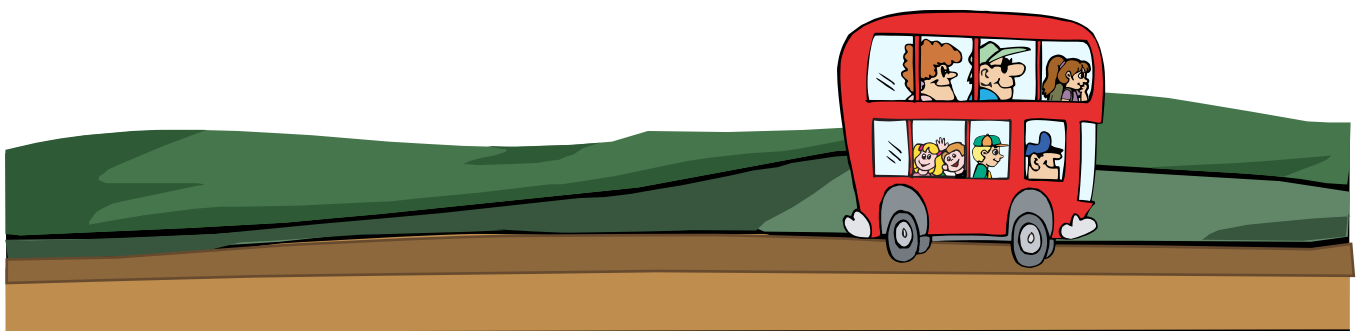


Tour of the Holy Lands - Lystra (Timothy)



As we leave Lystra, we wonder if Paul will need to take a few days to rest after the stoning he just endured. What do you think? Will he stay in Lystra with Timothy's family or will he press on toward the next town to continue to spread the word about God and Christ Jesus?

In fact, the very next day Paul and Barnabas are on their way to Derbe (der'bee), 60 miles away. And, that's where we're heading, too. But first, let's pull over to the side of the road and look out at Lystra because there's more to the story of Paul's adventures here. This is what happened....



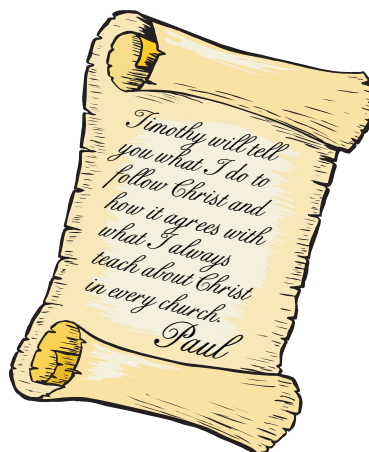


**GREEK CROSS ON AN
EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Paul was impressed by the boy, Timothy, and his family in Lystra, and they were impressed with Paul. Paul loved how quickly they learned about Jesus and his teachings, and they loved how quickly Paul recovered from the stoning. In fact, they became Christians during his stay there. After Paul left, Timothy's family helped build a Christian church in Lystra. Timothy became one of its leaders, and was also well known among Christians in nearby Iconium.



Several years later, Paul returned to Lystra to see how the church was doing. Timothy had grown up by then, and had proven to be such a faithful Christian that Paul invited Timothy to join him on the rest of his journey. Soon after, Timothy was ready to go out on his own. He traveled many miles helping churches grow stronger. Paul wrote letters to these churches describing Timothy. "I have no one quite like Timothy." "He has been a devoted son to me." "Timothy will tell you what I do to follow Christ and how it agrees with what I always teach about Christ in every church." "He is doing the Lord's work just as I am." (Phil 2:20,22; I Cor 4:17; I Cor 16:10)





Two letters in our Bible, titled 1st and 2nd Timothy, have been a great help to every loyal Christian worker, right up to today. The letters explain what it takes to be a good Christian, and how important it is to live in the way Jesus taught and to be an example for others. As we read the letters, we are reminded of the persecutions that Paul endured in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra (2 Tim 3:10,11). But let's not be discouraged. When Christians suffer persecution it makes their faith in God even stronger.



The Timothy letters further state: "Keep on believing the truths you've been taught. Your teachers have proved the power of the word. God speaks to you through the Scriptures. His words correct you, protect you and make you holy. They prepare you for whatever God calls on you to do." (2 Tim 3:14-17) This is good advice for us, too.

And now as we pull back on the road and head for Derbe, let's think of ways that we can follow Jesus' teachings in order to be better Christians in our own lives.

