



God Guides His People

“Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not” (Acts 16:6-7).

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deavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them” (Acts 16:10).

“Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, 7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. 8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. 10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them. Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; 12 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days. 13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. 14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. 15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us” (Acts 16:6-15).

Vision is vital to realising our true purpose in life. “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he” (Proverbs 29:18). From ages past, God has always been keen on guiding His people. He promised in Psalm 32:8 “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye”. It is noteworthy that this promise was immediately followed by an admonition that highlights human responsibility to receiving divine guidance “Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee” (Psalm 32:9). This calls for alertness and sensitivity to the guidance

of the Holy Spirit. In this scripture we learn that:

- 1) The apostles were always on the go, along the lines of accomplishing the great commission of Christ. After their preaching “throughout Phrygia and the regions of Galatia, they wanted to go next to Asia, but were “forbidden of the Holy Ghost” (vs 6).
- 2) Next they assayed to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit suffered them not (vs 7), so they passed by Mysia and came down to Troas (vs 8), where they saw a vision on the Macedonia call (vs 9).
- 3) They immediately interpreted the vision as a message from God, and wasted no time in heading there (vs 10-12).
- 4) On getting there they went out to public places where people would easily be found and started preaching to those they found there (vs 13).
- 5) God opened the heart of Lydia to the gospel, who after being baptised along with her household constrained the apostles to stay in her house (vs 14-15).

When God leads, He:

- 1) Always leads aright.
- 2) He knows the end from the beginning and leads accordingly, in line with His plan for mankind.
- 3) Leads through various methods.

To live a successful life of adventure, we must be sensitive to discern and follow divine guidance today.