

# 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

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**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** (ὥς 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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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εὐθέως δὲ τότε τὸν Παῦλον ἐξάπεστειλαν οἱ  
**immediately** **And** **then** G3588 **Paul** **sent away** G3588  
G2112 G1161 G5119 G3972 G1821

ἀδελφοὶ πορεύεσθαι ὥς ἐπὶ τὴν θάλασσαν ὑπέμενον  
**the brethren** **to go** **as it were** **to** G3588 **the sea** **abode**  
G80 G4198 G5613 G1909 G2281 G5278

δὲ ὃ τε Σιλᾶς καὶ ὁ Τιμόθεος ἐκεῖ  
**And** G3588 G5037 **Silas** **and** G3588 **Timotheus** **there**  
G1161 G4609 G2532 G5095 G1563

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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