

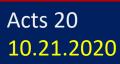
Bethany Bible Study & Discussion ACTS 20 (Macedonia, Greece, Miletus) Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary <sup>\*</sup> Journey (Part-ii)

**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?

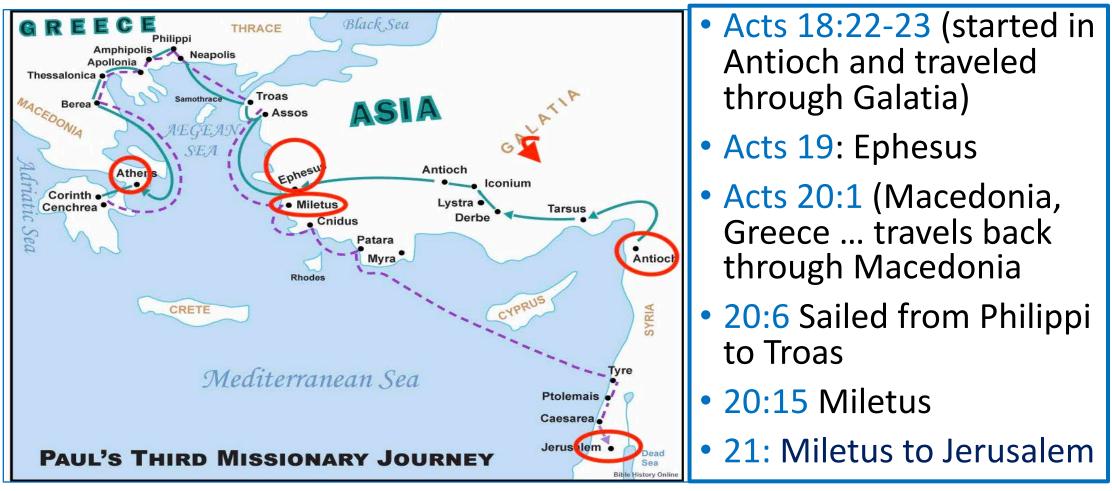
**Paul's meeting at Troas (7-16):** What are some elements of this meeting? What happened to Eutychus? Where is his next planned stop and what was the purpose?

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?



#### Main stops in Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey



# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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

<u>Chronological order for Paul's epistles (connects well with Acts and give more insights</u> 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
  - <u>Elements mentioned</u>: 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  $\rightarrow$  Assos  $\rightarrow$  Mitylene  $\rightarrow$  Chios  $\rightarrow$  Samos  $\rightarrow$  Trogyllium  $\rightarrow$  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 <u>Humility</u>
- <u>Persevered</u> through Tears and Trials
- <u>Held back nothing that was profitable</u>
- <u>Taught</u> 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 <u>does not</u> appoint pastors, Holy Spirit does
- "my church" ... Church <u>does not</u> belong to the pastor ...
  Pastors are servants of God. Sadly, many pastors forget this <sup>(3)</sup>

#### 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