

**20** When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said goodbye and set out for Macedonia. <sup>2</sup> He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, <sup>3</sup> where he stayed three months. Because some Jews had plotted against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia.

<sup>4</sup> He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. <sup>5</sup> These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. <sup>6</sup> But we sailed from Philippi after the Festival of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days. <sup>7</sup> On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.

<sup>8</sup> There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. <sup>9</sup> Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. <sup>10</sup> Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “He’s alive!” <sup>11</sup> Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left.

<sup>12</sup> The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted. <sup>13</sup> We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul aboard. He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot. <sup>14</sup> When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene. <sup>15</sup> The next day we set sail from there and arrived off Chios. The day after that we crossed over to Samos, and on the following day arrived at Miletus.

<sup>16</sup> Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost. <sup>17</sup> From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup> When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. <sup>19</sup> I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents.

<sup>20</sup> You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. <sup>21</sup> I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. <sup>22</sup> “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. <sup>23</sup> I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. <sup>24</sup> However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

<sup>25</sup> “Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. <sup>26</sup> Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. <sup>27</sup> For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. <sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God,<sup>[a]</sup> which he bought with his own blood.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>29</sup> I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.

<sup>30</sup> Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. <sup>32</sup> “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing.

<sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. <sup>35</sup> In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' <sup>36</sup> When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. <sup>37</sup> They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. <sup>38</sup> What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

### **We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character

- There had been a great uproar in Ephesus (Chapter 19) but the riot finally comes to an end.
- After being there for about 2 years Paul decides to leave Ephesus.
- He calls the disciples together and encourages them.
- Paul couldn't leave without this demonstration of love to his fellow followers of Jesus.
- This journey takes him through Macedonia to Greece encouraging the churches
- Paul had planned to take the long journey by sea directly back to Syria
- But the plotting of some anti-Christian Jews made him take a more overland route back through Macedonia, accompanied by many of his companions.
- What is the first day of the week?
- This is the first *certain* example we have of Christians gathering together on the first day of the week for fellowship and the word.
- Is this a celebration of the Lords Supper?
- Paul sensed the need to preach for a long time because he was **going to depart the next day**.
- Why do you think Eutychus fell asleep?
- His fall and death certainly would have put a sour note on the meeting.
- The young man fell from the third story window... do you think three story buildings were common then?
- Paul, again receiving the gift of faith from God, threw himself on the boy and he was raised from the dead
- Then, Paul, obviously getting the crowds attention back, continued preaching until daybreak.
- Paul sets off on another journey. He apparently preferred to walk from Troas to Assos instead of sail with the rest of his group; but he sailed with them from Assos to Miletus.
- He wanted to get to Jerusalem by the day of Pentecost
- Paul sends for the elders of the church in Ephesus and begins to say his farewell to them
- He is compelled by the Holy Spirit to go to Jerusalem. What is it to be compelled by the Holy Spirit?
- The Holy Spirit gives Paul words of knowledge regarding prisons and hardships ahead of him.
- Yet he was not put off by the certain danger, but was willing to lay down his life for **the gospel**
- His only aim is to finish the race and complete the task of preaching the good news of God's grace
- This is a great lesson of faith for us
- Paul tells the Ephesian leaders that this would probably be the last time they would see him.
- This would probably have been like a bombshell to these church leaders.
- Paul warns them to keep watch over the church and that 'savage wolves' and try to distort the truth
- Finally Paul kneels and prays with them all
- This must have been a very emotional parting of ways for all who had been in Ephesus with Paul