**Friends Of Paul: Silas**

For Wednesday June 3

Acts 15 tells us that Silas was a leading member of the church in Jerusalem when Paul and Barnabas came there to discuss the doctrinal controversy concerning Gentiles. He was sent back to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, as a representative of the church in Jerusalem to deliver the good news that Gentiles do not have to keep the Law of Moses.

When Paul and Barnabas split up, Paul chose Silas to be his companion on the 2nd missionary journey (15:40). Think of Silas as Paul’s preaching companion on his 2nd missionary journey.

The journey took them though Derbe and Lystra (where they added Timothy), through other regions of Galatia, including Troas, where they received the call to go into Macedonia (now on the continent of Europe) where they will take the gospel to Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, and Corinth. Silas is last mentioned at Corinth (Acts 18:5) and it is possible that Paul left him there when he departed. He is also called Silvanus and so named in some of the letters Paul wrote. (1 Corinthians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians). Peter mentions “Silvanus, our faithful brother” in 1 Peter 5:12.

Two experiences stand out:

Paul and Silas where together when they received the “Macedonian call”, so significant because instead of continuing to preach in Asia (their intention), the gospel was taken into Europe.

Probably the most memorable experience of Paul and Silas is their arrest and imprisonment in Philippi.

Read about these two events in Acts 16:6 through the end of the chapter.

What impresses you about their behavior as prisoners that led to the conversion of the jailer and his household?

Discuss Paul and Silas’s behavior after being beaten and placed in stocks in the Philippians Jail.

Compare the relationship of Paul and Barnabas to Paul and Silas? How are the similar or different?