



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Paul's Incredible Mission Team

MAY 8-10, 2019

Pastor David Andersen / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

Acts 20:1-6 *And after the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he departed to go to Macedonia. 2) And when he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece. 3) And there he spent three months, and when a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he determined to return through Macedonia. 4) And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, the son of Pyrrhus; and by Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. 5) But these had gone on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas. 6) And we sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them in Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days. (NASB)*

"BY THIS WE KNOW LOVE, BECAUSE HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US. AND WE ALSO OUGHT TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR THE BRETHREN. BUT WHOEVER HAS THIS WORLD'S GOODS, AND SEES HIS BROTHER IN NEED, AND SHUTS UP HIS HEART FROM HIM, HOW DOES THE LOVE OF GOD ABIDE IN HIM?" THE APOSTLE JOHN IN 1 JOHN 3:16-17

How many verbs are used for Paul to say goodbye to his friends at Ephesus? What is the underlying reason for this trip? Does Paul always have one thing that he does at every church? Why did the Jews plot so quickly to kill Paul? Is the road to Macedonia usually more dangerous? Who are these many friends of Paul? What specific person joined Paul in Philippi?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 15-17: ACTS 20:7-12 **PAUL'S ALL NIGHT SUNDAY SERMON**

- MAY 22-24: ACTS 20:13-17 **PAUL'S CARE FOR THE CHURCH AT EPHEBUS**

After Demetrius and the silversmiths had staged a riot in Ephesus against Paul in order to kill him, but had only been able to threaten two on his mission team, peace returned to this capital of Asia Minor. Paul was relieved that no one had been hurt and that the silversmiths had only fallen into the pit they had dug for him. All the city, and especially the leaders, knew that the freedom of their city, and even their positions in governing the city were now in jeopardy. And what had been designed to destroy Paul and his work had actually now advanced his cause. Christ had protected him, just as he had promised earlier. His seminary to train pastors at the school of Tyrannus had multiplied his ministry throughout all of Asia Minor for the last three years, and now it was time for Paul to receive the offerings from his many churches for the poor saints in Jerusalem and move on to the greatest challenge of his ministry—the imperial capital of Rome!

"A SURE MARK OF GENUINE LOVE FOR THE CHURCH IS SELFLESS, TIRELESS EXHORTATION FROM THE WORD OF GOD. THOUGH WEARY, BUSY, AND PERSECUTED, PAUL DEVOTED HIMSELF TO TEACHING EVERYWHERE HE WENT. HIS CONSUMING PASSION, EVEN AT THE RISK OF HIS LIFE, WAS TO SEE BELIEVERS BROUGHT TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY." JOHN MACARTHUR

I. PAUL'S PREACHING

ACTS 20:1-2

It takes no less than five verbs in the original language to describe all that occurs with Paul's departure from Ephesus. First the disciples are summoned. Most importantly, Paul preaches to them one more time. This one verb includes the many concepts of exhorting, comforting, appealing, preaching, urging, encouraging, pleading, and consoling. Paul knows that *"after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the*

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 7:30AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – BOB EVANS ON RT. 3 & 10:30AM – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS, 14490 SMOKETOWN RD.

THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY –SHONEY'S AT HULL & COURTHOUSE ALSO NOON- DEPT. OF CAPITOL POLICE-TRAINING ROOM

FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – SUFFOLK – VILLAGE INN, 6116 COLLEGE DRIVE, NEAR HAMPTON ROADS CROSSING

Virginia

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flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears" (Acts 20:29-31). Paul knew that only the Word of God could guide them into all truth which would keep them and preserve them faithful before God. With the last three verbs he embraces them, prepares for departure and leaves for Macedonia. With a few words Luke describes Paul's journey through all the churches he planted on his second missionary journey. He probably even follows the Egnatian Way north of Macedonia and evangelizes new territory. Notice again the emphasis on Paul's preaching, "*when he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece.*" It is the same verb.

"IT IS LIKELY ALSO TO HAVE BEEN DURING THIS PERIOD THAT PAUL TRAVELLED FURTHER WEST ALONG THE EGNATIAN WAY THAN HE HAD PREVIOUSLY GONE, REACHING EVEN ILLYRICUM ON THE ADRIATIC COAST NORTH OF MACEDONIA (ROM. 15:19)." JOHN STOTT

II. THE JEWS' PLOT

ACTS 20:3

The word for "*Greece*" is actually Achaia, of which Corinth is the capital. The Lord had promised Paul, when he was about to leave Corinth, in the night vision, "*Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city*" (Acts 18:9-10). Therefore, Paul had stayed longer than he ever had previously, a year and six months. The Jews had immediately attacked him and he had gone next door to the Synagogue to minister to the Gentiles. "*Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized*" (18:8). Not only had that first synagogue ruler received Christ, but the second ruler of the synagogue, who sought to have Paul persecuted before the magistrate, was not only beaten in Paul's place,

but later became a believer as well and joined Paul's mission team (1 Cor 1:1)! So when Paul returned and spent three months in Corinth, the remaining Jews in the synagogue plotted to kill him, most likely while he was with them at sea on the way to Jerusalem. But Paul heard about the plot and escaped on the road to Macedonia.

"FOR THESE MEN, PAUL'S COMPANY ON THE LONG MILES TO JERUSALEM WAS TRULY A 'SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS', IN WHICH THEY RECEIVED 'ON-THE-JOB TRAINING' FOR THEIR FUTURE MINISTRIES FOR CHRIST." GORDON KEDDIE

III. PAUL'S PASTORS

ACTS 20:4-6

Earlier Timothy and Erastus had been sent ahead to begin collecting the love offering for the poor saints in Jerusalem (19:22). Paul himself had followed them with another team and collected as well. Thus the Jews had two reasons to kill Paul: first for his blood and second for his money. These pastors in training were also Paul's bodyguards and many had been political leaders. Sopater and Secundus were likely rulers over all of Macedonia. Aristarchus was captured in the Ephesian riot and later was imprisoned with Paul (19:29, Col 4:10); from his name we get our words "aristocracy" and "aristocrat." The first of these may have been a relative of Paul (Rom 16:21). These men had to be of some wealth to leave their city and travel at their own expense with Paul, other than Timothy who had been invited on the team and was the recipient of Paul's last two letters. Gaius of Derbe represented the churches of Galatia from Paul's first mission trip. Tychicus was a faithful fellow worker with Paul (Col 4:7, Eph 6:21) and Trophimus risks his life with Paul and is later left sick in Miletus (21:29, 2 Tim 4:20). Luke is the final addition, identified by "*us*" & "*we*." All travelled with Paul to learn from him and support him.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you love others enough to take the opportunity to sow the seed of the Word of God in their lives?
- 2) Do you rebel against God and His Word so that you seek to rid yourself of any who give you the truth?
- 3) Are you seeking to know the truth of the Word of God so that you actively learn as much as possible?