

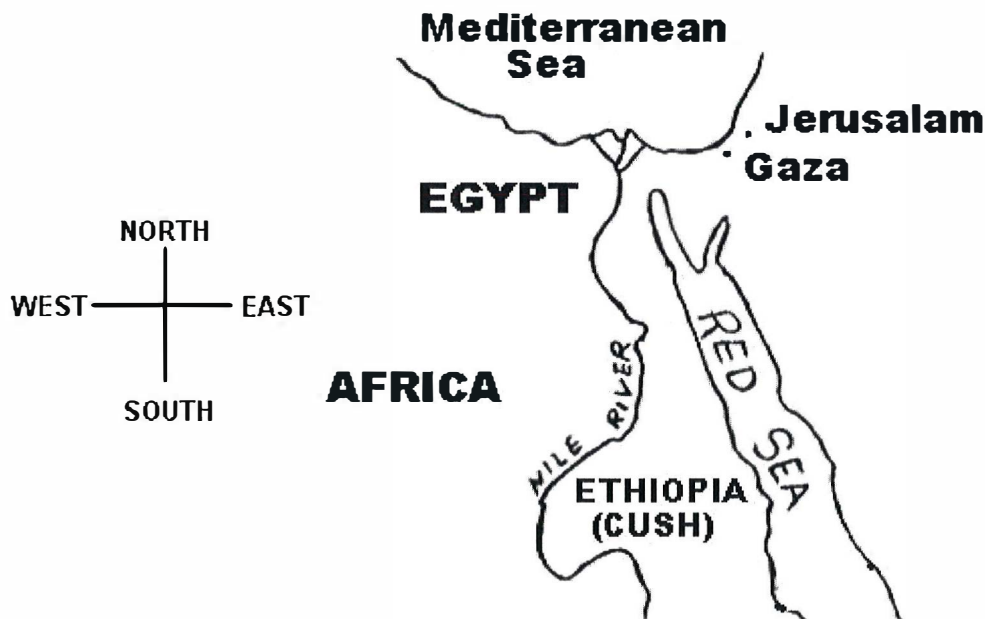
## Lesson 12

### GOD'S CALLED-OUT ASSEMBLY THE CHURCH

#### Race, Sex and Age Make No Difference in Christ's Church

#### Race Makes No Difference.

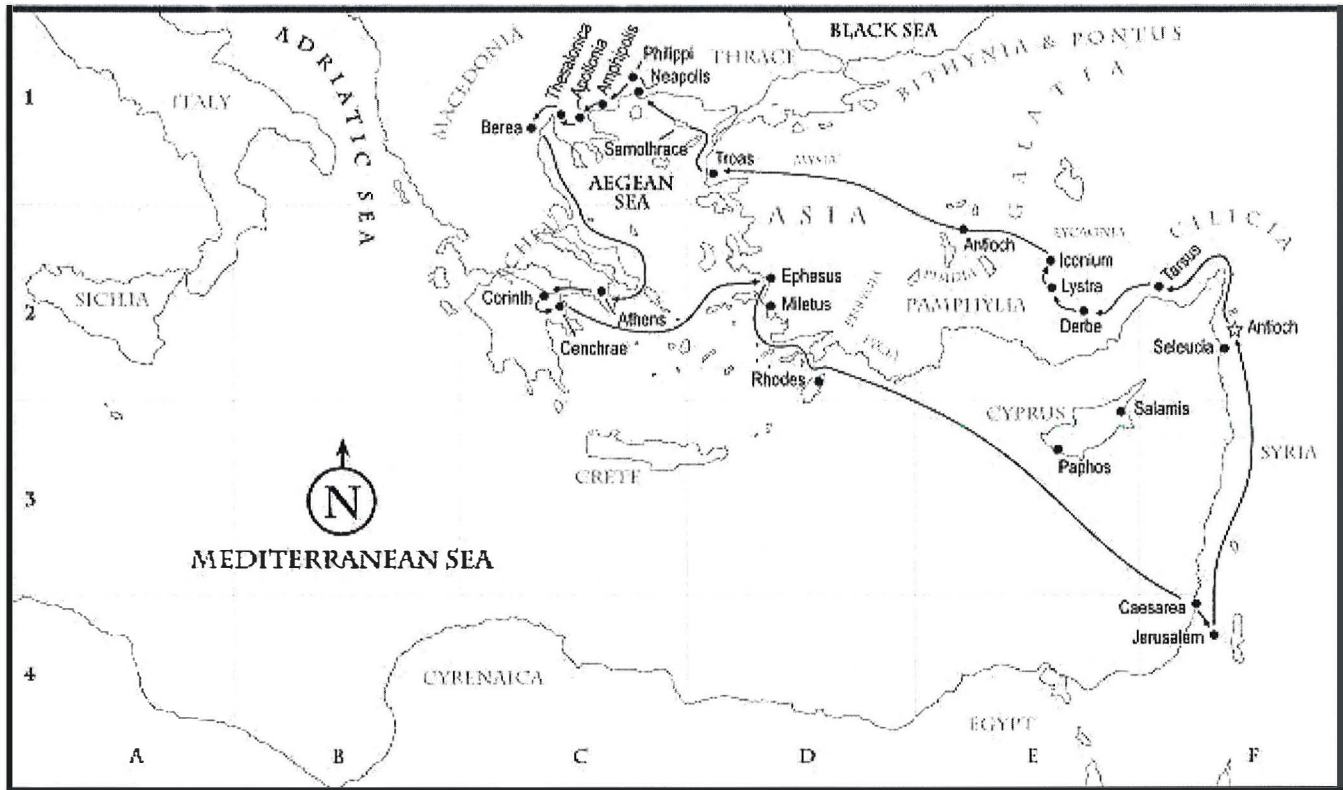
After Philip had served as God's special **evangelist** to the Samaritans (Acts 8:5-12), God sent him to Gaza to be God's special **evangelist** to one man, "a man of \_\_\_\_\_" (Acts 8:27). Notice where this country is on the MAP:



It is very possible that this Ethiopian man was dark-skinned. The Greek word "Ethiopia" (Acts 8:27) means "**burnt-face**" which indicates that the people from this African country of Ethiopia were dark-faced. In fact, hundreds of years earlier Jeremiah asked this question, "Can the \_\_\_\_\_ change his \_\_\_\_\_, or the \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_?" (Jeremiah 13:23) What is the answer to this question? \_\_\_\_\_ It would take a miracle to change the color of the Ethiopian's skin, but it would take even a greater miracle to change his heart. God did such a miracle in Acts 8 Philip, God's evangelist, preached unto him J\_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 8:35). Did he receive Philip's message (verse 37)? \_\_\_\_\_ Was he baptized in water (verses 36-39)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did God change the heart of this African? \_\_\_\_\_ When it comes to **RACE** (color of skin) is God a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35)? \_\_\_\_\_

## Sex Makes No Difference.

Read Acts 16:6-12 (Paul's second missionary journey), using the following map to help you locate the place names:



Did the Holy Spirit allow them to preach in Asia (Acts 16:6)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did the Holy Spirit allow them to go into Bithynia (Acts 16:7)? \_\_\_\_\_ [Bithynia is found on the map south of the Black Sea.] Where did the Holy Spirit want them to go (Acts 16:9)?

\_\_\_\_\_ [Macedonia is a country located north of Greece.]

It is interesting that verse 9 says, "There stood a \_\_\_\_\_ of Macedonia." This word "man" means "a **male** person, a **man** in contrast to a woman." But when Paul arrived in Philippi to help the Macedonians, who were the first people that he met (Acts 16:13)? \_\_\_\_\_ According to verse 14, the first person to be **SAVED** in Macedonia was "a certain \_\_\_\_\_ named \_\_\_\_\_." So God, who is concerned for both male and female, opened the heart of a **woman** named Lydia and she became the first person to be saved in what today we would call **Europe**.

In Acts 17:4, how many **women** BELIEVED?--"NOT A \_\_\_\_\_" (which means **many**). In Acts 17:12 and 34 we read of other **women** believers. And when Paul persecuted the **Church** (before he was saved), he persecuted "Both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_" (Acts 22:4). In Galatians 3:28 we learn that **in the body of Christ** (in the church) "there is neither MALE nor \_\_\_\_\_; for ye are all \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_." Women can enjoy membership in the church just as much as men can. Lydia was saved (Acts 16:14) just as much as the Philippian jailer was (Acts 16:27-34)! Male or female--**there is no difference!!**

Do women who believe have eternal life just as men who believe (John 6:47)? \_\_\_\_\_

Do women who believe have forgiveness (remission) of sins just as men who believe (Acts 10:43)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do women who believe become children of God or is this something that only happens to men who believe (John 1:12)? \_\_\_\_\_

Is heaven a special club for MEN ONLY? \_\_\_\_\_

## Age Makes No Difference.

God graciously invites **EVERYONE**, whether **YOUNG or OLD** to become members of His called-out assembly, the Church. In Acts 16:31 Paul and Silas explained to the Philippiari jailer how he could be **SAVED**: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy \_\_\_\_\_ (household, family)." The promise of salvation is here given not only to the jailer but also to the members of his **household**, which probably included his wife, his slaves, and any **children** that he may have had. If the jailer would simply **believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, then he would be \_\_\_\_\_ and if his family (HOUSE) would believe on the Lord Jesus Christ then they would be S \_\_\_\_\_ also. Did the members of his household **hear** the Word of God (see Acts 16:32)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did the members of his household **BELIEVE** on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:34)? \_\_\_\_\_ Were the members of his household **baptized** in water (Acts 16:33)? \_\_\_\_\_

A **CHILD** may be saved and may become a member of the church, but he (or she) must be old enough to do what (Acts 16:31; compare Acts 18:8)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ A child may be baptized as long as he (or she) is old enough to do what (Acts 8:36-37)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ What does this tell us about baptism for infants or for babies? \_\_\_\_\_

[Many churches today practice **infant baptism**, but the New Testament does not support such a practice. In the New Testament, as seen especially in the book of Acts, **only believers** were baptized.]

Thus, when it comes to **age** THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE! Even a young *child* may become a *child of God* of God because the Bible says, "As many as received Him (whether young or old), to them gave He power (authority, the right) to become the sons (children) of \_\_\_\_\_, even to them that \_\_\_\_\_ on His name (whether young or old)." --John 1:12.

**IF YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO READ AND STUDY THESE WORKSHEETS,  
THEN YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO RECEIVE CHRIST!**  
*Have you done this?*

**Those who are young need to learn about a great God who died for them and who cares for them. Even though they are young, they can still trust God and believe His Word. They can love the Lord Jesus Christ and show their love to Him by obedience.**



**Jesus loves the little children,  
All the children of the world,  
Red and yellow, black and white,  
They are precious in His sight.  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**