

ACTS CHAPTER 20  
TEXT AND COMMENTARY 20  
Journeys in Greece

20-1 After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to *himself*, embraced *them*, and departed to go to Macedonia. 2 Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece 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. 4 And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus (*Aristarchus is a brother in the faith from Thessalonica and a later travel companion. He is described the previous chapter C.19:28-30*) Later Paul mentions Aristarchus as a fellow prisoner in epistles to Colosse and Philemon. *See Supplemental link to The Prison Epistles . [www.faulkner.edu/admin/websites/ccheatham/](http://www.faulkner.edu/admin/websites/ccheatham/)* Also see “The Prison epistles” at: [www.christianinconnect.com/bkgdpriepi.htm](http://www.christianinconnect.com/bkgdpriepi.htm) Gaius, Tychicus are mention also in letters from Paul. Gaius is with Paul in Rome (Romans16.) It was noted that Paul baptized Gaius (and Crispus) In 1Corinthians 1:14 and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, (*a city near to Lystra in Lycaonia*) and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. 5 These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas. (*Dr. Luke is presumed among them.*) 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 (Troas is ancient Troy)

7 Now on the first *day* of the week, (*Sunday the Lord's day*) when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. 8 There were many lamps in the upper room where they<sup>[a]</sup> were gathered together. 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, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. (*We see that Paul was not one to abbreviate his teaching messages due to the lateness of the hour. In this case the results of sleeping in the meeting was fatal. But God's grace empowered Paul in his ministry to Eutycus and we see a miraculous raising from the dead.*) 10 But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing *him* said, “Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him.” 11 Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. 12 And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

From Troas to Miletus

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. 14 And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. 15 We sailed from there, and the next *day* came opposite Chios. The following *day* we arrived at Samos (*close to the coast and the city of Ephesus*) and stayed at Trogyllium. The next *day* we came to Miletus. 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 cities*

*mentioned in this time of travel is a series many small populated islands that dot the Aegean sea having their own sea ports off the western mainland of Turkey.*

## The Ephesian Elders Exhorted

17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders *(Before leaving Ephesus he had established spiritual leaders who could guide and oversee and disciple the believers of the (ekklesia) church.)*  
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, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and 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, and taught you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. *(The gospel doctrine in a nutshell. This rather abbreviated description does not encompass some of the profundities and depth of revelation that Paul was evidently teaching the night that Eutycus fell and died in his sleep. In Hebrews we hear a little more of the basics of the doctrines of the way Hebrews 6.1-2)* 22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. *(Paul continuously faces the headwinds of opposition, pain and imprisonment throughout his travels. It appears that the Holy Spirit prophetically refreshes this message in Paul's presence. It was the first message that the disciple Ananias was told to prepare Saul for his first encounter with another Christian disciple. Through Ananias Saul would receive his sight and be filled with the power of the Spirit.)* 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself,<sup>[b]</sup> 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.

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. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 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<sup>[c]</sup>** which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. *(Paul addresses us as he addresses the Ephesians, giving us warning that savage wolves will make every effort to subvert the gospel to serve their selfish ambitions and to lord it over the flock of God. This is entirely of the wrong spirit. The subversion of the faith comes in with stealth with all subtlety parading as new higher revelation and more sublime spiritual leadership. Paul, Peter, John and Jude all address the dangers that were to come to bring erroneous doctrine or another spirit or another Jesus than that first introduced by the apostles. We are seeing this admonition at work today even as the apostles foresaw it.)*

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. 33 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 Yes,<sup>[d]</sup> you yourselves know that these

hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 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.'" *(An outpouring of affection and spiritual fellowship is dramatically displayed in the following passage. The believers prepare to bid farewell to the man who brought them life and truth through the gospel of Jesus the Messiah. Such deep shared sorrow is emblematic of those of like spirit and like faith.)*

36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, 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.