

## **Romans 8:28-29**

*28 ¶ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, . . .*

## **Ephesians 2:8-10**

*8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

# Faith Adventures are Found Right in the Center of God's Will

Pastor Kelly J.  
Mahoney

Acts 15:30-16:15

January 8, 2012

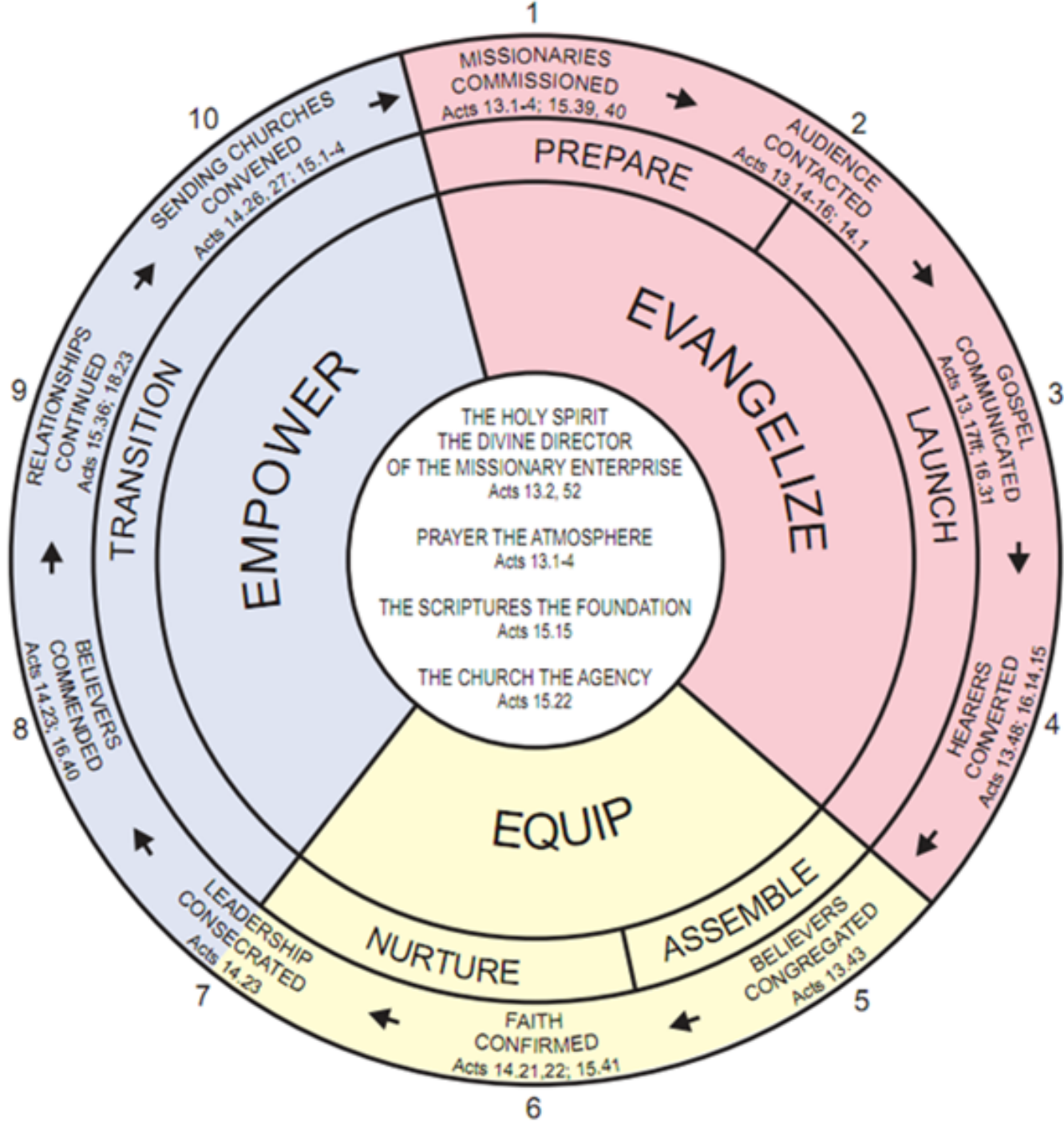


**1) Right purpose: \_\_\_\_\_ of believers and \_\_\_\_\_ conversions.**

## **Acts 15:30-36**

*30 ¶ So when they were sent away, they went down to Antioch; and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. 31 When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. 32 Judas and Silas, also being prophets themselves, encouraged and strengthened the brethren with a lengthy message.*

*33 After they had spent time there, they were sent away from the brethren in peace to those who had sent them out. 34 But it seemed good to Silas to remain there. 35 But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching with many others also, the word of the Lord. 36 ¶ After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are."*

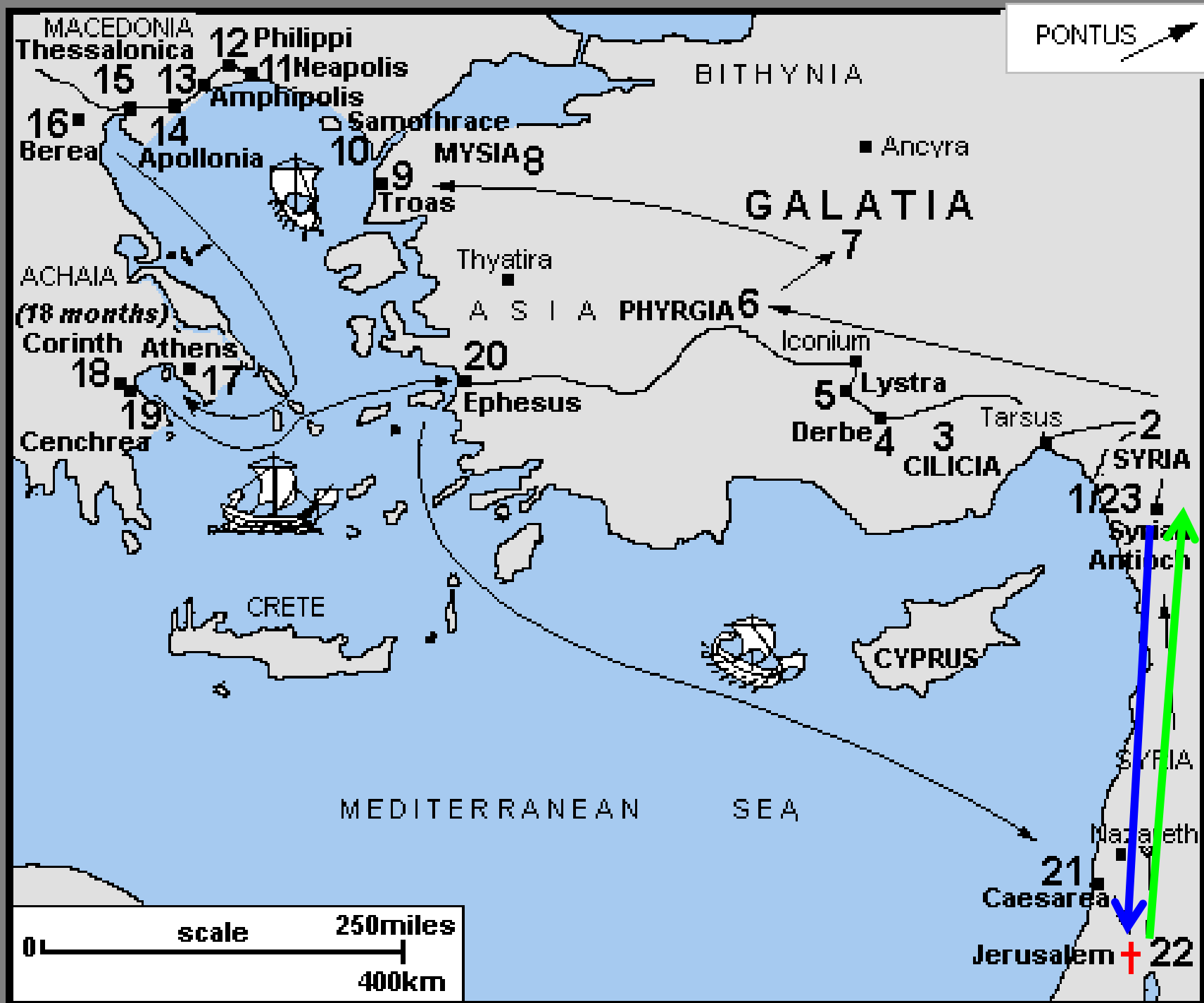


1) Right purpose: Nurture of believers and new conversions.

**Acts 15:30-36**

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PONTUS

MACEDONIA  
Thessalonica

12 Philippi  
11 Neapolis

BITHYNIA

15 13  
16 Berea

Amphipolis

Samothrace

9 MYSIA

Ancyra

14 Apollonia

Troas

GALATIA

ACHAIA  
(18 months)  
Corinth

Thyatira

ASIA PHYRGIA 6

Iconium

Athens

18

20 Ephesus

5 Lystra

Tarsus

19 Cenchrea

4 Derbe

3 CILICIA

2 SYRIA

CRETE

CYPRUS

1/23 Syria  
Antioch

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

SYRIA

Nazareth

21 Caesarea

Jerusalem + 22



I) Right purpose: Nurture of believers and new conversions.

II) Right people: Stepping up to lead and \_\_\_\_\_ to His will.

## Acts 15:37-41

36 ¶ After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are."

37 Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. 38 But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. 39 And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. 40 But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. 41 And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.



I) Right purpose: Nurture of believers and new conversions.

II) Right people: Stepping up to lead and surrendered to His will.

### **Acts 16:1-3**

1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, 2 and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

I) Right purpose: Nurture of believers and new conversions.

III) Right place: Joining God in His work.

a. Embracing God's \_\_\_\_\_ will.

**Acts 16:4-5**

4 Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe. 5 So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.

I) Right purpose: Nurture of believers and new conversions.

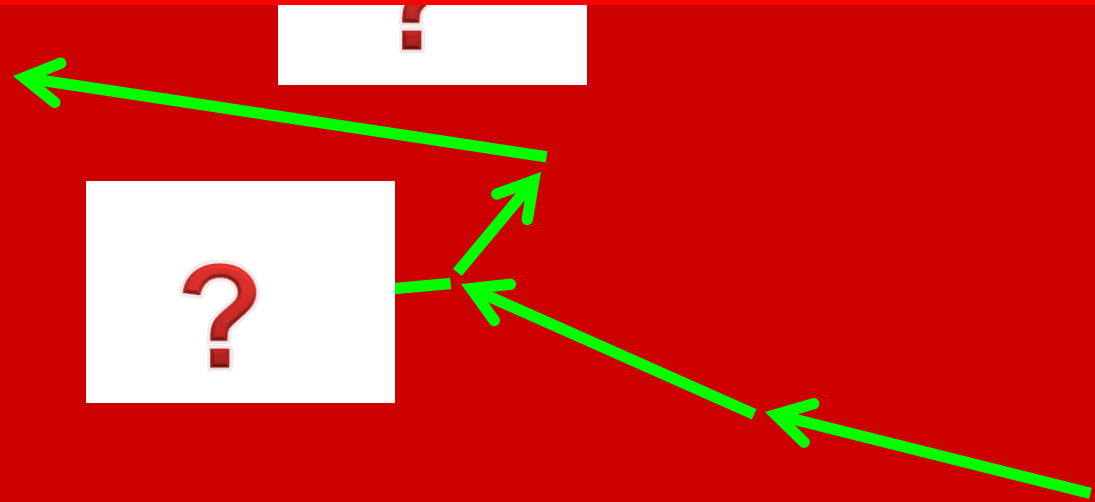
III) Right place: Joining God in His work.

a. Embracing God's \_\_\_\_\_ will.

**Acts 16:6-7**

6 ¶ They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been **forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia;**  
7 and after they came to Mysia, they were **trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them;**

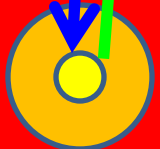
III) Right place: Joining God in His work.  
a. Embracing God's revealed will.



Acts 1:8

Where =

and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem,  
and in all Judea and Samaria,  
and even to the remotest part of the earth."



III) Right place: Joining God in His work (v. 16:6-16).

a. Embracing God's revealed will.

b. Seeking the Holy Spirit's leading.

### Acts 16:6-9

6 ¶ They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been **forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia**;

7 and after they came to Mysia, they were **trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them**;

8 and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

- I) Right purpose: Nurture of believers and new conversions.
- II) Right people: Stepping up to lead and surrendered to His will.
- III) Right place: Joining God in His work (v. 16:6-16).
- a. Embracing God's revealed will.
  - b. Seeking the Holy Spirit's leading.
  - c. Engaging according to God's specific calling and gifting.

## **Acts 16:10**

10 When he had seen the vision, immediately **we** sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

III) Right place: Joining God in His work (v. 16:6-16).

c. Engaging according to God's specific calling and gifting.

**Acts 26:16-18**

*16 . . . For this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; 17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'*

III) Right place: Joining God in His work (v. 16:6-16).

c. Engaging according to God's specific calling and gifting.

*Ephesians 3:8* To me, the very least of all saints, this

**grace** was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

III) Right place: Joining God in His work.

c. Engaging according to God's specific calling and gifting.

d. Applying personal Insight and Initiative where appropriate.

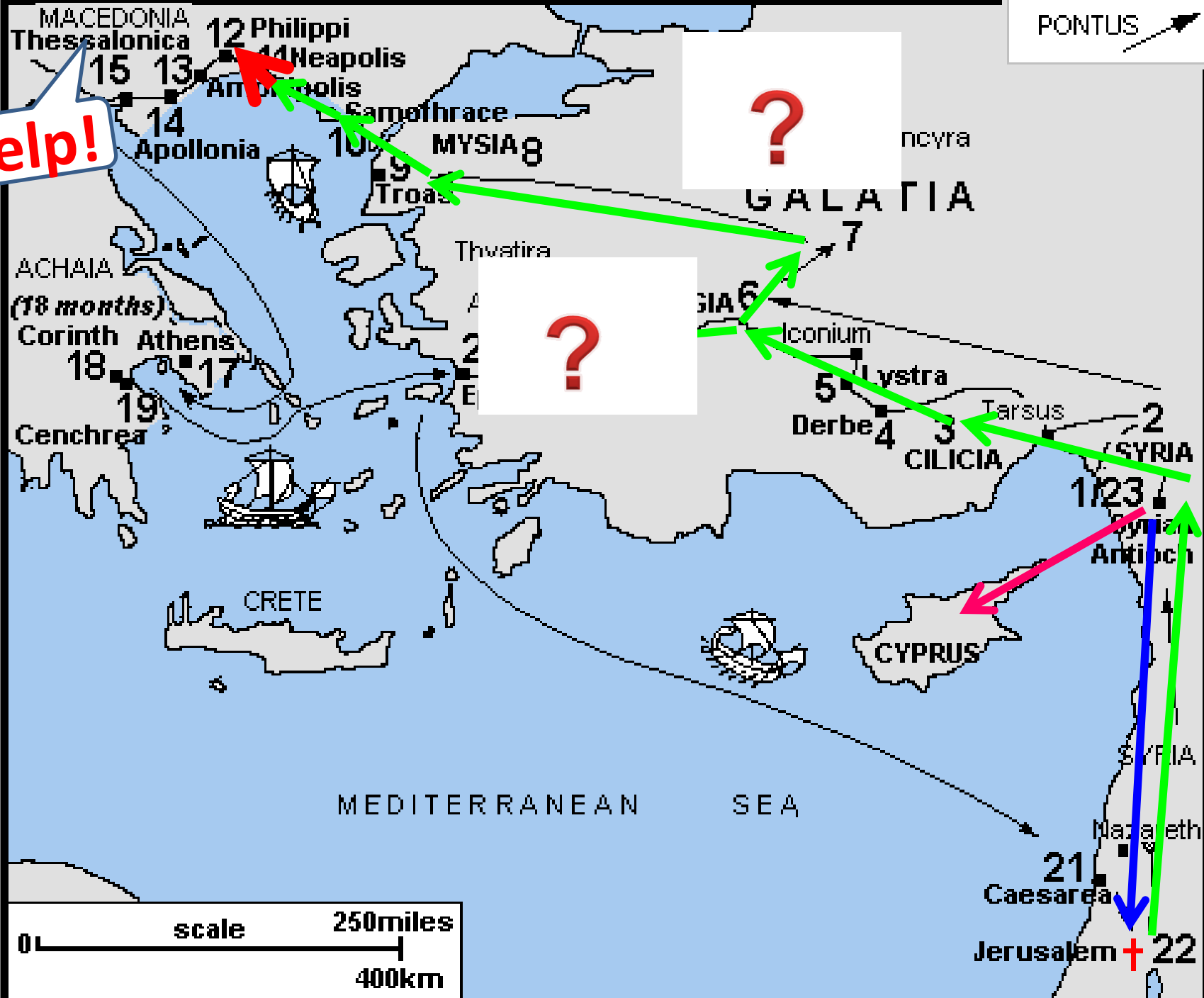
**Acts 16:10, 11-12**

10 When he had seen the vision, immediately **we** sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

11 ¶ So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days.

PONTUS

Help!



III) Right place: Joining God in His work.

d. Applying personal insight and initiative where appropriate.

### **Acts 16:13**

*13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.*

III) Right place: Joining God in His work.

b. Seeking the Holy Spirit's leading.

**John 6:44**

44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

**John 16:8-11**

8 "And He [the Helper / Holy Spirit], when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

III) Right place: Joining God in His work.

d. Applying personal insight and initiative where appropriate.

### **Acts 16:13**

*13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.*

**III) Right place: Joining God in His work (v. 16:6-16).**

**a. Embracing God's revealed will.**

**b. Seeking the Holy Spirit's leading.**

**c. Engaging according to God's specific calling and gifting.**

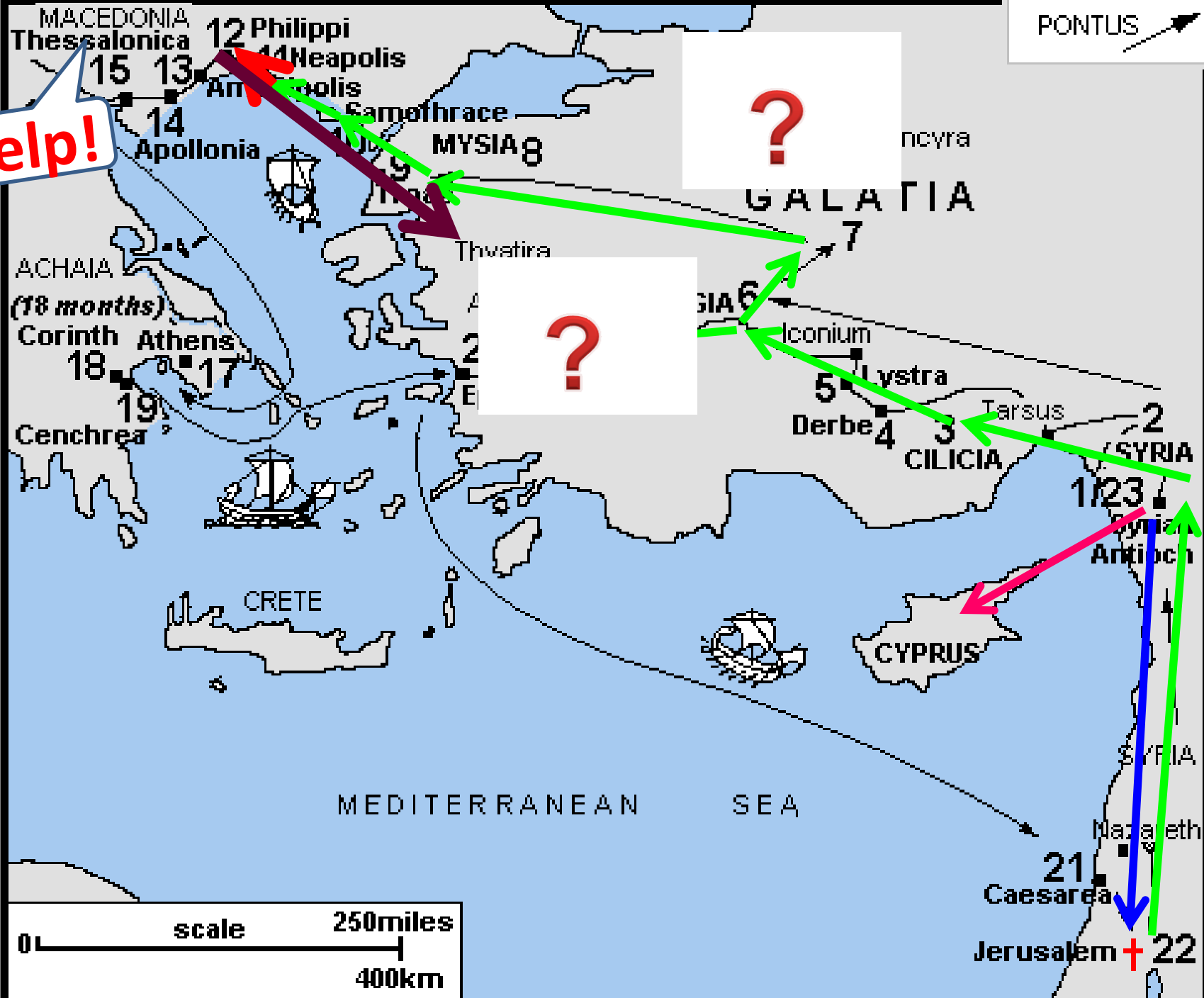
**d. Applying personal insight and initiative where appropriate.**

## **Acts 16:14**

**14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.**

PONTUS

Help!



MACEDONIA  
Thessalonica

12 Philippi

13 Neapolis

14 Amphipolis

15 Apollonia

MYSIA

Thyatira

GALATIA

ACHAIA

(18 months)

Corinth Athens

18

17

19 Cenchrea

CRETE

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

CYPRUS

(SYRIA)

1/23

Antioch

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

20

21

22



Nazareth  
Caesarea  
Jerusalem

### **III) Right place: Joining God in His work (v. 16:6-16).**

- a. Embracing God's revealed will.**
- b. Seeking the Holy Spirit's leading.**
- c. Engaging according to God's specific calling and gifting.**
- d. Applying personal insight and initiative where appropriate.**

### **Acts 16:14-15**

**14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.**

**15 And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.**

## Applying God's Word to Life

What are some adjustments that could be made in your life to more fully engage in the adventure of walking closer with Jesus and being used by Him to accomplish His work?

- a. God's revealed will?
- b. The Holy Spirit's leading?
- c. Your calling & gifting?
- d. Applying insight & initiative?

**If you would like others to pray with you . . .**

