

A. Paul at Troas:

Acts 20:7 - And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

1. Paul meets up with the other team members and they stay in Troas 7 days. While there, they meet to worship. Notice, it is on the **first** day of the week and not the Sabbath. This was a big difference that had begun with the Body believers.

*As the transition continued, the separation between the Little Flock (Saturday) and the Body believers (Sunday) was happening. Jewish things were **fading**, but Gentile ways were **increasing**.

I Corinthians 16:2 - Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

2. On the last evening before sailing away, Paul is asked to speak. He let them have it until **midnight**! In verse 9, it says: "...and as Paul was **long** preaching". Though Paul must leave in the morning, he did not hold back. This perhaps might be his last time seeing them and he had so much to say to encourage and instruct them.

Acts 20:8-12 - And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. Acts 20:9 And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. Acts 20:10 And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing *him* said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. Acts 20:11 When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. Acts 20:12 And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

3. As these believers meet on Sunday evening in a three-story home, a young man sits in an open window of the third floor. Eutychus, sitting that high up, surely didn't mean to allow himself to fall asleep. He probably nodded his head, dozed a little, and before long he had fallen into a **deep** sleep.
4. Eutychus, asleep and losing his balance, **falls** out of the third story window to his death. Luke the physician, who gives this account, was satisfied that young Eutychus was dead. There is an interruption in the service as screams and cries fill the air. What a **horrific** scene!
5. Thank God, Apostle Paul was there. Paul goes to where the boy is just lying there dead. Paul **em**braces Eutychus and life (supernaturally) returns back into the young man's body. Eutychus is raised to life. His name means **fortunate**!
6. Seeing this in real time, the people are amazed, comforted (Paul's God was true), and hungry. They then had a nice meal with Paul, and Paul continued speaking all night until **dawn**. For these believers at Troas, this last meeting with Apostle Paul would never-ever be forgotten!

This would be the **longest sermon ever preached in the Bible.

B. Paul's last return to Jerusalem:

Acts 20:13-16 - And we went before to ship, and sailed unto Assos, there intending to take in Paul: for so had he appointed, minding himself to go afoot. Acts 20:14 And when he met with us at Assos, we took him in, and came to Mitylene. Acts 20:15 And we sailed thence, and came the next *day* over against Chios; and the next *day* we arrived at Samos, and tarried at Trogyllium; and the next *day* we came to Miletus. Acts 20:16 For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.

1. Paul instructs his companions to board the vessel and promised to meet them at the port at Assos. From Troas to Assos was about **19-20** miles. The vessel would have to make several stops and pass by Ephesus.
2. Paul had decided to **walk** there and meet them. The question many have asked is why did Paul walk instead of going on the boat?
 - a. Perhaps Paul, after being with so many people, just wanted to be alone and have some **solitude**. We know Christ would often do this. Maybe Paul needed a fresh anointing-intimacy with God.
 - b. Perhaps Paul foresaw the problems coming to the churches and for **himself**.

Acts 20:23 - [Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.]
3. Paul has two burdens he would like to take care of. One was to stop by Ephesus to encourage the elders to be on the alert for **false** teachers. Two was to make it to Jerusalem by Pentecost (he had missed Passover).

**** Note:** We will see that Paul passes Ephesus because he wanted to get to Jerusalem by Pentecost (collections). Remember that Paul had stayed there 3 years. There were many new believers who, no doubt, would want to spend **time** with Paul. It would have been impossible to get away quickly to make it to Jerusalem on time. Also, remember Paul wanted to make it to Jerusalem for Passover and he had missed it. So, he is doing his best to be there by Pentecost (**50** days after Passover).

C. Paul's strategy:

Acts 20:17 - And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

1. Since the ship Paul was sailing on was to remain in Miletus for several days, Paul thought he could further instruct and encourage the leaders of the key church at Ephesus. So Paul **invites** them to come to Miletus and spend a little time with him.

2. This is important to note. Paul's upcoming speech is Paul's farewell to all the churches in Asia. With his upcoming arrest in Jerusalem, this would be his **final** time with these pastors (elders).
3. Now we thank God for the **plot** on Paul's life, because he had been ready to sail directly to Syria (20:3). If Paul hadn't been forced to change his plans, he would not have been here in Miletus to speak to these pastors and leaders. Paul's message to them was so important. Not only to them, but for **all** of the Christian churches down through the ages.

D. Paul's Message:

Acts 20:17 - And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

1. This message reveals Paul the **pastor**, rather than Paul the evangelist. We will see a glimpse of how Paul had ministered in Ephesus for 3 years.
2. The word for elder is the Greek word *presbutos* (presbyter) and refers to a spiritually mature believer, who has been selected or appointed to serve in **office** of the church.

Acts 14:23 - And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

- a. These same elders are called "overseers" in vs. 28, which is *episkopos* or bishop.
- b. These selected men were chosen and called upon [to feed the church] in verse 28. This means to shepherd the church or flock. These men were pastors, for the word pastor means to shepherd.
- c. So, in the Body Church the three titles: elder, bishop, and pastor were synonymous and refer to one man (I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

E. *Paul's message has three parts. There's the past, present, and the future.

(vs. 18-21)

The Past

1.

<u>Acts 20:18</u> - And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,
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*Paul calls on these elders to confirm, from their memories, how he had lived in their midst. What he was about to say couldn't be denied, but only confirmed because they had been eyewitnesses. From the first day, Paul had given himself unsparingly to the Lord's work at Ephesus. At all times, Paul gave the Word, for he always taught and lived it. This fact couldn't be denied.

2.

<u>Acts 20:19</u> - Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

- a. Paul's motive wasn't trying to please men, but only his Lord. Paul wasn't interested in the money or enjoying the easy life, but his heart pounded to serve the Lord.
- b. Paul lived such a consistent life that all could respect him, for he had nothing to hide. Paul didn't serve as some celebrity, demanding others to serve him.
- c. Paul, with humility, tears, and through many dangers, was not ashamed to admit to his friends that even at times he had his moments of difficulty (transparent).

*These elders in ministry, because of all the difficulties they were and would be facing, needed to hear this from one who had experienced them also.

Note: As we see this, it is important to understand that the pastor doesn't serve the will and desires of the congregation or even the deacons of the church, but God and His Word. Only in doing this can he meet the needs of the people.

- d. With this in mind, the pastor is willing to suffer through the hurts and the attacks. It is to God that he is accountable.

Note: Some judge the success of a pastor by how large-widespread his ministry is, how many degrees he has, or how much publicity or buildings he has raised up. But the true measure of a pastor is that his primary focus is to preach the Word, please God, have a willingness to serve humbly (not a dictator-bully), and ability to suffer opposition from those hostile to truth!

3. Acts 20:20 - And how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,

- a. Paul knew his obligation to the church was to teach God's **new** message. His pastor's heart was to try and give them understanding to God's Word (my desire too). To equip, by **educating** the believers, is the pastor's task.

Ephesians 4:11-12 - And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

*This goal can only be achieved by a consistent, **contextual** teaching of God's Word (verse by verse, dispensation by dispensation).

- b. Paul did this by not withholding any truth back from his hearers.

- (1) *Here it has the idea that Paul did not shrink from sharing what was profitable for them. Paul withheld no doctrine or admonition that they needed (vs. 27).

Proverbs 29:25 - The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

- (2) Paul could not do this (**deep** teaching) with the Corinthians.

I Corinthians 2:1-2 - And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 1Cor. 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

- (3) Paul taught publicly and personally in church and in individuals' homes. Paul won many to Christ, then instructed them in Christ (20:24). He knew the value of **personal** contact and, no doubt, the Ephesians remembered the lessons they had learned from Paul in their homes.

*Paul had a ministry that is so important today, a **balanced** ministry.

4.

- a. Acts 20:21 - Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here Paul tells of his soul winning in the synagogues with the Jews and in the streets with the Gentiles. Paul loved sharing Christ to **all**.

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

- b. [repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.] Repentance is not penitence, not separating from sin (a distinct act). But to repent is to change one's mind. I change my

mind

about my **sin**fulness and I agree with what God says about my sinfulness. I change my mind in what I have trusted to save me. I've trusted in my **own** efforts, but no longer. I'm, at this moment, changing my mind to trust in Christ - in Who He **is** and His **work** (D.B.R.) **alone** to save me. I believe in Him for my eternal salvation.