A Christ-Centered, Spirit-Empowered, Multiethnic Church On Mission



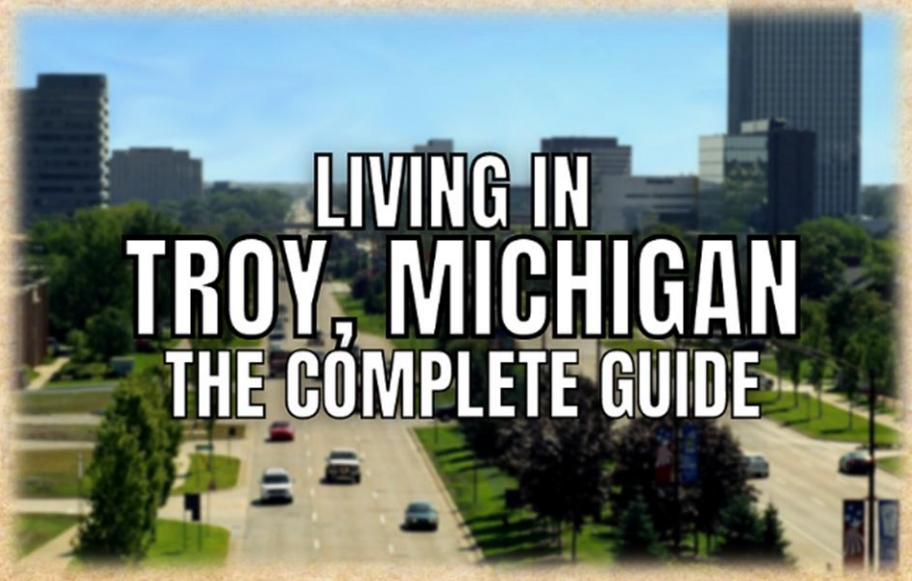
Acts 17:1-15 NKJV

Victory Over Persecution

Acts 17:1-2

1 When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia (Hazel Park and Madison Heights), *they came to Thessalonica* (Troy), *where there was a Jewish synagogue.*

2 As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue,




As his custom was Paul went into the synagogue

2…and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ,"



1 Peter 3:15
Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

2 Timothy 2:15
Study to shew yourself approved unto God a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.



4 Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and <u>not a few prominent women</u>.



5 But the Jews were jealous;

Song of Solomon 8:6 “Jealousy is as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire a most vehement flame.”

1 John 2:16 “…the pride of life, is not of the Father, but of the world.”





...so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city.

They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. 6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, 7 and Jason has welcomed them into his house.

They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." 8 When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. 9 Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

1 Corinthians 2:8

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery…which none of the princes of this world knew: <u>for had they known it</u>, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.



Ephesians 6:12-13

This war is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

JAWS June 20th 1975



Great White Shark



“The Barry-Bee Story”



And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.
Matthew 10:22





For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness…
1 Corinthians 1:18

Three spiritual truths that will help give us victory over persecution

1. Think of the reward-keep your eye on the prize

2. Vengeance belongs to God

3. They are not attacking you but Christ himself

1. Think of the reward-keep your eye on the prize

Luke 6:22-23 KJV

22 Blessed are you, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.
23 Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

Matthew 10:40-42 *"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent me…whoever gives one of these little ones ONLY a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by NO MEANS lose his reward."*



Matthew 6:19-20

"Do NOT lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves beak in and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."



2. Vengeance belongs to God



Hebrews 10:30-31 NKJV

For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

3. They are not attacking you but Christ himself

- Matthew 25:40 “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.
- Acts 26: 14 Jesus speaking to Saul…”why are you persecuting ME? ...I am JESUS whom you are persecuting!”

10 As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea (Rochester). On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. 12 Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

13 When the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, they went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up. 14 The brothers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. 15 The men who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.