

The Way Forward
The Unfinished Way
Acts 16:11-15

1. Can *never* be about *business as usual* (6-12)
When a church settles into a routine, a schedule and or regimen, all true Kingdom advancements stop. *Doing church* replacing *being church*. When “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” becomes a mantra for spiritual water treading, death is imminent. Paul would never become guilty of turning his calling into the practice of business as usual.
2. Will *always* be about *strategic thinking* (13)
As much as possible, Paul was always thinking about *next*. Cause and effect. Implications. Possibilities. Syllogisms (if, then). Who, what, when, where and how were always his question regarding what he should be in pursuit of, but never why. I don’t think that Paul would ever have agreed to a “Celebration of Successful Missions Banquet” out of concern that celebration saves no one.
3. Should remain sensitive to the *less informed* (14-15)
Picture this, a highly educated Roman citizen, Pharisee, world traveler, linguist, Disciple of Jesus engaging a female merchant, worshiper of a generic deity, on a Saturday morning by the creek in such a way that she “gets it”. Paul knew that the burden of communication across culture, gender, profession, theology and life experience was *always* on him.