



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

ACTS 20 (Macedonia, Greece, Miletus)

Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey (Part-ii)

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

Paul's visit to Macedonia & Greece (1-6): Why did Paul go to Macedonia & Greece? Who were Paul's travel companions, anything insightful? Is Luke mentioned?

Paul's meeting at Troas (7-16): What are some elements of this meeting? What happened to Eutychus? Where is his next planned stop and what was the purpose?

Paul's meeting with elders @ Miletus (17-38): What does Paul have to say about his prior ministry at Ephesus (18-21), what does he anticipate in Jerusalem? what encourages Paul to keep going? What is "full counsel"? (22-27) What are three things he exhorts/warns elders/pastors? How is Trinity captured in verse 28? (28-31) Who does Paul commend them to? What example has Paul set for other leaders (32-35) Why is the departure sorrowful? (36-38)

Personal Reflection: *Paul's mission was to "finish my course with Joy" (24)... what track are we on, and is it bringing joy to our life?*

Acts 20
10.21.2020

Main stops in Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey



- Acts 18:22-23 (started in Antioch and traveled through Galatia)
- Acts 19: Ephesus
- Acts 20:1 (Macedonia, Greece ... travels back through Macedonia)
- 20:6 Sailed from Philippi to Troas
- 20:15 Miletus
- 21: Miletus to Jerusalem

Paul's visit to Macedonia & Greece (1-7)

Why did Paul go to Macedonia & Greece?

Who were Paul's travel companions and Anything interesting?

Is Luke mentioned?

Paul's visit to Macedonia & Greece

- **Why did Paul go to Macedonia & Greece?** (Troas before Macedonia, II Corinthians 2:12, 13)
 - To Strengthen local believers
 - Catch up with Timothy and Erastus (sent earlier, 19:22)
 - Macedonia part of his 2nd missionary journey (Berea, Thessalonica, Phillipi)
 - Again, shows Paul's continued care and concern for the testimonies that he established (heart of a true shepherd)

Paul's visit to Macedonia & Greece

Who were Paul's 7 travel companions and Anything interesting?

Returning through Macedonia to return to parent church in Antioch Syria (3)

- Sopater of Berea (relative of Paul, Romans 16:21)
- Aristarchus (Acts 19:29) and Secundus of Thessalonica
- Gaius of Derbe (Romans 16:23)
- Timothy of Lystra
- Tychius and Trophimus (II Timothy 4:20) of Asia (possibly, Ephesus)

- Luke of Philippi joins (in verse 5, "us", continuing from 16:40, in Philippi)
- Paul and Luke sailed to Troas from Philippi where they are joined by others (6)

Paul's writings during travels to Macedonia & Greece

- II Corinthians written during his time in Macedonia
- Romans were written during his time in Greece (II Corinthians 13:1)

Chronological order for Paul's epistles (connects well with Acts and give more insights on Paul's journeys)

I & II Thessalonians, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Romans, Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, I Timothy, Titus, II Timothy

Paul's meeting at Troas (7-16)

What are some elements of this meeting?

What happened to Eutychus?

Where was his next stop and what was the purpose?

Paul's meeting at Troas (7-day visit)

- What are some elements of this meeting?
 - Met on first day of the week
 - Elements mentioned: Breaking of bread, (long) message, fellowship
 - Preached from evening till midnight (7) ... and continued till daybreak (11)
 - *Possibly* there was singing, prayers, sharing/witnessing also
 - All of these elements found at our Assemblies
- Do we have to meet for worship on 'first day of the week'? (Romans 14:5,6)

Paul's meeting at Troas (7-day visit)

- What happened to Eutychus?

- Young man
- Fell asleep during message and fell down from the third loft
- Died
- Raised to life by Paul

- Where was his next stop and what was the purpose?

- Troas → Assos → Mitylene → Chios → Samos → Trogyllium → Miletus
- Purpose: To meet with Elders of Ephesus on his way to Jerusalem

Paul's meeting with elders (17-38)

A message by Paul to pastors/elders of
personal reflection, exhortation, warning, inspiration, challenge,
ending with tearful farewell

Paul's meeting with elders

- Paul on the way to Jerusalem for Pentecost so does not have much time
- But has burden to meet with elders in Ephesus so pauses his trip at Miletus
- There is much we can learn from this meeting

Reflections on prior ministry (18-21)

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How Paul Ministered

- Served the Lord with Humility
- Persevered through Tears and Trials
- Held back nothing that was profitable
- Taught publicly, and from house to house
- **Paul's Message** to Jews and Greeks: **Repentance towards God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ**

Anticipated Future in Jerusalem (22-24)

Constrained in his spirit to go to Jerusalem

Future suffering in Jerusalem (22-24)

- Troubles ahead (Holy spirit warns of prisons and afflictions)
- But Paul is not discouraged and presses onward

PAUL'S PASSION TO HIS MISSION IS CHALLENGING/INSPIRING

Verse 24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that **I might finish my course with joy**, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the **gospel of the grace of God**.

Paul's calling came with suffering (**Acts 9:15-16**) Our calling (**Hebrews 12:1**)

Verses 25 - 27

“may not see them again” (25)

What does it mean?

- “**all the counsel**” (27) ... gave the full message; dangerous to give partial message (such as teaching only about Love of God, and excluding Justice of God)
- “**pure from the blood of all men**” (26) (not guilty of their judgment as he has done his part in sharing the gospel)

Exhortation to elders (28-30)

- What are three things he exhorts/warns pastors/elders/overseers?
- How is Trinity captured in verse 28?

Exhortation to elders (28-30)

What are three things he exhorts/warns pastors/elders/overseers?

1. Take care of yourself (spiritually) (I Corinthians 9:27)
 2. Feed the sheep (Psalms 23, Titus 1:9)
 3. Protect the sheep from grievous wolves (Matthew 7:15,
- Sheep starve, scatter & die without a good Shepard (Ezekiel 34:5)
 - Be cautious of hireling (John 10:12)

Trinity at work (verse 28)

Take heed therefore unto **yourselves**, and to all the **flock**, over the which the **Holy Ghost** hath made you overseers, to feed the church of **God**, which he hath purchased with his own **blood**.

- Overseers = elders, bishops, pastors, presbyters
- Church does not appoint pastors, Holy Spirit does
- “my church” ... Church does not belong to the pastor ...
Pastors are servants of God. Sadly, many pastors forget this 😞

Paul's final thoughts (32-35)

- Commended to God and word of His grace
 - We are sustained by God and His grace, nothing else
 - Paul's ministry was dependent upon God's grace
 - Modern tools can help us ... but it is God's grace that makes our ministry fruitful
- Paul didn't do ministry to build his wealth or lifestyle or position
- It is more blessed to give than to receive (we can give in many ways ... Time/Talents/Treasures ... **always more blessed to give!**)

Tearful farewell (36-38)

- Knelt down and prayed
- Tearful sorrowful farewell

Sadness at departure indicates the quality of intimate fellowship and love that Paul enjoyed with Ephesus church elders.

Ephesus church: Epilogue

- Letter to Ephesus church is found in Revelation 2 (written after 30-50 years) ... Ephesus church kept many things that Paul taught them but sadly, **lost its first love**. Paul would have been saddened to see the state of the Ephesus church.
- Sadly, many churches today have also kept the outward structure/pattern but have lost the first love of early years ... **how about us?** Lord is looking for structure & substance ... external manifestations & internal spirit.

Personal Reflection

*Paul's mission was to
"finish my course with Joy" (24)
... what track are we on, and
is it bringing joy to our life?*

What was Paul's secret to finding Joy in his Journey?
Remained Faithful to His Call till the end