

- A Study in Acts -

Chapter Nineteen – Third Journey of Paul

ACTS 19:21-22:

We began the third journey in **Chapter 18:23**. Paul returned from the second journey to Antioch of Syria and then went out again to the region of **Galatia** and **Phrygia** strengthening the brethren in these locations; Luke tells us.

Please use the map provided.

Paul has come to **Ephesus** and has met and worked with disciples of the coming Messiah by the work of John the Baptist. He would now more accurately explain the way of God through Jesus Christ to them (see: **Acts 18:26**). Paul would continue to work in the synagogues of the Jews for 3 months; however, when some were hardened, he went to the school of Tyrannus and continued to teach from this singular location for two years, successfully bringing the Gospel's truth to all of Asia. At the conclusion of the events that transpired in the first two years at Ephesus (special miracles, false exorcists, and the word of the Lord growing mightily and prevailing). We will now look into events that would make up the remainder of the time he will stay in Ephesus.

Text #1:

Acts 19:21-22 “When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”²² So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.”

Purpose in the Spirit: Since we know that the Spirit of God would have a different purpose for Paul; we can naturally see that Paul was purposing these hopeful thoughts for the Holy Spirit's approval (see: **2 Corinthians 1:15-24; Acts 20:3**). Thus, we can see this considering the way all Christians are instructed to plan for the future; “**If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that**” – **James 4:15**.

Erastus: A Greek name meaning, “Beloved”. He is described by Luke as someone who serves Paul (ministered), and traveling with Timothy, we can see that the service was in the Gospel's work. He is additionally mentioned in **Romans 16:23**, as saluting the brethren in Rome, and defined by Paul as the treasurer of Corinth.

Stayed in Asia for a Time: Here Luke records that Paul is going to stay for an additional amount of time above the two years already mentioned (Paul himself reminds the elders of Ephesus on the return to Jerusalem at the end of this journey, that the total time in Ephesus would be three years – **Acts 20:31**).

It is during this time that messengers from Corinth will come to him and inform him of events transpiring there (**1 Corinthians 1:11**). Sometime after the messengers from Corinth would

come to Paul, he would additionally receive a letter from the brethren in Corinth (**1 Corinthians 7:1**). Based on the information he will receive from these two sources; he will respond to these brethren in the order of the material he has received, **and he writes 1 Corinthians**.

Please make a note next to **Vs. 22** of your text.

We will find out that the letter, when completed, will be delivered by Titus – **2 Corinthians 2:12-13; 7:6-7**.

Exegesis of 1 Corinthians:

- **Where:** It is written here from Ephesus – confirmed by Paul in **1 Corinthians 16:8**.
- **When:** Late in Paul's stay in Ephesus on the third journey.
- **To Whom:** The Christians in Corinth (**1 Corinthians 1:1-3**).
- **Sent By:** Titus (**2 Corinthians 2:12-12; 7:6-7**).

Content:

The letter is written to address problems in this **Body of Christ** made known first by messengers (**1:11**); which encompasses the first **six chapters**. The second by the letter he will receive from these brethren (**7:1**); which will be covered in chapters **7-15**.

We do not have a record of the report he will receive from the messengers, nor a copy of the letter he would receive; however, Paul so concisely deals with the details in order, that we have no trouble knowing exactly what was in the verbal report and in the letter (we call this the mirror effect – by looking at what is dealt with, it in turn reveals what was reported).

The demeanor of the letter is harsh as Paul writes as a disciplinarian. He will often say, **“I write these things to your shame”** – **1 Corinthians 4:14; 6:5**; **“Do you not know”** – **1 Corinthians 3:16; 5:6; 6:2-3, 9, 15-16, 9; 9:13, 24**; **“You are carnal”,** or **“Immature”** – **1 Corinthians 3:1, 3; 14:20**; **“I warn you”** – **1 Corinthians 4:14**; **“Beware”** – **1 Corinthians 8:9**; **“I do not want you to be unaware”** – **1 Corinthians 10:1; 12:1**; **“I do not praise you”** – **1 Corinthians 11:17, 22**; and finally concluding the letter with a terrible warning – **1 Corinthians 16:22**.

This is due to the state of degradation that the reports have revealed concerning the Corinthians fall from grace.

The problems of the church at Corinth:

- The elevation of men versus service to Christ Jesus.
- Divisiveness due to the following of men, instead of Christ Jesus and the truth already delivered to them (elevating the King only!).

- Immorality in the Body of Christ.
- Brethren taking each other to courts of law.
- Immorality from the outside.
- Abuses in the areas of liberties.
- Paul's Apostolic authority challenged.
- Problems with God's order in the Body of Christ and separation from worldliness.
- Defilement of the Lord's Supper from spiritual to common.
- Disorderly conduct in the worship services by the misuse of spiritual gifts.
- Some among them denying the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

More details could be offered within the framework of each of these problems, but the deprivation can clearly be seen; and all of this within a couple of years since Paul was physically present with them for 18 months.

Outline:

Chapters 1-4 – The preacher and evangelist, and the congregation relationship.

Chapter 5 – Sexual immorality in the church and sin unchecked destroys all.

Chapter 6 – Brining internal controversy before men of the world instead of God.

These first **six chapters** are the information made known to Paul by the messengers of the household of Chloe (**1:11**).

Chapter 7 – What God has provided to protect the Body of Christ due to the sexual immorality surrounding them.

Chapters 8-10 – Issues and universal rules in the realms of expediency.

Chapter 11 – Issues of authority, avoiding worldliness, and problems with the Lord's Supper.

Chapters 12-14 – Issues, misunderstandings, and misuse in the use of spiritual gifts.

Chapter 15 – Issues with those who doubt the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the resurrection in general.

These are the issues that Paul was made aware of by the letter he received from the brethren (7:1).

Chapter 16 – Commands concerning benevolence and the process for giving, his personal plans, and final exhortations.

Next: “A Great Commotion in Ephesus!”