

Acts 17:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode there still.

Analysis

And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul—The Berean believers acted with protective urgency (*εὐθέως*, *eutheōs*) when hostile Jews from Thessalonica arrived to stir up persecution (v. 13). This strategic withdrawal demonstrates biblical wisdom: courage doesn't require foolish exposure to danger when the mission can continue elsewhere.

To go as it were to the sea (*ώς ἐπὶ τὴν θάλασσαν*)—The phrase 'as it were' suggests either

1. a diversionary tactic to mislead pursuers, or
2. uncertainty whether Paul would travel by sea or land.

He eventually sailed to Athens (v. 15). Meanwhile, **Silas and Timotheus abode there still**—the team divided strategically to maximize ministry impact while protecting Paul, the primary target. This models apostolic adaptability: persecution doesn't halt the gospel; it redistributes workers.

Historical Context

Paul's second missionary journey (AD 49-52) faced repeated Jewish opposition. Berea, southwest of Thessalonica, provided a brief respite where noble-minded Jews examined Scripture daily (v. 11). But Thessalonian agitators pursued Paul even there, forcing another hasty departure. The pattern—preach, persecution, pivot—characterized early church expansion.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. When does spiritual courage require standing firm, and when does it require strategic withdrawal to continue God's work elsewhere?
2. How does Paul's willingness to leave Silas and Timothy behind challenge individualistic versus team-based approaches to ministry?

Interlinear Text

εὐθέως	δὲ	τότε	τὸν	Παῦλον	ἐξαπέστειλαν	οἱ	
immediately	And	then	G3588	Paul	sent away	G3588	
G2112	G1161	G5119		G3972	G1821		
ἀδελφοὶ	πορεύεσθαι	ὡς	ἐπὶ	τὴν	θάλασσαν	ὑπέμενον	
the brethren	to go	as it were	to	G3588	the sea	abode	
G80	G4198	G5613	G1909	G2281		G5278	
δὲ	ο	τε	Σιλᾶς	καὶ	ὁ	Τιμόθεος	ἐκεῖ
And	G3588	G5037	Silas	and	G3588	Timotheus	there
G1161			G4609	G2532		G5095	G1563

Additional Cross-References

Acts 17:10 (References Paul): And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

Matthew 10:23 (Parallel theme): But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

Acts 16:1 (Parallel theme): Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:

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