

## **Timothy joins the team**

- The argument they had didn't prevent the work they did
  - Describe argument over Mark
  - People fall out, leave the church or even denomination, but it doesn't mean that God won't or can't use them
- They were commissioned by the church to go with the message
  - Commissioning usually involved laying on of hands and prayer – just as we did today
  - Shows love and concern by the church, encourages those who are being sent
- The first leg of the journey was to 'strengthen the churches'
- Paul meets Timothy and takes him along
  - Shows that it was not Mark's age that Paul was worried about
  - Paul has Timothy circumcised – even after telling people that it was not required!
  - Didn't do that with Silas
  - What was different with Timothy – he was half Jewish! In order to reach the Jews it was felt that it would be better to take that step – one of the sacrifices of leadership. We don't require a theological degree to be members of the church but we do of our ministers.

## **The continuing providence of God**

- From Phrygia and Galatia they couldn't go southwest to Asia so they went West to Mysia
- Then they couldn't go North to Bithynia so they continue West and to Macedonia
  - The important thing is that they were listening to God – their goal was to follow his direction and go where he wanted them.
  - We need to do the same – how many of us have sat having a conversation we're not actually engaged in?
  - We sometimes do that with God – come with a list of requests but never take time to listen
  - Need to take time to engage with God every day
  - Elders doing that over the summer
- They got ready 'at once'

## **The church in Philippi**

- 'a place of prayer' – used of synagogues
  - Needed 10 men to have a synagogue but they didn't have enough – sound familiar?
  - Not an ideal start – but God has big plans
- They started a conversation
  - That's all we're expected to do
  - 'the Lord opened her heart to respond' – the work of salvation belongs to God!
- They shared hospitality