

## CIRCUMCISED IN CHRIST'S SERVICE

*Acts 16:1-5 // April 10, 2022 AM*

### **I. Judaizer circumcision targeted the Gentiles, but not Paul's (vv. 1-2).**

- A. Paul acts upon an ethnic Jew.
- B. Paul acts upon an esteemed church member.

### **II. Judaizer circumcision twisted the gospel, but not Paul's (v. 3).**

- A. Paul acts to remove practical barriers to the gospel.
- B. Paul acts to remove relational barriers to the gospel.

### **III. Judaizer circumcision threatened the church, but not Paul's (vv. 4-5).**

- A. Paul acts in harmony with the church's pronouncement.
- B. Paul acts in harmony with the church's prosperity.

#### QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. Why does Luke tell us about the ethnicity of Timothy's parents? Was Timothy a Jew or a Gentile, and why does it matter?
2. Who were the Judaizers? How did their understanding of circumcision distort the gospel?
3. How did Paul's circumcision of Timothy serve the gospel instead of distort it?
4. Out of all the details Luke could have shared about Timothy's ordination, why would he focus upon his circumcision here?
5. While circumcision used to be a covenant sign, why is it so no longer? And why does that matter for understanding Paul's embrace of it here?
6. Can you give an example of a way the church in the past or today might submit to worldly dictates out of zeal to reach the lost with the gospel?

#### QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. As I think about evangelism in my own life and the church, how much weight do I place on ethos (the way the messenger is perceived)?
2. Do I tend to view matters in the realm of Christian liberty as black-and-white? How does this account challenge me to think more deeply on these matters?
3. What is something I or my church could do to remove unnecessary opposition to the gospel from the watching world?