

Bible Study

Gods Word in Focus



Week Fifty Two

Acts of the Apostles

Acts 20:1-38

Journeys in Greece

After the uproar in Ephesus had ceased, Paul gathered the disciples and exhorted them; he then departed for Macedonia. Paul provided much exhortation throughout the region. He then arrived in Greece and remained some three months. As Paul planned to sail to Syria, the Jews plotted against him. He decided to return through Macedonia. The seven brethren traveling with Paul travelled on to Troas, while Paul went to Philippi. Luke joined Paul, and they met the seven brethren in Troas.

Ministering at Troas

The traveling group remained in Troas for seven days. Paul preached on Sunday until midnight, for they had gathered to "break bread." Paul planned to depart on the next day. A young man, Eutychus, was sitting in the window. He was overcome with sleep, and fell from the third floor window. He was taken up dead. Paul went down and "fell on him." Eutychus was made alive. Paul broke bread with them, and continued talking with them until daybreak. They were greatly comforted that Eutychus was alive.

From Troas to Miletus

Paul traveled from Troas to Assos by foot, while his companions sailed there. Paul joined them aboard ship in Assos. Over some four days, they sailed to/near: Mitylene, Chios, Samos, and Miletus. Paul decided to sail past Ephesus, as he desired to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

The Ephesian Elders Exhorted

While at Miletus, Paul called for the elders of the church at Ephesus. Paul reviewed his labors (history) with them: he had served the Lord with humility, tears and trials; he taught publicly and house-to-house; he taught Jews and Greeks; and, he taught repentance toward God and faith toward Christ. Paul spoke of his future. He was to go "bound in the Spirit" to Jerusalem. "Chains and tribulations" awaited him there. In light of these things, Paul focused on his work to continue proclaiming the Gospel. He wanted to finish his race "with joy." He told the elders that they would not see his face anymore. Paul declared that he was "innocent of the blood of all men," as he had not failed to declare to them the "whole counsel of God." Paul exhorted and warned them as elders; they were to follow his example. Paul admonished them to "take heed" unto themselves and to all the flock, over which they were overseers. They were to feed the church. Paul warned them that "wolves" would enter in, "not sparing the flock." Some, even among them, would arise to draw away the flock - "wherefore, watch ye." Paul reminded them that he had warned them day and night for three years. Paul then commended them to God and to His Word, which is "able to build you up." Paul reminded them of his example of providing for himself and those that were with him; laboring in this way, enabled them to provide for the weak. Paul then prayed with them and bade them farewell. They were weeping and sorrowful that they would not see him again. They then escorted him back to the ship for his departure.