



THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY

NEILL GIBSON

14C

THE JERUSALEM DELEGATION

SESSION 14C

ROMANS 16

- What many gloss over, here we want to highlight.
- Prisca and Aquila alert us to the Jewish exile from Rome being complete.
- There is a treasure of relational data here, nearly more than in the other epistles combined!
 - There is a growing network of capable ministers in Paul's sphere, including of course "Timothy my fellow worker".

"A PLOT AGAINST HIM" (20:3)

- Whether out of religious zeal, jealousy, or concern over the Temple Tax which they thought misappropriated, there was a Jewish plot in Corinth, which caused a sudden change of travel plans.
- As a result, they trek back through Macedonia and rendezvous at Troas, intending now to sail from there.

THE DELEGATION – ACTS 20:4

- Sopater (Berea)
- Aristarchus (Thessalonica)
- Secundus (Thessalonica)
- Gaius (Derbe)
- Timothy (mentioned without origin probably in his role as Paul's assistant, but is from Lystra)
- Tychicus (Asia)
- Trophimus (Asia, specifically Ephesus)
- Luke (Unmentioned, but the "we" style of writing has resumed here, so we know he's on board, probably from Philippi)

SOPATER (BEREA)

- Mentioned only here by this name
- Probably the same as Sosipater, Paul's "kinsman" in Rom. 16:21.

ARISTARCHUS (THESSALONICA)

- Stood accused before the riotous crowd at the theater of Ephesus. (Acts 19:29)
- Accompanied Paul and Luke to Rome (Acts 27:2)
- Paul's fellow prisoner at the time of the writing of Colossians (Col. 4:10), who sent a greeting in that verse and in Philemon 24.

SECUNDUS (THESSALONICA)

- Mentioned only here.
- Probably not a good idea for your paper. :-)

GAIUS (DERBE)

- There were at least two men by this name, this one being distinct from the Gaius in Corinth at least. (Acts 19:29; Romans 16:23; 1 Cor. 1:14; 3 John 1)
- Could be a total of four by this name, from Corinth, Macedonia, Derbe, and the recipient of 3 John.
- One [from Macedonia] was vilified in the theater at Ephesus with Aristarchus.

TYCHICUS (ASIA)

- Courier of Ephesians and Colossians, messenger on Paul's behalf. (Eph. 6:21; Col 4:7)
- Sent by Paul to Ephesus (2 Tim. 4:12), probably to relieve Timothy so that he is free to try to visit Paul prior to his martyrdom.
- Mentioned as one Paul would possibly send to Titus, also. (Tit. 3:12)

TROPHIMUS (ASIA, SPECIFICALLY EPHESUS)

- Seen with Paul in Jerusalem, partly the indirect cause of his arrest in the Temple. (Acts 21:29)
- Later, Paul left him sick at Miletus. (2 Tim. 4:20)

LUKE (PHILIPPI)

- Accompanied Paul occasionally, particularly based out of Philippi, and on his journey to Jerusalem and Rome (Acts "we" sections)
- Accompanied Paul at the writing of Colossians and Philemon (Col. 4:14; Philemon 24), as well as being his only companion at the writing of 2 Timothy (2 Tim. 4:11)
- Author, of course, of Luke and Acts.

CONCLUSIONS

- Plenty of capable ministers of different quality within Paul's sphere
- Representation from every substantial area of his ministry geographically
- There are many more "unknowns" than we may first have expected
- This gives hope for the rest of us. :-)
- Get with your paper. Learn something. Do your best. Consult Bible dictionaries, encyclopedias, commentaries, concordances, etc.



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