



ACCM

Bible Study: Thursday, January 26 2017.

Topic: Acts 20

ACTS 20 PAUL'S FINAL VISITS TO MACEDONIA AND GREECE

INTRODUCTION: After the uproar at Ephesus, Paul continued his trip to Jerusalem en-route Macedonia and Greece. He had to spend about three months in Greece perhaps waiting for Titus as he continued doing the work of the ministry. II Cor 2:12-13. He had several men travelling with him on the same trip. When he got to Troas he gathered the believers for the Lord's Supper and since he was leaving the next day, he preached all night. During the night, a young man called Eutychus who was sitting on the windowsill fell asleep and as a result he fell to the ground from the third floor and died. Miraculously he was revived brought back to life by the action of Paul.

From Troas, Paul continued his trip by land while the remainder of the disciples went by sea. Eventually they came together at Miletus. Paul who was pressed for time because he wanted to reach Jerusalem before the Passover and so instead of going to Ephesus, he decided to invite the elders at Ephesus over to Miletus. At Miletus Paul preached his final sermon to the elders stressing on what he has done in the past, what is happening to him at the moment and what will happen in the future. He made it clear to them that they will not see him again. He knew that going to Jerusalem will eventually lead to him going to jail and ultimate death. He concluded the message by letting all know how he laboured in Ephesus to care for himself and the people that were with him. He let all know that it is more blessed to give than to receive. (Please note that he did not say there is no blessing in receiving). Finally he released the very famous prayer in Acts 20:32 **And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.**

DISCUSSION:

1. Paul mentioned in vs 19 that he did the Lord's work humbly. What is the opposite?
2. Can we do the Lord's work in arrogance? Luke 18:9-14, I Peter 5:5, Rom 12:3, Phil 2:3, II John 1:8
3. Part of the work was telling them everything that was profitable. This he did both to the Jews and Greeks in private and in public. How was Paul doing this in private? How can we do this in our lives today? Is your action the same in public in private? Vs 20-21, Acts 5:2.
4. Should there be a difference between the truth we speak in private and public? Heb 4:13, Prov 5:21, Jer 23:24.
5. With the benefit of Vs 21 and 24, what should be the focus of the message of the church? Mark 12:28-31, Matthew 16:26
6. What is the contrast of many types of messages in our churches today and why is this so? Jer 5:31, II Tim 4:3-4, Jer 2:8, II Peter 2:3, Phil 3:18-20,
7. What should be considered the true success of a church minister using verse 26-27 as our guide? I Tim 4:1-2, 6-7.

8. And what should therefore be the function of a Church Minister as per verse 28 and what should be our expectations of him or her. I Peter 5:2, Titus 1:7.
9. According to Verse 28 what are the obligation of the elders in the church? I Kings 17:13-14, I Tim 3:1-9.
10. What can the word of God do for us according Paul's prayer? In Verse 32. Acts 9:31, Acts 26:18, Eph 1:18.
11. How can God's word be profitable to the users? II Cor 3:6, John 6:63, Rom 7:6
12. How can the church elders overcome the challenge of covetousness in the church? I Tim 3:3. And what can we do to help them? I Cor 9:10-11