

Paul's Third Preaching Trip

And now, behold, I know that ye all,
among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God,
shall see my face no more.

Wherefore I take you to record this day,
that I am pure from the blood of all men.
For I have not shunned to declare unto you
all the counsel of God.
Acts 20:25-27

Preparatory Reading: Acts chapters 18-21.

Related Link: Paul's First Trip (notes) ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/paul-first-preaching-trip-notes.pdf>
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Introduction:

1. The LORD gave the word, and a great company published it (Ps 68:11,18; Eph 4:8-11). Hallelujah!
2. He had revealed truth and sent prophets and scripture to the nation of Israel only (Psalm 147:19-20).
3. For 4000 years God allowed the Gentile world to be ignorant by idolatrous superstition and idiocy.
4. The Bible condemns the ignorance and rebellion of natural man (Acts 17:30; 14:16; Rom 1:18-32).
5. You could not know God's Son ... you would never know eternal life ... without a gospel preacher.
6. There is a logical and necessary order for God to send preachers for you to believe (Rom 10:13-17).
7. Without knowing God and His Son, neither would you know truth or wisdom on any subject at all.
8. But there were many prophecies of God sending the truth to Gentiles under Messiah (Isaiah 11:10; 42:1-12; 49:5-6,22-23; 54:1-5; 60:1-5; 66:10-12,19-21; Jer 16:19-21; Malachi 1:11; Ps 22:27-31).
9. The great mystery of godliness included God sending preachers about Jesus to Gentiles (I Tim 3:16).
10. Jesus ordained apostles and charged them to preach His gospel throughout the earth (Matt 28:19-20).
11. Based on His almighty power, He promised them power to turn the world upside down (Acts 1:8).
12. He prepared and chose Paul for the specific work of taking the gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 9,22,26).
13. For a dramatic intro and map for Paul's trip ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/paul-third-preaching-trip-slides.pdf>
14. The purpose of these sermons is to provide a broad and general knowledge of Paul's preaching trips.
15. The book of Acts ... Acts of the Apostles ... is inspired and preserved church history of Jesus Christ.
16. Paul made about four clearly revealed preaching trips that we can read about in Luke's book of Acts.
17. Our expositional interest is very limited, lest we forget the main lesson – God sent preachers for us.
18. Most geographical, historical, political, linguistic, religious, economic, or military details are nothing.
19. Our purpose is to see God expanding His revelation to our kind – to Gentiles – by Paul's preaching.
20. We must see how God *prepared, identified, favored, and protected* Paul to preach Jesus to Gentiles.
21. We want to study Paul's *methods ... power ... content ... and results* by blessing of the Holy Ghost.
22. We have two main goals (a) thank God for sending His gospel and (b) publish it to others ourselves.
23. This section of church history recorded in Acts by Luke tells how Paul was imprisoned in Jerusalem.

Background:

1. The Bible first mentions Saul, known soon as Paul, at Stephen's stoning (Acts 7:57-60).
2. Barnabas, who confirmed Paul at Jerusalem, brought him to Antioch (Acts 11:25-26).
3. Paul's first preaching trip began with prayer and ended with review (Acts 13:1 – 14:28).
4. Paul then went to Jerusalem to unite the apostles against Jewish legalists (Ac 15:1-21).

5. The inspired council chose Paul and others to take its rules to Antioch (Acts 15:22-35).
6. Paul's second preaching trip was to confirm churches he had started (Acts 15:36 – 16:5).
7. The Holy Ghost cut Paul off every way but west – to send him to Europe (Ac 16:6-12).
8. He had success in Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea of Macedonia (Acts 16:13 – 17:12).
9. After Athens, he evangelized Corinth 18 months and visited Ephesus (Ac 17:13-18:22).
10. This section of church history from Acts tells how Paul's freedom ended in Jerusalem.

Paul's Third Preaching Trip

ACTS 18

- A. Galatia and Phrygia – Paul Began Third Trip (22-23).
 1. The second trip ended with Jerusalem and Antioch (22).
 2. After a respite, he visited the churches a third time (23).
- B. Ephesus – Apollos Converted and Ordained (24-28).
 1. Apollos, though accomplished, needed conversion (24-26).
 2. Apollos preaches in Corinth vigorously (27-28).

ACTS 19

- C. Ephesus – Paul Rebaptized Apollos's Converts at Ephesus (1-7).
 1. He exposed their obsolete baptism unto repentance (1-3).
 2. He explained the change in baptism and baptized them (4-5).
 3. He laid hands on them to receive the Holy Ghost (6-7).
- D. Ephesus – Paul Evangelized Asia from Ephesus (8-12).
 1. He worked for three months in the synagogue (8).
 2. He taught in a school for two years (9-10).
 3. He was blessed with special miracles (11-12).
- E. Ephesus – Imposters Proved Paul's Apostolic Authority (13-20).
 1. Some Jewish gypsies attempt an exorcism (13-17).
 2. The resulting spiritual fear brought further revival (18-20).
- F. Ephesus – Riot Caused by Demetrius Finally Ended (21-41).
 1. Paul prepared to leave Ephesus for Macedonia (21-22).
 2. Demetrius the silversmith incited a riot (23-28).
 3. The whole city engaged in a confused assembly (29-34).
 4. The town clerk turned the proceedings into nothing (35-41).

ACTS 20

- G. Macedonia and Achaia – Paul Covered Greece Again (1-6)
- H. Troas – Paul Spent a Week at Troas (7-12).
- I. Ephesus – Paul Exhorted Elders for Last Time (13-38).
 1. Paul arranged to meet with the elders of Ephesus (13-17).
 2. He summarized his ministry in Asia (18-27).
 3. He warned them of future heresies (28-31).
 4. He exhorted them to growth in grace (32-35).
 5. He affectionately bid them farewell (36-38).

ACTS 21

- J. Tyre – Paul Spent Week There (1-7)
- K. Caesarea – He Spent Many Days There (8-16)
- L. Jerusalem – Paul Met with Apostles and Elders (17-25).
 - 1. He reviewed his work among the Gentiles (17-19).
 - 2. They explained the Jewish situation there (20-22).
 - 3. The elders ask Paul to take a Jewish vow (23-25).
- M. Paul Was Attacked by the Jews in the Temple (26-30).
 - 1. He entered the temple to complete his vow (26-27).
 - 2. The Jews of Asia recognized him (28-30).

A. Galatia and Phrygia - Paul began his third trip with nearby churches (18:22-23).

- 1. Paul ended his second trip briefly visiting Jerusalem and then home to Antioch (22).
- 2. He travelled again, the third trip, starting with churches in Galatia and Phrygia (23).
- 3. He revisited the churches to confirm and strengthen all the brethren already there.

B. Ephesus – Apollos, disciple of John Baptist, is converted and ordained (18:24-28).

- 1. Apollos, though accomplished and fervent, needed significant conversion (24-26).
 - a. God seeks worshippers in spirit and in truth, which he lacked (John 4:20-24).
 - b. The goal of preaching is to increase knowledge and truth (II Timothy 3:16-17).
- 2. Alexandria, founded by Alexander the Great (332 B.C.), had many Jews living there.
 - a. Due mainly to grain trade, it was a wealthy and great city, second but to Rome.
 - b. Second only to Athens in intellectual status, it had the world's largest library.
 - c. It had heavy Greek influence, and its philosophy later infected Christianity.
- 3. Apollos was unusual this way, that God called a very talented and passionate man.
 - a. He was a Jew, so that gave him correct Old Testament theology right there.
 - b. He was an eloquent man, in that he could speak and teach very effectively.
 - c. He was mighty in the Scriptures, in that he knew the Old Testament very well.
 - d. He was instructed in the way of the Lord, in that John foretold Jesus Christ.
 - e. He was fervent in spirit, in that he had passionate zeal for his Lord (Ro 12:11).
 - f. He spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, that is as far as John had.
 - g. He was a travelling, Baptist evangelist continuing the ministry of John Baptist.
 - h. In Christian America, there are others like Apollos without only partial truth.
- 4. He got to Ephesus in his preaching travels and used the synagogue to convert Jews.
 - a. He boldly took the opportunity to preach repentance to the Jews in Ephesus.
 - b. Aquila and Priscilla, continuing Paul's ministry, providentially of course, happen upon him in the synagogue and hear his partial understanding of Christ.
 - c. They, a man and wife tentmaking team, take him home for full conversion.
 - d. This is a power couple that should be an example and conviction for all couples.
 - e. For more about power couples ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/power-couples-1.pdf>.
- 5. Apollos was a transitional teacher during the 40-year time of reformation (Heb 9:10).
 - a. He was instructed in the way of the Lord, that is he knew about Jesus Christ.
 - b. As John the Baptist, he announced that the Messiah had come in Jesus Christ.

- c. He had the valid baptism of John that preceded baptism in the name of Jesus.
 - d. John baptized the apostles, and neither they nor others required rebaptism.
 - e. But he did not know baptism in the name of Jesus or the Holy Ghost (2:38).
 - f. Apollos was ignorant of the incredible change of things at Pentecost (2:14-36).
 - g. After Pentecost, the baptism of repentance John-style was invalid (19:1-7), for baptism was now in the name of Jesus Christ with the gift of the Holy Ghost.
 - h. John's disciples, being only forerunners, were inferior to Jesus Christ's apostles.
 - i. For much more about this rebaptism ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/baptism/rebaptism.php>.
 - j. For much more about Pentecost ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/day-of-pentecost-2.pdf>.
6. Let us observe a few facts of Bible soul winning, since the epistles are mostly silent.
- a. The Lord will save His people completely, but we may convert them to truth.
 - b. Both Aquila and Priscilla were involved. A wife may know the truth well also.
 - c. It takes the Spirit and apostolic knowledge to convert, not advanced degrees.
 - d. Truth-lovers want more than some truth or most of the truth. They want it all.
 - e. For much more about loving souls ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/love-of-a-soul.pdf>.
 - f. More about one soul at a time ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/evangelism-one-at-a-time.pdf>.
 - g. Small-Pill Evangelism ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/evangelism-small-pill-table.pdf>.
7. Apollos traveled to Corinth, where he helped disciples and converted Jews (27-28).
- a. He was unknown at Corinth, so the brethren sent a letter of reference (II Cor 3:1).
 - b. This man was a very competent minister and able to help those converted by Paul.
 - c. His primary help was publicly proving Jesus to the Jews from the Scriptures.
 - d. He had a faction at Corinth with Paul and Peter (I Cor 1:12; 3:4-10,21-23; 4:6).
 - e. By following Paul's further connections, Apollos was an apostle (I Cor 4:6-9).

C. Ephesus – Paul met men at Ephesus with obsolete baptisms by Apollos (19:1-7).

- 1. A complete and detailed analysis ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/baptism/rebaptism.php>.
- 2. Paul exposed their obsolete baptisms unto repentance likely done by Apollos (1-3).
 - a. Apollos was a fervent and knowledgeable teacher, preaching at Ephesus (18:24).
 - b. He knew only John's baptism (18:25), so his converts had preparatory baptisms.
 - c. Aquila and Priscilla had converted him further before sending him to Corinth.
 - d. Paul then arrived in Ephesus, Asia after confirming existing churches (18:23).
 - e. These certain men numbered twelve (7), and they were believing disciples (1-2).
 - f. By contextual location, we believe these disciples were converts of Apollos.
 - g. Apollos knew the way of the Lord Jesus and taught Him diligently, but he was ignorant concerning baptism, Pentecost, and the Holy Ghost, significant truth.
 - h. It is highly probably that Aquila and Priscilla told Paul of these alien baptisms.
 - i. Paul, by way of two questions, determined a faulty baptism for their condition.
 - j. They lacked the supernatural gifts of the Spirit necessary at that time (2:38-39).
 - k. They further explained they knew nothing of Paul's gifts of the Holy Ghost.
 - l. Since the Spirit came by proper baptism (2:38), Paul had to ask of their baptism.
 - m. They further explained they had been baptized unto John's baptism, which was not a baptism by John, but rather an unauthorized baptism copying John.

- n. Due to Paul's question, the emphasis is entirely on baptism, implied throughout.
- 3. Paul explained that John's baptism was anticipatory of Jesus Christ by *that is* (4-5).
 - a. There is a right way to do things, and if not done right, it needs to be redone.
 - b. The baptism of repentance was prior to Pentecost; since that time it is baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, Whom God had exalted as Lord and Christ (2:33-40).
 - c. They gladly received proper post-Pentecost baptism in the name of Jesus (5).
 - d. There are two parties speaking or hearing, baptizing or being baptized, not three.
 - e. Infant sprinkling heretics, who despise Baptists of any name, deny any rebaptism here by making the words of verse five Paul's description of John's hearers.
 - f. We do not arrogantly assume our baptism is the only one like Primitive Baptists.
 - g. For more about Pentecost ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/day-of-pentecost-2.pdf>.
 - h. For more about this rebaptism ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/baptism/rebaptism.php>.
 - i. For Primitive Baptists ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/why-we-are-not-primitive-baptists.pdf>.
- 4. Paul laid apostolic hands on them, so they received the Spirit and His gifts (6-7).
 - a. These gifts came by God's time and act (2:1-4), by baptism (2:38), by apostolic laying on of hands after baptism (8:14-19), or before baptism (10:44-48).
 - b. In these days, many gifts were needed for edification (I Cor 12:28-31; 13:8-13).

D. Ephesus – Paul evangelized Asia with Ephesus as his base of operation (19:8-12).

- 1. Paul used the synagogue in Ephesus and spent three months teaching the gospel (8).
 - a. Paul's method is instructive (Acts 13:14,42; 14:1; 17:1-3,10,17; 18:4,19; 19:8).
 - b. Why did the greatest evangelist go to Jewish synagogues rather than Gentile bars?
 - c. First, due to priority for Jews (Rom 1:16); second, looking for elect (II Tim 2:10).
 - d. If men have no interest in truth, there is no Bible basis for ever confronting them.
 - e. Unreasonable and wicked men are wisely to be avoided (II Thes 3:1-2; Matt 7:6).
 - f. If God blinds men, and you can see it, why try to show them (Matt 13:10-17).
 - g. God sends strong delusion on many for them to believe lies (II Thess 2:9-13).
 - h. The Great Commission is fulfilled ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/great-commission.pdf>.
 - i. Proper preaching is disputing and persuading; it is not an entertaining art form.
 - j. **Dispute.** Contend by opposing arguments, assertions. Debate argumentatively.
 - k. **Persuade.** To induce belief of (a fact, statement, opinion, etc.); to lead one to think or believe; to prove, demonstrate.
 - l. He contended (Acts 9:20-22; 13:43; 17:1-3,17; 18:4,19; 19:8-9,26; 24:25; 28:23).
 - m. It is war against your thoughts (II Cor 10:1-6; Titus 2:11-15; II Timothy 4:1-5).
 - n. Even believers are to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered (Jude 1:3).
 - o. Nehemiah gave a holy example of contending for the truth (Neh 13:11,17,25).
 - p. Rather than constant encouragement, agreement, and positive messages, true preaching has a lot of criticism, correction, and instruction to new conduct.
 - q. Things concerning the kingdom of God and the gospel are the same (28:23-31).
 - r. There are glad tidings of Jesus as Lord and Christ (Acts 2:14-40; 13:16-41).
 - s. There are duties to repent and obey the Lord Jesus (Acts 14:15-16; I Thes 4:1-8).
 - t. There is the hope of future glory (I Cor 15:19; I Thess 1:9-10; I Peter 1:3-9).

2. Paul separated believers from unbelievers and took up teaching in a school (9-10).
 - a. When he realized it was not efficient and profitable in the synagogue, he left.
 - b. Note that the gospel has a hardening effect on those not ordained to eternal life.
 - c. Rather than pray more, he changed to be efficient with believers (II Thes 3:1-2).
 - d. Rather than push on a rope, or teach fools, go to the next village (Luke 9:51-56).
 - e. We know what he taught, for Paul cared only for Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
 - f. Paul continued this daily teaching in the school for two years, converting many.
 - g. When we read of Asia here, it was Roman Asia Minor, western modern Turkey.
 - h. For separation from unbelievers ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/biblical-separation.pdf>.
3. God gave Paul exceptional gifts of the Spirit to do special confirming signs (11-12).
 - a. Paul boasted of his great power in Christ to convert Gentiles (Romans 15:15-21).
 - b. In an idolatrous city given to devil worship, Jesus sent Paul into hell (Matt 16:18).
 - c. Jesus died and rose, so it was time to judge the world (John 12:31-33; 16:8-11).
 - d. It is precious to read that there are miracles and there are special miracles. Amen!
 - e. Diseases and evil spirits were routed by the mere presence of a hankie from Paul.
 - f. Anyone giving or selling such hankies today is a liar and just like Sceva's sons.

E. Ephesus – Some Imposters Proved Paul's Apostolic Authority Genuine (19:13-20).

1. Seven Jewish gypsies, the sons of Sceva a priest, tried to imitate our Paul (13-17).
 - a. A vagabond is a wanderer roaming about without home or occupation – a gypsy.
 - b. These gypsies earned a living faking exorcisms by their religion (Matt 12:22-30).
 - c. Paul's incredible authority over spirits was seen, so duplication was attempted.
 - d. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, which these devil-worshippers chose.
 - e. The evil spirits always knew Jesus; they had learned about Paul; but that is all.
 - f. We need to realize two great things: (1) evil spirits and (2) power in Jesus' name.
 - g. Demonstration of such spiritual presence and power magnified Jesus our Lord.
 - h. Miraculous sign gifts are no longer necessary or present, so we pray spiritually.
2. Fear resulting from this published event brought further revival in Ephesus (18-20).
 - a. Through the gates of hell went Paul with the gospel, converting many Ephesians.
 - b. *Curious arts* are books, tools, techniques of magic or sorcery to solicit spirit help.
 - c. *Curious* can mean skillful and exquisite in construction (Ex 35:32; Ps 139:15).
 - d. Ephesus was known for *The Ephesian Letters* detailing incantations for spells.
 - e. They did not sell these books and give the money to the apostles (Deut 23:18).
 - f. This much money showed true conversion – repentance proven by repudiation and loss (Job 33:27-28; Matthew 3:7-9; 5:29-30; Luke 19:1-9; II Cor 7:10-11).
 - g. Following Christ will bring loss (Luke 14:26-27) and persecution (II Tim 3:12).
 - h. So, in this way, by true repentance, the word of God grew mightily and prevailed.
 - i. About the *Ephesians Letters* ... <https://archetypicalwitchcraft.wordpress.com/tag/ephesian-letters/>.

F. Ephesus – A City Riot Caused by Demetrius Is Ended By City Clerk (19:21-41).

1. Paul, having built a church in Ephesus, prepared for Macedonia and Achaia (21-22).
 - a. Paul's purposes and plans were subject to the Spirit, as should we (James 4:15).

- b. Even if or when Paul refers to his spirit, he was directed by the Spirit (I Cor 7:40).
 - c. He intended to visit the churches he had started there; he had thoughts of Rome.
 - d. He sent Timotheus and Erastus ahead to Macedonia, while he stayed in Ephesus.
2. Demetrius, a silversmith, started a riot in Ephesus against Paul and the truth (23-28).
 - a. Luke and the Holy Spirit here call this inflamed riot of fools to be *no small stir*.
 - b. What is *that way*? The way of Jesus and His gospel (9:2; 19:9; 22:4; 24:14,22).
 - c. God revealed that this opposition, like so many compromises in religion, is based on financial gain (Exodus 18:21; 23:8; Num 16:15; Deut 16:18-19; I Samuel 8:1-3; 12:1-5; Prov 17:23; Eccl 7:7; Isaiah 56:11; Matthew 6:19-24; Luke 16:3; Acts 20:33-35; I Tim 3:3,8; 6:6-10; Titus 1:7,11; I Pet 5:2; II Pet 2:15; Jude 1:11).
 - d. Paul's preaching was not all positive; he had persuaded many against their idols.
 - e. So if you cannot overthrow truth by reason, just cry out for Diana, your fantasy.
 3. All Ephesus was filled with confusion by this riot and assembly for Diana (29-34).
 - a. Satan was at work confusing the people's minds, who did not know their purpose.
 - b. We do not know this Alexander for sure, though we may presume Alexander the coppersmith with some safety (II Tim 4:14); the Jews wished for him to speak to divert the tumult from them (who also opposed idolatry) to the Christians.
 - c. To pagans, Jews and Christians were similar enough, monotheistic idol-haters.
 - d. How glorious is a religion based on superstitious chanting about an idol of stone!
 - e. For an introduction to this goddess Diana ... <http://www.keyway.ca/htm2002/20020906.htm>.
 4. The town clerk, led by God's providence, rebuked the confused assembly (35-41).
 - a. Isn't it wonderful to be ignorant? Simply presume Diana to be irrefutable!
 - b. It is no different today with evolution, transgenders, or other harebrained ideas.
 - c. God forbid! We prove all things and search all things (I Thess 5:21; Acts 17:11).
 - d. God used the ignorance or sensibilities of a noble town clerk to free his servants.
 - e. He warned the citizens that Rome would want to know the cause of a public riot.
 - f. Ignorance and collective confusion are worse today by virtue of evolution, global warming, transgenders, distressed clothing, rap noise, etc.

G. Macedonia and Achaia – Paul Covered Macedonia and Achaia Again (20:1-6).

1. It had been his plan to revisit Greece prior to the uproar in Ephesus (1-2; 19:21-22).
 - a. After three years in Ephesus, it would have been emotional to leave them (31).
 - b. Consider the embracing of brethren in the gospel of Christ, for the relationship we have in Jesus Christ is a superior union – blood is thicker than blood.
 - c. After greatly exhorting those in Macedonia, he went south to Greece, or Achaia.
 - d. Paul went over those parts, that is Macedonia, likely approaching unto Illyricum.
 - e. **Exhort.** To admonish earnestly; to urge by stimulating words to conduct regarded as laudable.
 - f. Ministers should exhort (I Timothy 4:13; 6:2; II Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9; 2:15).
 - g. Members should exhort brethren also (Heb 3:13; 10:25; I Thessalonians 5:14).
2. He spent three months in Greece and returned via Macedonia due to the Jews (3-6).
 - a. By his plans, he intended to sail from Greece for Syria and Jerusalem (19:21).

- b. The Jews must have blocked the ports of exit, so he went north to Macedonia.
 - c. Even Paul at times had to use natural wisdom to avoid the clutches of the Jews, as saints should use means to avoid capture but not to take life for the gospel.
 - d. There is no virtue exposing yourself to unnecessary risk – just foolish ignorance.
 - e. Paul showed wisdom by avoiding trouble or appealing for help when possible.
 - f. From using a basket to calling on Caesar, he sought to hide himself from trouble.
3. His revised plan was to travel through Macedonia and then sail by Asia (Ephesus).
- a. Most of his company went to Asia directly, as they were not the Jews’ targets.
 - b. Paul went up through Macedonia and sailed for Troas from Philippi with Luke.
 - c. They were in Philippi during Passover and then took five days sailing to Troas.
 - d. Pressed for time to get to Jerusalem, he spent a week at Troas with the church.

H. Troas – Paul Spent a Week at Troas, Which Was in the Coasts of Asia (20:7-12).

1. Let the ridiculous heresy of the SDA be forever silenced about Saturday worship (1).
 - a. These Judaizers corrupt the sabbath laws and Moses’ dietary laws among others.
 - b. We follow apostolic tradition (II Thess 2:15; I Cor 11:1), rather than Ellen G. White’s or any other silly woman’s fantasies and hallucinations.
 - c. In Troas on Saturday (the Holy Spirit tells us neatly he was there seven days), Paul met the whole church for communion and preaching as usual on Sunday.
 - d. In Corinth and Galatia, the churches came together on Sunday (I Cor 16:1-2) for religious worship, regardless of where you place this “laying by in store.”
 - e. John was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, the day of His resurrection (Rev 1:10).
 - f. The reason for moving from Saturday to Sunday, in this time of reformation, was the resurrection (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2,9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1,19).
 - g. Jesus appeared the second Sunday also to His assembled disciples (Jn 20:26).
 - h. And the Holy Ghost was given on the first day (Acts 2:1 cp Leviticus 23:15-16).
 - i. John Baptist, Jesus, and the apostles reformed things (John 4:21-24; Heb 9:10).
 - j. Paul abolished sabbath days for New Testament saints (Colossians 2:16-17).
 - k. Paul condemned the Judaistic weaknesses of the Galatians (Galatians 4:9-11).
 - l. The sabbath is not taught positively a single time in the epistles to churches.
 - m. The sabbath was a Jewish peculiarity of Moses’ law (Ex 31:12-17; Eze 20:12).
 - n. The Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15), convened officially to apply Moses law to the Gentiles, totally ignored this “essential” subject and golden calf of SDA.
 - o. More about the Sabbath ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/heresy/sabbatarianism/sermon.php>.
2. It is the custom of Christ’s churches to assemble for communion (I Cor 11:20,33).
 - a. The breaking of bread can be natural or spiritual (I Cor 10:16 vs Luke 24:35).
 - b. Regardless of what Paul did by communing with them, as an apostle of Christ responsible for all churches (II Cor 11:28), we practice closed communion.
 - c. Bible Christians never carry communion around to anyone but those in assembly.
3. It is also a custom of Christ’s churches to emphasize preaching, like Paul (7-12).
 - a. It is a problem of Christ’s churches that some fall asleep during long preaching.
 - b. Even though a young man died, Paul continued his preaching until morning.

- I. Ephesus – Paul exhorted the Ephesian elders in person for the last time (20:13-38).**
1. Paul asked for the elders of the Ephesian church before sailing to Jerusalem (13-17).
 - a. Luke and the others sailed from Troas to Assos, while Paul went by foot; then they sailed together through several stops until they arrived at Miletus.
 - b. To avoid a delay traveling to Ephesus, he asked the elders to meet him in Miletus.
 2. Affectionate and concerned for this church, Paul summarized his ministry (18-27).
 - a. A minister's consistency is important to make his message credible and powerful.
 - b. Paul was a humble apostle, though he blasted all opposition and claimed the truth.
 - c. Paul was a hunted apostle, for he proved his sincerity by suffering for the truth.
 - d. Paul was an honest apostle, for he taught all profitable subjects plainly to all.
 - e. Paul was a holy apostle, for he emphasized repentance and faith as essentials.
 - f. Paul lived a life of trouble for two reasons – he had persecuted; Jesus chose him.
 - g. The Lord Jesus had called him to suffer for His sake for these reasons (9:16).
 - h. His resume had more suffering than any minister of Christ (II Cor 11:23-28).
 - i. Being an apostle was not the cushy life of living in the Vatican (I Cor 4:9-13).
 - j. He knew by the Spirit's internal witness he was going to Jerusalem to suffer.
 - k. **Abide.** II. *trans.* To wait for, await the issue of, endure. 12. To wait for, await; remain ready for, watch for, expect.
 - l. Paul lived above these trials by (1) focusing on the Lord Jesus Christ as His Captain and (2) the unimportance of his own life in consideration of Him.
 - m. He knew by the same Spirit witness he would not see these Ephesian elders again.
 - n. He called them to record he had done all he could for all men in Asia (19:10,26) and more particularly for them (20:18-21,27).
 - o. Great ministers proclaim all the counsel of God to protect and prepare hearers, which includes holiness, hell, election, prophecy, child training, heresies, etc.
 3. Knowing about men and Satan, he warned of coming heresies among them (28-31).
 - a. A minister's duties include taking heed to himself and to the flock (I Tim 4:16).
 - b. The ministry is not a career option: it is an appointment from God (Hebrews 5:4).
 - c. They must feed the saints, for He purchased them with His blood (Rom 14:15).
 - d. False ministers come without affection for Christ or His flock (Ezekiel 34:2,10).
 - e. True ministers will fall to ambition and spread personal heresies (I Cor 11:19).
 - f. Anything contrary to wholesome words of Jesus is wrong (Gal 1:7; I Tim 6:3-5).
 - g. While Paul was there, they were safe by an authoritative man of God (Eph 4:14).
 - h. Consider the seriousness of his warnings. Was he paranoid or wise and prudent?
 - i. Ministers must watch, and they must remember the solemnity of their charge.
 - j. Did Paul already see or sense what would happen to Ephesus later (Rev 2:1-7).
 4. Knowing the nature of men and Satan, he exhorted them to growth in grace (32-35).
 - a. God's word is the sure foundation for ministerial efforts to growth and perfection.
 - b. God's word only gives you an inheritance by describing it and assurance for it.
 - c. He had worked other jobs to provide for his entourage to repudiate love of money.
 - d. Paul exhorted to ministerial compassion and charity instead of personal ambition.
 - e. The Lord Jesus taught a glorious fact: *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

5. Concluding his kind remarks, Paul affectionately bid farewell with prayer (36-38).
 - a. What a glorious example for us to follow . . . commend them to God and pray!
 - b. Blood is thicker than blood; physical affection by Christian men is holy and good.

J. Tyre – Paul landed in Syria and spent a week with disciples in this city (21:1-7).

1. Paul left Miletus, crossed the Mediterranean, and spent seven days at Tyre (1-4).
 - a. Luke is with Paul, so you will observe the first person pronouns *we* and *us*.
 - b. The Ephesian elders loved Paul to the ship, before he got under way (20:37-38).
 - c. Did he sail to Phenicia or Syria? Phenicia is a subset of Syria. He sailed to both.
2. By Spirit prophecy (Ro 12:6; I Cor 12:10), they warned Paul to avoid Jerusalem (4).
 - a. Here we apply a sense to the words, or we end up with Paul disobeying God.
 - b. They warned of trouble at Jerusalem, if he were to go there (20:22-23; 21:11).
 - c. They also may have added their personal opinion to the Spirit's revelation (12).
 - d. Implied senses and conditions to God's Word are not new (Jonah 3:4; Is 38:1).
3. Note the affection of this relatively obscure church for Paul and his company (5-6).
4. After leaving Tyre, Paul spent a day in Ptolemais before sailing to Caesarea (7).
 - a. There are two kinds of salutes in the Word of God – either verbal or physical.
 - b. **Salute.** To accost or address with words expressive of good wishes, respect, or homage, esp. with some customary formula of that import; to greet in words.
 - c. The verbal salutes in the O.T. were worshipful (Ruth 2:4; Psalm 129:8; 40:16).
 - d. The verbal salute in the N.T. was a greeting in Jesus Christ (II Thess 3:17-18).
 - e. The physical salute in the New Testament was a kiss (Romans 16:16; I Pet 5:14).
 - f. This obscure church of which we never read again had Paul's company for a day.

K. Caesarea – Paul stayed many days at Caesarea before up to Jerusalem (21:8-16).

1. Paul and company traveled to Caesarea and stayed with Philip the evangelist (8).
 - a. Philip was first ordained a deacon (6:1-6), but he also preached widely (8:5-40).
 - b. After baptizing the eunuch and preaching widely, he settled at Caesarea (8:40).
 - c. The apostolic office of evangelist exists no more; modern evangelists are wrong.
 - d. **Evangelist.** One who preaches the gospel to those who have never heard it.
 - e. Philip was an evangelist by virtue of preaching to the unconverted Samaritans.
 - f. It was an office in rank below apostle and prophet but above bishop (Eph 4:11).
 - g. Philip was greater than a bishop by virtue of his Holy Spirit assistance (8:39-40).
 - h. Evangelist and bishop are teachers with very different audiences (I Cor 12:28).
 - i. There are no qualifications for this obsolete office (I Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).
 - j. New Testament bishops are to do *the work of* an evangelist (II Timothy 4:5).
 - k. At times this may be the work required of their own flock (II Timothy 4:1-5).
 - l. Deacons do not preach officially but tend carnal matters (6:1-6; I Tim 3:8-13).
 - m. But there was nothing precluding a man from having both offices either simultaneously or consecutively, as we know from Philip's example in Acts.
 - n. The modern concept of traveling salesmen visiting a church for five days to fleece the flock of filthy lucre for performing no New Testament service is a farce.

- o. They do not teach the unconverted in any way, shape, or form. They are invited.
- p. Years of planning brought a city's church members to Billy Graham crusades.
- q. They neither know nor address the needs or dangers of the church whatsoever.
- r. They do not have any ability or potential beyond a Bible bishop and may not be.
- s. They have only a dozen simple sermons they repeat over and over with theatrics.
- t. They take advantage of another's man flock made ready to their hand. Beware!
- u. They steal the esteem of a church that belongs only to their pastor by variety.
- v. Will men loan their wife and children to a stranger for a week? Is there value?
- w. Paul condemned such money-grubbing efforts (II Cor 10:12-18; Rom 15:20).
- x. They travel by motor home, plane, and car, but not by the Holy Ghost as Philip.
- y. They have as much New Testament legitimacy as the SDA's Ellen G. White's gift of prophecy and the Mormon's baptism for the dead.
- z. This does not preclude bishops visiting other churches with a profitable purpose.
 - a. The froth of modern "evangelism" is short-term and in the flesh without merit.
 - b. There is not one name in the book of life by any evangelist but Jesus Christ.
 - c. The Primitive Baptists make this farce the trademark of their so-called elders.
- 2. His four virgin daughters were prophetesses in only the New Testament sense (9).
 - a. God had promised to pour out His Spirit on women, which He gave (2:17-18).
 - b. The gift of prophecy was divine ability by the Spirit to reveal God's Word regarding future things or spiritual things yet unknown.
 - c. The gift of prophecy was partial and temporary and went away (I Cor 13:8-10).
 - d. We have the more sure word of prophecy written in scripture (II Pet 1:19-21).
 - e. Ellen G. White did not have any such gift as claimed by the SDA, but she did have infirmities of body, mind, spirit, and soul and also signs of devil possession.
 - f. These four women could only prophesy in church under rules (I Cor 14:34-35).
 - g. For the female rules of I Co 11:1-16 ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/first-corinthians-11.pdf>.
- 3. Paul's stay of many days in Caesarea does not mean he missed Pentecost (10; 20:16).
- 4. Like Tyre, Paul received another warning of coming trouble in Jerusalem (10-14; 4).
 - a. Paul had already explained to the Ephesians elders of these warnings (20:22-23).
 - b. Agabus also prophesied many years earlier of a great dearth or famine (11:28).
 - c. We see in the prophecy a warning of Paul being taken by the Romans (Gentiles).
 - d. Both Luke and the rest of the company and those of Caesarea appealed to Paul.
 - e. Recall Paul's earlier, glorious response to the prospect of imprisonment (20:24).
 - f. All the warning parties committed the matter to the will of the Lord, as we should.
 - g. If they had persuaded Paul, would the Lord's will have been done anyway? Yes.
 - h. Are things within our control outside the Lord's will? Or only less visible?
 - i. Did they doubt or question the Lord's will? Or simply submit to it? Submitted.
 - j. Did they talk about Paul's obedience to the Lord's revealed things or his protection and God's glory by the Lord's secret things (Deuteronomy 29:29)?
 - k. Regardless of our plans or any activity, it is subject to God's will (James 4:15).
 - l. Our life is one of voluntary and happy submission to God's will (Matthew 6:10).
 - m. We should learn to love and trust His sovereign will (Proverbs 16:9,33; 19:21).

5. Paul and company took up their luggage and went to Jerusalem as planned (15-16).
 - a. As noted many times, the direction *up* is for altitude from sea level to mountains.
 - b. Mnason of Cyprus has his charity recorded and will be honored (Matt 25:31-46).

L. Jerusalem – Paul met with the apostles and elders at Jerusalem church (21:17-25).

1. The Jewish brethren at Jerusalem were glad to see and hear Paul's company (17-19).
 - a. James is our Lord's brother (Gal 1:19) and led the Jerusalem council (15:13-21).
 - b. James was pastor of the Jerusalem Church, with many elders of various gifts.
 - c. Paul saluted them, as before described, and gave details of his ministerial successes among Gentiles by God's blessing (Rom 5:15-21; II Cor 10:12-17).
2. The leaders explained the large Jewish congregation and their view of Paul (20-22).
 - a. James and elders point out similar Jewish success and their great zeal of the law.
 - b. For 40 years, the two covenants ran side by side during the time of reformation (Heb 9:10; Jn 4:20-24), which allowed Paul to vary his conduct (I Cor 9:19-23).
 - c. The rumor in Jerusalem, which concerned these elders, was that Paul in his travels taught Jews in other places to reject circumcision and the Jewish customs.
 - d. The rumor is specifically regarding what Paul taught the Jews outside of Israel.
 - e. The rumor was not true, as a simple review of our previous studies will show.
 - f. Paul, obeying the Jerusalem council, did not require the law of Gentiles (16:4).
 - g. But he did still esteem and allow the law for Jews (16:2,16; 18:18,21; 20:6,16).
 - h. His manner of modification in things indifferent is well known (I Cor 9:19-23).
 - i. Because thousands of Jews would see Paul, the elders sought to end the rumors.
3. James and the elders asked Paul to show Jewish loyalty with a Jewish vow (23-25).
 - a. James and elders proposed a Jewish vow to end the rumor of his rejecting Moses.
 - b. Using great caution, they clearly identified the proposal as applying to Jews only.
 - c. Four men, weak Jewish Christians loving Moses, were under Nazarite separation.
 - d. This was the vow of the Nazarite (Num 6), which involved a time of separation, an offering for purification, and shaving the head to indicate the end of the vow.
 - e. The Nazarite separated himself by avoiding haircuts, wine, grapes, dead bodies.
 - f. Paul was joining in the end of the vow for the purification, sacrifice, and shaving.

M. Jerusalem – Paul was personally attacked by rabid Jews in the temple (21:26-30).

1. Paul, with four other men, entered the temple to keep the terms of the vow (26-27).
 - a. Paul had joined this vow to humor the apostles and elders there to keep peace in the church due to the widespread rumors and slander about him (I Cor 9:19-22).
 - b. Paul entered the temple with the four to inform the priests of the end of the vow.
 - c. Just before they would shave their heads, the unbelieving Jews of Asia (his bitter enemies from Ephesus) recognized him, grabbed him, and falsely accused him.
2. Jews from Asia saw Paul in the temple and stirred up a riot against him (28-30).
 - a. *This is the man* indicates that Paul's reputation had preceded him from Asia.
 - b. They falsely accused him for preaching against the Jews, the law, and the temple.

- c. Since they had seen him earlier in the city with Trophimus, a Gentile from Ephesus, they falsely assumed in anger that Paul had brought him into the temple.
- d. With the whole city angry, they dragged Paul out of the temple and shut the doors.
- e. You would think the temple of God should be the safest place of refuge for a Jew.
- f. That is not true when Jesus God's Son is involved, for Satan and men hate Him.

Conclusion:

1. What will you do with the message God sent you about His Son and the great mystery of godliness?
2. Have you believed the full Bible record about the Lord Jesus Christ and declared your faith openly?
3. If you ignore His gracious kindness by gospel preachers, He can send strong delusion to believe lies.
4. Do you feel bound to give thanks always to God for choosing you to believe truth (II Thess 2:13).
5. Your true appreciation for God sending you truth is to want to send that truth to others beyond you.
6. How can God or we believe the gospel means much to you unless you want to share it with others?
7. Other events that happen to you of importance you share with others as good news of an earthly sort.
8. For a dramatic intro and map for Paul's trip ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/paul-third-preaching-trip-slides.pdf>

For Further Study:

1. The sermon (notes) ... *Paul's First Preaching Trip* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/paul-first-preaching-trip-notes.pdf>.
2. The sermon (map) ... *Paul's First Preaching Trip* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/paul-first-preaching-trip-slides.pdf>.
3. The sermon (notes) ... *Paul's Second Preaching Trip* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/paul-second-preaching-trip-notes.pdf>.
4. The sermon (map) ... *Paul's Second Preaching Trip* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/paul-second-preaching-trip-slides.pdf>.
5. The sermon (slides) ... *Great Mystery of Godliness* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/mystery-of-godliness-powerpoint.pdf>.
6. The sermon series (outline) ... *Great Mystery of Godliness* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/mystery-of-godliness.pdf>.
7. Jesus' charge to the apostles to reprove the world ... *John 16:8-11* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/john-sixteen.pdf>.
8. The sermon (notes) ... *Reprove the World* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/reprove-the-world.pdf>.
9. The sermon (slides) ... *The Great Commission* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/great-commission.pdf>.