more fully?