

# **Why We Are Here**

**Acts 15:36-16:10**

## **Acts 15:36-16:10**

**And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.” Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other.**

## **Acts 15:36-16:10, cont.**

**Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches. Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium.**

## **Acts 15:36-16:10, cont.**

**Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.**

## **Acts 15:36-16:10, cont.**

**And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.**

## **Acts 15:36-16:10, cont.**

**And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.**

# Why are we here today?

- **What compels us to be the church here?**
- **History? Comfort? Friendship?**
- **Or the will and call of God?**
- **Call means a summons and a call of God is not an option to take or leave, but a holy command that determines our mission.**
- **Mission is everything to the church.**

# 1. Conflict over John Mark

- **Disappointment**
- **Personality issues are common challenges in churches**
- **Corinthian Church: “I follow Paul!” “I follow Apollos!” “I follow Cephas!” “I follow Christ!”**
- **We should be “for” every believer. “He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6).**



## **2. Confusion over efforts in Asia**

- **Strengthening Churches**
- **Serendipity: Timothy**
- **Closed Physical Doors:**
  - **God has something better – Philip**
  - **Sin in our lives – Moses**
  - **Not God's plan – David**
  - **We may never find out**
- **Trust the Lord to still work in our lives**

# 3. Confirmation of Calling

- **God confirmed the call to Europe.**
- **African saying, “If you want to go fast, travel alone. If you want to go far, travel in a group.”**
- **God’s leadership and our transformation.**
- **Surrender, pray, expect, wait.**

# Adoniram Judson, 1788-1850

- 1812, left for Burma
- 1845, returned to the United States
- “I am glad they have it to say that someone who has come from the other side of the world has no greater story to tell than the simple gospel story of the Savior’s undying love.”

