



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Paul's Care for the Churches

MAY 22-24, 2019

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**Acts 20:13-17** *But we, going ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending from there to take Paul on board; for thus he had arranged it, intending himself to go by land. 14) And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. 15) And sailing from there, we arrived the following day opposite Chios; and the next day we crossed over to Samos; and the day following we came to Miletus. 16) For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus in order that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. 17) And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. (NASB)*

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*“ARE THEY MINISTERS OF CHRIST? ... I AM MORE: IN LABORS MORE ABUNDANT ... IN WEARINESS AND TOIL, IN SLEEPLESSNESS OFTEN, IN HUNGER AND THIRST, IN FASTINGS OFTEN, IN COLD AND NAKEDNESS—BESIDES THE OTHER THINGS, WHAT COMES UPON ME DAILY: MY DEEP CONCERN FOR ALL THE CHURCHES.”*  
2 CORINTHIANS 11:23, 27-28

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Why does Paul send the rest of his team ahead of him on the ship? How long did he voluntarily go without any sleep? What was accomplished with Paul's mission team in their travels? Is there any significance to the places where they landed? When in a hurry, is it faster to go directly somewhere or send to have others come to you? What was the purpose of Paul's sending for the elders of the church of Ephesus?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- > MAY 29-31: ACTS 20:18-28 **PAUL'S COMMITMENT AND CHALLENGE**
- > JUNE 5-7: ACTS 20:29-38 **PAUL'S TEARS AND TESTIMONY**

Paul had planned to sail from Corinth much earlier in order to make it to Jerusalem in time for the Passover, but the Jews had plotted to kill him, so his plans were delayed. He chose the dangerous road north and went back through Macedonia. Paul had sent his team on ahead to Troas, but he went to Philippi to find Luke. Evidently the wind was against them as they sailed to Troas and it took them more than twice as long to make the voyage than the last time they had taken the trip together. Paul and his team only had a week in Troas, so that when he was ready to leave the next day, the believers were delighted to miss their sleep and they willingly stayed up all night to hear Paul preach. They were especially excited to worship together on the Lord's Day and to enjoy the Lord's Supper together to celebrate Christ's death for their sins and His resurrection power demonstrated in their lives. Suddenly, about midnight, as Paul was long in his preaching, a young man, named Eutychus, about middle school age, fell asleep and tumbled from the third story window to his death. Now their delight turned to mourning the death of the youth! But Paul, in prayer, *“fell on him and embracing him said, ‘Do not be troubled, for his life is in him’”* (Acts 20:10). The power of the resurrection that they were celebrating became a physical reality in the life of this “fortunate” young man and the saints continued to be attentive to Paul's words until the daybreak conquered the darkness.

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*“SO, EFFECTIONATELY LONGING FOR YOU, WE WERE PLEASED TO IMPART TO YOU NOT ONLY THE GOSPEL OF GOD, BUT ALSO OUR OWN LIVES, BECAUSE YOU HAD BECOME DEAR TO US .”* 1 THESSALONIANS 2:8

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### I. SACRIFICIAL CARE

### ACTS 20:13

After spending the entire night ministering to this church so hungry for Paul's preaching, we would expect Paul to go aboard the ship with his team and get some sleep. Instead he is as energized as they are by their delight in

### 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 – CHESTER – SHONEY'S AT RT. 10 & 301 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

## Paul's Care for the Churches

the truth! So he sends his team to board the ship leaving early in the morning and stays at Troas a bit longer to continue to teach and encourage them and also to bless the young man he has just raised from the dead. In choosing not to take the ship, he was committing to a twenty-mile hike on a treacherous road through mountain terrain following the sleepless night. Such would allow any of the believers who were able to walk with him the opportunity of another day of instruction.

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**"PAUL'S SELFLESS LOVE FOR THE CHURCH IS NOTABLY CLEAR. HE WAS AVAILABLE TO MINISTER FOR AN ENTIRE NIGHT AND THROUGH A TWENTY-MILE WALK THE NEXT MORNING. NO SACRIFICE WAS TOO GREAT FOR THE APOSTLE TO MAKE FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE SAINTS. HE WAS TIRELESSLY AVAILABLE TO HIS BELOVED PEOPLE."**  
JOHN MACARTHUR

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### II. SEMINARY CARE

#### ACTS 20:14

As Paul entered this next port city of Assos, he would have been able to see the ship nearing the docks below. The city was perched seven hundred feet above the harbor with a beautiful view of the island of Lesbos in the Aegean Sea. When Paul made his way down to the wharf and "*met*" them, this verb relates continual action and is the same word used earlier in Acts of intense deliberation by the ruling body in Israel. When Peter and John had gone up to the temple, there was a man who had been lame from birth at the gate whom Peter granted healing. The man then began leaping and praising God, which made a scene that gathered a large crowd and Peter gave them the Gospel. The Jewish rulers were furious that Peter had preached to the people so all the apostles were immediately imprisoned. But the number who believed were five thousand men. The next day when the Apostles and the recently healed lame man was on trial before them, Peter preached to the rulers concerning their murder of Christ by crucifixion and

God raising Jesus Christ from the dead, saying "*by Him this man stands before you whole,*" then he went on to say, "*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*" (Acts 4:10, 12). These religious murderers marveled and realized that they were at a loss to convict the Apostles of a crime. But they decided to put them out of the chamber and "*conferred*" between themselves what to do with these men. The verb translated "*conferred*" is the same as "*met*." Thus, when Paul was again with his team they continued their seminary training by continually conferring with him and preparing themselves to lead churches in the future.

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**"AND THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE HEARD FROM ME AMONG MANY WITNESSES, COMMIT THESE TO FAITHFUL MEN WHO WILL BE ABLE TO TEACH OTHERS ALSO."**  
1 TIMOTHY 2:2

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### III. SHEPHERD'S CARE

#### ACTS 20:14-17

Paul continues his evangelistic strategy of seeking to win leaders in capitals even in the island cities he visits on his way to Jerusalem. Mitylene is the capital of the island of Lesbos, Chios is the capital of the island of Chios and Samos is the capital of the island of Samos. Paul wants to encourage his most strategic church where his three-year ministry was longer than any other, in the capital of the entire region of Asia Minor, Ephesus. But he is in a hurry to be in Jerusalem by the Feast of Pentecost, so he cannot risk the ship getting stuck in the silted harbor of Ephesus, neither does he have time to say goodbye again to everyone at the large church there. Paul knew that shepherding occurs through the leaders of the church, so he sailed past Ephesus to Miletus and invited the elders to come to him. The vital summary phrase Paul gives to them as leaders is, "*shepherd the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood*" (Acts 20:28).

#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) What is your commitment in sacrifice to make a difference in the lives of other believers in the church?
- 2) Do you study and learn the truth of the Word of God for your own personal benefit or also for others?
- 3) With the strategic leadership that the Lord has given you, who are you shepherding for Jesus Christ?