

- A Study In Acts -

Chapter Twenty – Third Journey of Paul Continued

ACTS 20:1-3, Part 2:

In our previous lesson, Paul staying in Ephesus “**For a time**” –**Acts 19:22**; would become aware of problems in the **Body of Christ** at **Corinth** (messengers from the household of Chloe – **1 Corinthians 1:11**, and a letter composed by the brethren and sent to him – **7:1**), he would write the first letter to them and send it by Titus (**2 Corinthians 2:12-13; 7:6-7**).

We covered the events that would have caused Paul to change his plans prematurely (he wanted to stay here in Ephesus until Pentecost (**1 Corinthians 16:8**); which he believed was enough time for Titus to return with a report while he was still in Ephesus. However, as the events in Ephesus unfold and the chaos of riot ensued, Paul would be forced to leave Ephesus far sooner than he had hoped. In this lesson, we will see the route Paul takes in hope of reuniting with Titus.

Text #1:

Acts 20:1-3 “**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.”**

Illyricum: In our previous lesson, Paul came to Macedonia, where he would write **Second Corinthians**. To help us with a little scale to add a timeline, note:

Romans 15:18-19 “*For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient—¹⁹ in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.*”



It is here that Paul would have opportunity to enter this area and preach the Gospel of Jesus as the Christ, before going to Macedonia. When we rightly divide the accounts, we see that Luke just records the travel and not the time. Paul would give us the scale of time (not as in a calendar or specific dates, but as in the time it takes to accomplish a mission).

Greece: In **Vs. 2**, Luke records that Paul would then come to the southern portion of Greece proper, which we will know by Paul's writing that it would specifically be Corinth. Luke shares with us that he will remain here three months. Before we note the turn around and then return trip going through Macedonia again, Paul does something here that we must stop and take note of. He writes the book of Romans.

Romans

Written: From Corinth (**Acts 20:2-3**), while staying at the house of Gaius of Corinth (**Romans 16:23**).

Delivered: This letter is to be delivered by Phoebe, a sister in Christ from Corinth (**Romans 16:1-2**).

Paul's Introduction: Paul's opening in this letter is unique in his letters. Having never been to Rome (and no other Apostles either), he gives his credentials, primarily for the Jews in Rome, especially those prejudiced against him and the Gospel, that he is a Divinely appointed minister of something promised by the prophets and established in God's power.

Theme: The Just Shall Live by Faith – 1:16-17.

Outline:

Theological – Chapters 1-8.

1:1-6 – The Gospel of God.

1:7 – Greeting.

1:8-15 – Introduction.

1:16-17 – Theme.

1:18-32 – The sins of the Gentiles.

Chapter 2 – The Jews have sinned.

Chapter 3 – All have sinned.

Chapters 4-7 – Doctrinal. Man is saved by faith in Christ Jesus apart from works of law.

Chapter 8 – Advantages of being In Christ.

Chapters 9-11 – Paul's lament for Israel.

Chapter 12 – General exhortations.

Chapter 13 – Responsibilities to government, neighbors, and the Lord.

Chapter 14-15:13 – Realms of expediency.

15:14-21 – Paul's commission and reasons to glorify in Christ Jesus.

15:22-33 – Paul's plan to visit Rome and Spain.

16:1-16 – Commendations and personal greetings.

16:17-20 – A final word of warning.

16:21-24 – Greeting from Corinth.

16:25-27 – Blessing at the end.

This is a body of work that fills the three-month time of Paul's stay in Corinth. Luke then records that the Jews in Corinth, who remember Paul well, have plotted against him. Luke records that Paul had thought to go home by ship to Antioch of Syria but instead would begin to retrace his steps back through Macedonia. It is here that we will pick up in the next lesson and then see why the Spirit would direct him this way.