

Acts of the Apostles 16-17

We continue on our guided tour of the Graeco-Roman world

Back to Lyconia where they had previously tried to sacrifice to them

We meet Timothy, a gentile and trad a bishop in the early Church

Two Epistles, prob. Attributed by not actually written by Paul

Polycarp has been suggested as a possible author

Trad Bishop of Ephesus, martyred at 80 after interrupting followers of Diana

Patron saint of those with digestive disorders

Then to Asia Minor (Turkey) and blocked from going east or west.)

Macedonia (Greece after Alexander)

This is critical: introduction to Europe and to the Roman world

Lydia from Thyratira (one of the seven cities of Asia mentioned in Rev.)

Purple cloth: this was one rich woman ("sea purple") associated with royalty

Stripe on toga to indicate senatorial rank

Philippi: a Roman colony, ie a place of retired veterans (re Civil War era)

The slave girl with a spirit, which Paul drives out: she has some kind of vision, a skill in the spiritual world

vv. 19 ff. the view of the Jews by the Romans

citizens being beaten - a rash moment by the magistrates

singing hymns in bondage - a good way to lift the spirit

note the prison keeper: private jails were the norm

to kill himself- sounds odd but better than crucifixion

meal followed by baptism - we have seen this combo several times

lictors: bearers of the Fasces "e pluribus unum" still on our coins

we note the fears of the magistrates and invitation to leave

we note Paul's ambivalence to the Romans

we note the epistle to the Philippians: the cheerful epistle, always rejoicing

Thessalonica: site of two future Epistles - many ref to return of Jesus

Beroea: in both cities blocked by Jewish hostility

Note that the Romans do not get the blame here

Beroea: These are the "good Jews" and they go to the Scriptures

Modem Varea, N. Greece, modem Macedonia

Athens: the Areopagus "the hill of Ares"

Once the high court of Athens seat of democratic government

The last hold out of the Aristocratic rule (Aristos vs Demos")

v. 21 - they had time for nothing except for what was new
a naturally curious bunch

The nature of Classical education

Childhood tutor: grammaticus

Athletics: Magister Ludi: for many this was as far as it went

Upper division: the liberal arts with emphasis on rote
memorization and corporal punishment: the teachers symbol: the rod

For the few and generally male: it was time for a trip to Greece

Caesar went to Rhodes but most went to Athens

Many of the Church Fathers went to Athens

The Rhetor (Rhetoric)

Note the existence of Public Rhetors (St Augustine

Demosthenes was considered the greatest: note no difference
between the law and philosophy

For the Romans: Marcus Tullius Cicero (note "Rome" on HBO

Stoics: happiness through acceptance and passivity: the soul
was a part of the Cosmic fire imprisoned in a body. Absolute predestination

Epicureans: happiness through bodily pleasure ie moderation in
all things. You have a soul but it dies... which is good news

Platonists: everything we see or experience is a reflection of the
heavenly: spirit is good, physical is bad; reincarnation

None of these schools are going to have any time for resurrection

This is what Paul gets rejected for (people will talk religion but not
Christ)

Damaris: an aristocratic woman (For the Orthodox a saint)

Or a Hetereria (like a Geisha: educated mistress)

Dionysios clearly an aristocrat because of membership in court

Trad: first or second Bishop of Athens

Dionysios the Pseudo-Areopagite

"On the Celestial Hierarchies" seven ranks of angels