

## ACTS CHAPTER 20

### OBSERVATION

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

### **JOURNEYS IN GREECE – VS. 1-6**

*Act 20:1 After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and departed to go to Macedonia.*

*Act 20:2 Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece*

*Act 20:3 and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.*

*Act 20:4 And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.*

*Act 20:5 These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas.*

*Act 20:6 But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.*

### **MINISTERING AT TROAS – VS. 7-12**

*Act 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke (dialegomai) to them and continued his message until midnight.*

*Act 20:8 There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together.*

*Act 20:9 And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking(dialegomai), he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.*

V. 1 After the tumult was ceased - So Demetrius gained nothing. Paul remained there till all was quiet.

V. 2 He came into Greece - That part of it which lay between Macedonia and Achaia. “*encouraged them with many words*” - **PAUL’S MINISTRY TO NEW BELIEVER’S** – *Acts 20:1-2 - “exhortation” – Acts 14:22; 16:40; 20:2, 12; 27:33; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; 1 Thessalonians 2:3, 11; 4:1, 10, 18; 5:11, 14*

V. 3 “*three months*” probably at Corinth. An ambush being laid for him - On his way to the ship.

V. 4 To Asia - There some of them left him. But Trophimus went with him to Jerusalem, Act 21:29. Aristarchus, even to Rome, Act 27:2. **PAUL’S METHODS IN TRAINING OTHERS** – *Acts 20:4; cf - 2 Timothy 2:2 2Ti 2:2 And the things that you have heard from (along side or beside) me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

V. 5 waited for us at Troas - See the preceding verse. Troas was a small town in Phrygia Minor, in the province called the Troad: see Act 16:8.

V. 6 We set sail - Luke was now with St. Paul again, as we learn from his manner of expressing himself.

V. 7 To break bread - That is, to celebrate the Lord's Supper; continued his discourse - Through uncommon fervor of spirit.

V. 8 There were many lamps in the room where they were assembled - To prevent any possible scandal.

V. 9 In the window - Doubtless kept open, to prevent heat, both from the lamps and the number of people.

Is a **characteristic** of your life **that of living a life of encouraging, exhorting and comforting believers?**

The primary way of training others is to have them beside or alongside of you to observe your life in Christ! **Does that describe you?**

**It appears that early in the church they began to meet on the first day of the week.** So here we find upon **the first day of the week** the disciples are coming together to break bread. Notice the combining of the sacrament of communion with that of teaching the word.

## ACTS CHAPTER 20

### OBSERVATION

**Act 20:10** But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him."

**Act 20:11** Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed.

**Act 20:12** And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

### FROM TROAS TO MILETUS – VS. 13-16

**Act 20:13** Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had given orders, intending himself to go on foot.

**Act 20:14** And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene.

**Act 20:15** We sailed from there, and the next day came opposite Chios. The following day we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium. The next day we came to Miletus.

**Act 20:16** For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

### THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL TAUGHT THEM HOW TO MINISTER -VS. 17-27

**Act 20:17** From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

**Act 20:18** And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you,  
**Act 20:19** serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews;

### INTERPRETATION

V. 10 Paul fell on him - It is observable, our Lord never used this gesture. But Elijah and Elisha did as well as Paul. His life is in him - He is alive again.

V. 11 So departed - Without taking any rest at all.

V. 12 And they brought the young man alive - But alas! How many of those who have allowed themselves to sleep under sermons, or as it were to dream awake, have slept the sleep of eternal death, and fallen to rise no more!

V. 13 Being himself to go on foot - That he might enjoy the company of his Christian brethren a little longer, although he had passed the night without sleep, and though Assos was of difficult and dangerous access by land.

Vs. 14-15 Now there is a good exercise in pronunciation as well as a little study in geography. I hope you will follow these journeys of Paul on a map. They make a nice little travelogue.

V. 16 Paul wants to be in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost; so he is in a hurry. However, he was determined not to miss Ephesus. He stops at Miletus, which is the port of Ephesus.

V. 17 He sent to Ephesus - Perhaps a distance of twenty or thirty miles. The elders of the church - Who had been appointed while he was there to take charge of the church.

V. 18 You know - Happy is he who can thus appeal to the conscience of his hearers. Note the availability of the elders—they came!!

V. 19 Paul was a faithful witness for Jesus Christ. He pulled no punches. He could declare that he had given them the Word of God, the total Word of God. program—Paul taught it all. He gave to them the full counsel of God. He was faithful even in the face of opposition by the religious rulers of the Jews.

### APPLICATION

**v. 10** Was the power to raise the dead ever given to the apostles? Can you think of any other time that Paul may have exercised this miracle?

v. 13 Paul decided to walk cross country. It's about twenty miles. So he probably wanted to be alone. He's probably a little troubled. He wants to go Jerusalem. It's his desire and intention and yet he is being warned by the Spirit of God that Jerusalem is not going to be a friendly place. There is going to be persecution, bonds, imprisonment, and affliction. So he probably just wants some time alone. Twenty miles to walk and just to sort things out in his mind. You guys take the ship around and I'll meet you over at Assos. So he walked that twenty miles by himself. When they came to Assos, of course they picked him up.

v. 19 Paul described how he had lived.) **19 serving the Lord with all humility. What a tremendous characteristic!** There does seem to be a trait that so often becomes the ear mark of a person who has been used of God of sort of getting a lofty attitude. Sort of an exalted kind of attitude where they begin to isolate themselves from people and begin to have a sense of self importance. Not with Paul.

**with many tears and trials** While I was there, I was warning you with tears. I would weep as I would take to you. I was going through trials. You know what I went through while I was there with you.

*Act 20:20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house,*  
*Act 20:21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
*Act 20:22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,*  
*Act 20:23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.*  
*Act 20:24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*  
*Act 20:25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more.*  
*Act 20:26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.*  
*Act 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.*

**PAUL’S EXHORTATION REMINDED THE ELDERS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES – VS. 28-35**

*Act 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*  
*Act 20:29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.*  
*Act 20:30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.*

V. 20 **I kept back nothing** How important it is not to shrink back!...but proclaimed - Publicly; and taught - From house to house. Else he had not been pure from their blood. For even an apostle could not discharge his duty by public preaching only. How much less can an ordinary pastor!  
V. 21 **Testifying to Jews and also to Greeks! Repentance toward God** - The very first motion of the soul toward God is a kind of repentance.  
V. 22-23 And now, behold, I — “I” is emphatic here. **bound in the spirit** — compare Act 19:21. This internal pressure, unattended with any knowledge of “*not knowing the things that will happen to me there,*” was the result of that higher guidance which shaped all his movements. *The Holy Spirit testifies!*  
V. 24 Nor do I **count my life dear or precious** - It adds great force to this and all the other passages of Scripture, in which the apostles express their contempt of the world, that they were not uttered by persons like Seneca and Antoninus, who talked elegantly of despising the world in the full affluence of all its enjoyments; but by men who daily underwent the greatest calamities, and exposed their lives in proof of their assertions. **How interested are you in yourself? 2 Tim. 4:7:**  
V. 25 You will see my face no more - He wisely inserts this, that what follows might make the deeper impression.  
V. 26 I am pure from the blood of all - If any man, Jew or Gentile, perish in his sins, his blood shall be upon him; he, alone, shall be accessory to his own perdition. I am blameless, because I have fully shown to both the way to escape from every evil.  
V. 27 *For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God!* - Otherwise if any had perished, their blood would have been on his head. **Faithfulness is so important! Until a pastor has taken his flock through the entire Bible, you can’t really say that. t**  
V. 28 **Take heed to yourselves!!** This is the business of the officers of the church. They are not to run the church, but they are to **see that the church is fed the Word of God. 1 Tim. 4:16**  
V. 29 Grievous wolves - From without, namely, false apostles. They had, not yet broke in on the Church at Ephesus.  
V. 30 Yes, from among yourselves men will arise - Such were the Nicolaitans, of whom Christ complains, Rev 2:6; to draw away disciples - From the purity of the Gospel and the unity of the body.

v. 20. The trials *which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; 20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you* (Paul didn’t hold back. Anything that would be beneficial or profitable to them, he shared.), **Do you ever get scared to stand up for Christ? Do you testify to all types of people? Do your ever bring up repentance?**  
*and taught you publicly and from house to house.* Paul’s ministry was that of living the example before them. I’ve showed you by the way I lived. I was an example. He was able to say, be you followers of me even as I also am of Jesus Christ. His life was an exemplary life. So Paul is saying how I showed you and I taught you. So the teaching is as much and **people often learn more from the demonstration than they do from just the lecture type teaching.** You see it **lived out in a person’s life and it then becomes reality** to you. You know you can espouse such lofty principles that nobody can live by them. And so as you are teaching, **if you can demonstrate by your own life faith and trust in God** and all, then it’s **makes much greater impact on people** when you are living the life that you are espousing.  
**v. 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.** Repenting before God. Believing and trusting in Jesus Christ!  
v. 24 “*gospel of the grace of God*” - Though you can’t earn it! **God in His grace offers to you the gift of eternal life. The forgiveness of your sins and a place with Him in heaven. There’s nothing you can do to earn that!** You don’t deserve it. And yet God in His love for you and in His grace offers it to you.  
**v. 28 – Note the exhortation to be “on guard”! Do you have a priority for taking heed, watching out for yourself?**

## ACTS CHAPTER 20

### OBSERVATION

**Act 20:31** *Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

**Act 20:32** *"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

**Act 20:33** *I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.*

**Act 20:34** *Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me.*

**Act 20:35** *I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "*

### THE EXPRESSION OF LOVE TO THE ELDERS – VS. 36-38

**Act 20:36** *And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.*

**Act 20:37** *Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him,*

**Act 20:38** *sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.*

### INTERPRETATION

V. 31 I ceased not to warn every one night and day - This was watching indeed! Who copies after this example? Admonishment!

V. 32 He commends them to God and to the Word of His grace. That is what we can do whenever we leave our people. To be strong in spiritual growth! Grace is what will build you up!

V. 33 Paul was not covetous of money. He worked in order to support himself and those who were with him. Notice material attitude!

V. 34 These hands - Callous, as you see, with labor. Who is he that envies such a bishop or archbishop as this? 1 Tim. 6:6-9

V. 35 This is a tender meeting between Paul and the elders of the church in Ephesus. These men love Paul and he loves them. It is difficult for them to let him go, knowing that they will not see him again in this life. They bid him a touching farewell.

V. 36 He knelt down - The usual attitude of prayer. It is the proper posture of a suppliant. It indicates reverence and humility; and is represented in the Scriptures as the usual attitude of devotion,

V. 37 They all wept freely - Of old, men, yes, the best and bravest of men, were easily melted into tears; a thousand instances of which might be produced from profane as well as sacred writers. But now, notwithstanding the effeminacy which almost universally prevails, we leave those tears to women and children.

V. 38 Sorrowing most for that word which he spoke, that they should see his face no more - What sorrow will be in the great day, when God shall speak that word to all who are found on the left hand, that they shall see his face no more!

### APPLICATION

#### Questions:

1. Paul's ministry to believers was that of encouragement, exhortation, imploring and comforting. Can that be said is a characteristic of your Christian life?
2. How much time most likely occurred during verses 2 & 3?
3. What method of training leaders can be observed in verse 4?
4. Are there any examples in the Bible where Christians gathered, combining the sacrament of communion with that of teaching the word.
5. Do you think Eutychus was dead after his fall?
6. If indeed Paul raised him from the dead, is this miracle related to Paul's being verified as an apostle?
7. Vs. 20-21 - Do you ever get scared to stand up for Christ? Do you testify to all types of people? Do you ever bring up repentance?
8. V. 28 - Do you have a priority for taking heed, watching out for yourself, with respect to your Christian walk?
9. How can one use v. 28 with Jehovah's witness friends who doubt the divinity of Jesus Christ?
10. Vs. 34-35 How serious is love of money in your life?

#### I Love to Tell the Story - Londonderry Choir

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

2. I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems  
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.

I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;  
and that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.

(Refrain)

3. I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.

I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

(Refrain)

4. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.

And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

(Refrain)