



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Another Resurrection on the Lord's Day

MAY 15-17, 2019

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

Acts 20:7-12 *And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. 8) And there were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. 9) And there was a certain young man named Eutychus sitting on a window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor, and was picked up dead. 10) But Paul went down and fell upon him and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him." 11) And when he had gone back up, and had broken bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. 12) And they took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted. (NASB)*

This passage marks the seventh resurrection in Scripture where someone was enabled by God to cause another person to rise from the dead. Two in answer to the prayers of Old Testament prophets, three by the ministry of Jesus Christ, and two by the greatest apostles. The first, by the prayer of Elijah the Prophet, God brought back to life the only son of the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:17-24). The second was through the prayers of Elisha who restored the only son of the woman who was his host with her husband (2 Kings 4:8-37). The three by Jesus Christ were the raising of the daughter of Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue (Mt. 9:18-26, Mk. 5:21-43, Lk. 8:41-56); interrupting the funeral of the only son of the widow of Nain and touching the coffin, saying, "Young man, I say to you arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak." (Lk. 7:14-15); and finally, Jesus raised his friend Lazarus, who had been dead for three days and already buried! (John 11) Peter had prayed and seen Dorcas raised to life (Acts 9:36-42). And finally in our passage Paul saw Eutychus raised from the dead. But there was a much greater resurrection that was being celebrated by the church in this passage and why they were meeting on the first day of the week. Only Jesus Christ proved that He was truly God by both predicting and raising Himself from the dead! (John 10:15-18) And it is Jesus who alone saves the sinner who is dead in his sins and raises him up to new life in Christ by His resurrection from the dead!

"JESUS SAID TO HER, 'I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE; HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME SHALL LIVE EVEN IF HE DIES, AND EVERYONE WHO LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE.'" JOHN 11:25-26

Is this the first time we are told when the early church met? What did they gather to celebrate? Why is Paul leaving the next day? What did the lamps have to do with Eutychus falling asleep? Is this the last resurrection miracle recorded in Scripture? Why did these believers desire an all-night message?

"BUT GOD, WHO IS RICH IN MERCY, BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE WITH WHICH HE LOVED US, EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN TRESPASSES, MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST (BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED) ." EPHESIANS 2:4-5

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 22-24: ACTS 20:13-17 PAUL'S CARE FOR THE CHURCH AT EPHEBUS
- MAY 29-31: ACTS 20:18-28 PAUL'S COMMITMENT AND CHALLENGE

I. COMMEMORATING CHRIST ACTS 20:7

Paul's team had been sent to wait for him in Troas. Now he and Luke had arrived and spent a week with this infant church, having been given minimum time on each

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

Another Resurrection on the Lord's Day

occasion when Paul had been in this city (Acts 16:8-11, 2 Cor. 2:12-13). Paul had been delayed in the five days it took to sail from Philippi and now he was only able to spend seven days with them. Only one cherished week to soak up all the wisdom Paul, their beloved father in the faith! Our passage describes the evening of that last day. They had gathered for the commemoration that they delighted in the most—to “*break bread*” remembering the Lord’s death and resurrection until He comes. Both Paul and his flock of eager listeners knew that this was their last opportunity to be together. Just as much as they wanted to gain the truth of the Word of God, Paul equally desired to explain the Scriptures fully to them. Thus, “*he prolonged his message until midnight*”!

“THE ZEAL OF THEM ALL IS WORTH NOTING, IN THAT IT WAS NO TROUBLE TO PAUL TO TEACH UNTIL MIDNIGHT, THOUGH HE WERE READY TO TAKE HIS JOURNEY, NEITHER WERE THE REST WEARY OF LEARNING. FOR HE HAD NO OTHER CAUSE TO CONTINUE HIS SPEECH SO LONG, SAVE ONLY THE DESIRE AND ATTENTIVENESS OF HIS AUDIENCE.”

JOHN CALVIN

II. CATASTROPHIC CALAMITY ACTS 20:8-9

This is the first description of an apostolic service. It is the first time in Scripture we are told specifically that the church met on the first day of the week, rather than on the Sabbath, as was Paul’s usual practice when he first entered the synagogue in a new city. The night meeting was customary for the early church as many of the saints were business owners and tradesmen who would have conducted their business during the day as well as many slaves who were required to be at their master’s bidding during daylight hours. Thus, the “*many lamps*” were not unusual as the night necessitated light to see the speaker, for the speaker or others to read the Scriptures, or even to take notes on what was being said. The lamps would have added to the heat of an already hot upper room on

the third floor. Added heat would have been generated by the multitude of believers who had gathered. The place was evidently so full that Eutychus could only find a seat in the window sill. Luke must have seen the boy in the window “*sinking into a deep sleep*” because the detail of his falling off to sleep points to an eyewitness. But no one must have thought of the danger or had time to respond until the boy had fallen to his death from the third floor. Suddenly all the attention moved from Paul to the boy as they all raced downstairs to help. Luke, the physician, described his condition as “*taken up dead*.” The delightfully long meeting had caused a disastrous death!

“GOD TOOK OCCASION FROM THE TRAGEDY TO DEMONSTRATE HIS POWER TO GIVE NEW LIFE. THE RAISING OF EUTYCHUS ... ATTESTED THE VALIDITY OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AS PROCLAIMED BY THE APOSTLE PAUL AND SO WAS A PARABLE OF THAT EVEN GREATER LIFE – THE ETERNAL LIFE OF WHICH SAVING FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST IS THE ENTRANCE AND EXPERIENCE.”

GORDON KEDDIE

III. CEASED COMMOTION ACTS 20:10-12

When Paul goes down and finds the boy dead, he remembered the resurrection miracle God did through Elijah and Elisha, and so he imitated them in prayer “*and fell upon him*.” After embracing the limp body, Paul knew that God had answered his prayer, and since the people had begun wailing the boy’s death, he commanded them to stop with the words, “*Do not be troubled, for his life is in him*.” Once the saints were assured that the boy had been raised from the dead, their focus returned to Paul even more zealously. After serving communion and then enjoying an Agape Feast together, Paul continued to talk until sunrise, when he needed to depart. Literally, “*they led the boy away alive, and were greatly comforted*.” He walked!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Have you experienced the resurrection power of God by receiving Christ as your Lord and Savior?
- 2) Are you eager to hear the Word of God or is it easy for you to sleep through the message?
- 3) Do you love to fellowship with God’s people or leave the church as soon as possible?