

## Paul—Acts 20

### Troas on the Lord's Day; Meeting with Ephesian Elders

#### I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

- 01. 20:4... And there accompanied him into Asia**--“Accompanying him during his departure from Corinth were several believers listed here by Luke. By comparing Luke's narrative with what Paul says in his letters about the collection, it is clear that these men represented churches which were contributing to the collection. As delegates from the churches they would be in a position to verify Paul's use of the funds, as well as provide some protection in light of the fact that so much coinage was being carried in an age before paper money and bank drafts” [College Press New Testament Commentary].
- 02. 20:7... And upon the first day of the week...**--“It is very generally admitted, even among parties who do not observe the practice themselves, that the apostolic Churches broke the loaf weekly; but it is still made a question whether, in the absence of an express commandment, this example is binding upon us. This question is likely to be determined differently by two different classes of men. Those who are disposed to follow chiefly the guide of their own judgment, or of their denominational customs, will feel little influenced by such a precedent. But to those who are determined that the very slightest indication of the divine will shall govern them, the question must present itself in this way: We are commanded to do this in memory of Jesus. We are not told, in definite terms, how often it shall be done; but we find that the apostles established the custom of meeting every Lord's day for this purpose. This is an inspired precedent, and with it we must comply. We can come to no other conclusion without assuming an ability to judge of this matter with more wisdom than did the apostle” [J.W. McGarvey].
- 03. 20:16... For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, ... for he hasted**—“Paul doubtless wanted to see the disciples at Ephesus since they were nearby, but probably he did not want to make the sixty-mile round trip inland to the city. He was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem before Pentecost, and he could not afford to have the boat sail without him. Why the haste to arrive before Pentecost? It was *not* to observe that feast as a Jew, as some surmise ..., but: (1) There would be large crowds to accommodate gospel preaching; (2) he might see brethren from various Judean cities to whom he could disperse the funds that had been collected for their welfare” [Wayne Jackson, *The Acts of the Apostles: from Jerusalem to Rome*, p. 267].
- 04. 20:23... Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me**—“Though Paul did not know specifically what would happen to him upon his arrival at Jerusalem, he did know, as a general proposition, that the Holy Spirit had told him repeatedly (so the present tense) that 'bonds and afflictions' would be his constant companions... When he wrote his letter to the Roman saints from Corinth (cf., 20:2; Rom 16:23), he urged them to pray that he might 'be delivered from them that are disobedient in Judea' (15:31). But the apostle did not value his physical life above all other considerations. To him, biological life was not nearly so 'dear' (precious) as eternal life. How tragic it is that most have the matter quite in reverse. If Christianity requires the sacrifice of one's very life, when necessary, what may be said of those who drift along with virtually no sense of sacrificial dedication at all?” [Jackson, p. 270].
- 05. 20:26... I am pure from the blood of all men**—“He thus reminded them that he had fulfilled his role as 'watchman' for Christ. Just as Ezekiel described the responsibility of

the city watchman to warn the citizens of the coming threat (33:1-6), Paul had presented the warning and was now 'innocent of the blood of all men.' He could make this declaration because he had been unwavering in his commitment to proclaim the 'whole will of God'" [College Press New Testament Commentary].

- 06. 20:28... Take heed therefore unto yourselves**—"Paul now gives a strong admonition to the elders from Ephesus. 'Take heed' ... is a present, imperative form. it commands sustained diligence. These shepherds have a two-fold responsibility—to put themselves under the microscope with a view to conforming to the will of God, and to watch for the welfare of their flock (the church). No man can help others spiritually unless he is serious about his own conduct. Paul affirms that these bishops had been 'appointed' by the Holy Spirit. ... The qualifications (cf., 1 Tim 3; Titus 1) had been given by the Spirit of God, so that it could be said that those who met those requisites were appointed by the Spirit" [Wayne Jackson, p. 272]. ||||| "Congregations of God's people may, if untaught, *drift* away into error (see Heb 2:1-2). A good strong eldership can keep this from happening. A good strong eldership can guard against false doctrine being brought in by those who would pervert the gospel of Christ (Gal 1:6-9; 2 Cor 11:13-15)" [Harold Littrell, *A Commentary on the Book of Acts*, p. 289].
- 07. 20:29... For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock**—"Some scholars see in this a prophetic reference to the heretics and heresies which arose in Paul's lifetime; but there is probably much more intended. This is one of several extensive passages in the New Testament foretelling the great apostasy which would come about through the development of the historical church, 'From among your own selves ...' indicates that the central apostasy would concern the government of the church; and as Protestants have often affirmed, "The Pope himself is only an elder gone wrong! Other New Testament passages bearing upon the apostasy are Matt. 7:15-23; 2 Cor. 11:3; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; 1 Tim. 4:1-5; 2 Tim. 3:1-8; 4:1-5; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 3:1-7; Rev. 17:3-6; 18:1-5" [Coffman].

## II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **The Period of the Church.**

## III. Summary.

We must keep in mind as we read this chapter that Paul has a goal of making it to Jerusalem with the contribution for the poor saints of Judaea by Pentecost. We read about his visit to Troas and have apostolic example (v. 7) for observing the Lord's Supper each first day of the week. We read of the miraculous raising of Eutychus during that assembly in Troas. Paul determines to meet with the Ephesian elders but calls them to Miletus for the meeting. He speaks to them of how he worked with them in Ephesus and he charges them to accept their responsibilities as elders and warns them about departures from the faith due to attacks from without and from within. There is a very emotional departure because all know that it will likely be the last time they see Paul.

## IV. Outline.

1. Paul spends three months in Greece (Acts 20:1-3).
2. Paul leaves Philippi and meets companions at Troas (4-6).
3. A young man, having fallen asleep during Paul's preaching, and having fallen from the 3<sup>rd</sup> loft, is raised from the dead by Paul (7-12).
4. Paul and others come to Miletus (13-16).

5. Paul sends for the Ephesian elders (17).
6. Paul delivers a farewell charge to the Ephesian elders (18-35).
7. An **emotional** parting (36-38).

## V. Questions.

### True or False

01. \_\_\_\_\_ Luke was among several brethren who awaited at Troas to travel on with Paul.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul was fully supported (financially) by the church at Ephesus.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ Eutychus is likely a favorite Bible character of “long-winded” preachers.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul predicted that there would be an apostasy and it would be led by two sources.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul gave his farewell charge to the Ephesian elders at Ephesus.

### Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. \_\_\_\_\_ Rather than WORD OF GOD, Paul tells the Ephesian elders he had declared all: (a) the will; (b) the counsel; (c) the way—of God.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ For three years what had Paul done with TEARS: (a) warned; (b) shouted; (c) praised the Lord.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ WHERE did the Christians at Troas gather with Paul to BREAK BREAD: (a) near the river; (b) in an upper chamber; (c) in the synagogue.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ WHO does Luke describe with these words—THEY WERE NOT A LITTLE COMFORTED: (a) the Ephesian elders; (b) Aristarchus & Secundus; (c) Christians at Troas.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ What caused Paul not to stop at Ephesus: (a) his fear of Demetrius; (b) haste to observe Pentecost in Jerusalem; (c) not knowing how he would be received.

### Fill in the Blanks

11. \_\_\_\_\_ [period of time] were spent by Paul in Greece.
12. **They should see** \_\_\_\_\_ was what Paul told the Ephesian elders which made them the saddest.
13. **...and as Paul was** \_\_\_\_\_, **he sunk down with** \_\_\_\_\_, **and fell down from the** \_\_\_\_\_ **loft.**
14. The warning that trouble awaited Paul in Jerusalem was given to him by the \_\_\_\_\_.
15. By the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ many temptations and tears came to Paul.

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week's handout*

**ANSWERS to Acts 19 Questions...** [(1) False, Acts 19:37; (2) True, Acts 19:25-29; (3) False, Acts 19:22; (4) True, Acts 19:29; (5) Acts 19:40; (6) b, Acts 19:38; (7) c, Acts 19:35; (8) a, Acts 19:30; (9) c, Acts 19:29; (10) a, Acts 19:26; (11) Two hours, Acts 19:34; (12) be, no, gods, made, hands, Acts 19:26; (13) Rome, Acts 19:21; (14) 50,000, Acts 19:19; (15) uproar, embraced, Macedonia, Acts 20:1.]

## VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **AND AFTER THE UPROAR WAS CEASED** (Acts 20:1). *Just as Paul was, we may be confronted with many “uproars” in our attempts to serve the Lord.* At the time, we may see no end to it, but we must develop the same steadfastness of Paul and keep on serving the Lord faithfully. **Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye**

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stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor 15:58).

2. **AND THERE WERE MANY LIGHTS IN THE UPPER CHAMBER, WHERE THEY WERE GATHERED TOGETHER** (Acts 20:8). *By rightly dividing the Word, we can distinguish between examples that ARE and ARE NOT binding.* For example, the MEETING IN AN UPPER ROOM aspect of this example is not binding because the early church met in other places: (1) in a synagogue (Js 2:2; (2) in the school of Tyrannus (Acts 19:9); (3) in the temple (Acts 2:46); in homes (Rom 16:5). Also, in addition, while speaking with the woman at the well, Jesus showed that THE PLACE for worship would not matter (Jn 4:21-22).
3. **...HOW I KEPT BACK NOTHING THAT WAS PROFITABLE UNTO YOU** (Acts 20:20). *Paul demonstrated his love for the Ephesian Christians by not holding back anything they needed to hear.* He could have saved himself from the opposition of some (e.g., Demetrius, 19:24ff) by watering down his message. BUT, Paul refused to do this and was able to say to these elders—I KEPT BACK NOTHING. Notice also that the word of God, purely proclaimed, is PROFITABLE!
4. **...NEITHER COUNT I MY LIFE DEAR UNTO MYSELF, SO THAT I MIGHT FINISH MY COURSE WITH JOY** (ACTS 20:24). *The dedication which Paul's statement indicates OUGHT to be ours as well!* Even if it cost his life, he knew in which direction he was headed, and he would not be swayed off course. Cf., Heb 12:1-2; 2 Tm 4:6-8.
5. **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,...** (Acts 20:28). *Elders have IMPORTANT responsibilities...*
  - 1) To examine self.
  - 2) To oversee the flock.
  - 3) To feed the flock.
6. **...WHICH HE HATH PURCHASED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD** (Acts 20:28). *The church of Christ is PRECIOUS—It cost the blood of the Son of God to purchase it!*
7. **AFTER MY DEPARTING SHALL GRIEVOUS WOLVES ENTER IN AMONG YOU, NOT SPARING THE FLOCK. ALSO OF YOUR OWN SELVES SHALL MEN ARISE, SPEAKING PERVERSE THINGS, TO DRAW AWAY DISCIPLES AFTER THEM** (Acts 20:29-30). *Apostasy will occur WHEN—*
  - 1) Outsiders lead members away into error.
  - 2) The leaders of the church become corrupt.
8. **...I COMMEND YOU TO GOD AND TO THE WORD OF HIS GRACE...** (ACTS 20:32). *A beautiful and practical benediction left by Paul with these elders whom he loved so much!*
9. **...IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE...** (Acts 20:35). *Here we find a "misplaced beatitude."* Cf., Mt 5:3ff. The sentiments of this statement we should strive to understand better, believe more fully, and practice with greater frequency!

## VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

A A W F H R I E J S E C U N D U S L C M  
 B V S A O R T A R I S T A R C H U S T B  
 S X J S E N T T O E P H E S U S U I I S  
 E V S G H E I M G V H M D W H U Z M M X  
 U V S R E D L E E H T D E L L A C O O A  
 T D L I G D N A P A U Q U S O F R V T P  
 Y Y E E N Q M I L E T U S Z G R H E H C  
 C U S V I D M W N O Y R I A S Z U R Y T  
 H F N O H A S D X U P W R H C Q H S W E  
 U H U U T E U O Y E E G E O M H E E P T  
 S T O S O R M C B B C U U J P L T E M I  
 V Y C W N B I V D C B B F S R R L R F O  
 G A E O K K H J V I I R U E R B X S I M  
 H D H L C A P T T O S C T S A K O P W R  
 C T T V A E O M K C I A U T B O R C X V  
 R S L E B R R Y H H P I I S T M R E F Y  
 J R L S T B T D C O A F D Z H B C W O S  
 C I A R P O A Y S G O E I X N I L X J J  
 M F B W E T T T E R E X M D X K F U P C  
 Q Y O I K L F E P F R Z Q R O C T D R L

*[The words (or word locaters) listed below are to be found in the text of our lesson. They also are found in the puzzle above. This is just one more way to reinforce what you have studied from the text. Why not read the whole verse where the word is found one more time as you do the puzzle? Thank you for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. Let's desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow (1 Pet 2:2). DRL]*

### Acts 20:3-38

Sopater, 20:4

Aristarchus, 20:4

Secundus, 20:4

Gaius, 20:4

Timothy, 20:4

Tychicus, 20:4

Trophimus, 20:4

Troas, 20:5

first day, 20:7

to break bread, 20:7

Eutychus, 20:9

Miletus, 20:15

sent to Ephesus, 20:17

called the elders, 20:17

kept back nothing, 20:20

profitable, 20:20

all the counsel, 20:27

overseers, 20:28

feed, 20:28

grievous wolves, 20:29