

**serving the
lord with all
humility of mind and
with many tears**

Acts 20:6 – 38

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God presents the sound doctrine of the apostles concerning our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ to the entire world; and we hope it is the most thrilling adventure the genuine child of God will ever be a part of. I certainly make no promises in that regard. In our previous report, Paul concluded his third and final missionary journey; and he is returning to Jerusalem. The first five verses of this chapter briefly reviewed the Macedonian journey Paul made, which included Corinth. So, on his third missionary journey, Paul visited Corinth the second time. After that, he went to Greece and, specifically, Athens. Thessalonica, Berea and Philippi followed as he moved through Macedonia. Paul has covered the entire European section on his third missionary journey.

This is Paul's second visit to Troas on his third missionary journey; and his springboard into Europe. There was quite a delegation of missionary men waiting for Paul to return. I suspect as Paul taught on his travels, these men would move out into the countryside and have a ministry in the small hamlets, villages and towns. The epistle to the Colossians reveals the Gospel had reached the entire known world at that time. That might sound unbelievable; so, do you believe the Bible is the Word of God - or not? That's not oratorical gesturing or hyperbole; we're talking about the entire Roman world as it was known to mankind in that day. Paul said, "...the Word of God has come unto you as it has come into ALL the world." Actually, Acts is an extremely limited record of the missionary work of Simon Peter and of Paul in the early church....

6 And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days.

7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

~ Every record of early church worship is ALWAYS found on the first day of the week in Scripture. Paul told the Corinthians on the first day of the week they were to bring their gifts. On the first day of the week, they broke bread together; meaning they celebrated the Lord's Supper. Paul's preaching accounts always occur on the first day of the week. So, I have some news for you: the early church only met on the first day of the week according to the record. It's important because Jesus was resurrected that day! Under the terms of creation, the Sabbath was the seventh day. The problem is: on the Sabbath Day of the Old Testament, Jesus was dead in the grave. On the first day of the week, Jesus came forth in life. We are joined to a LIVING Christ – not one waiting to be raised! That is the testimony of the church's relation to the first day of the week. Worship is proper on Sunday. Period. Full stop.

Even more interestingly, Paul preached until midnight when he was set to leave the following day. Most people have a hard time reading a twenty-minute report. I highly doubt ANY of you would listen to me preach until midnight. Most people in the church get bent out of shape if the preacher goes thirty seconds over twenty-five minutes on Sunday morning. Maybe, because this was his last day there, they were having a great time, and didn't want it to end. Of course, we know Paul will not be back after this. My reports are a bit long for today's incompetent mentality that cannot take in more than about thirty words at a time. It's shameful really – how most people are really just stupid; but, since my reporting space is virtually unlimited – sometimes I tend to get a little wordy. I just happen to love to teach the Word of God. I have a system that I never learned in any theology school; and I'm sure most of you can see that anyways. Well, although I digress many times, I have Scriptural authority for doing so in verse seven....

8 And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.

9 And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.

10 And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

~ We have permitted the world to steal the fun out of studying the Word of God. See, these people lit the place up to continue. Of course, in one sense, Paul made a mistake preaching so long, because someone fell fast asleep; and we see what happened to him. Well, it's a comfort to me that some of you dear readers likely fall asleep reading these reports – it shows I'm doing my job! The only reason this account of preaching is not a tragedy is because of how it worked out. Paul raised the man from the dead. Remember, Simon Peter raised Dorcus from the dead, too....

11 When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed.

12 And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

13 And we went before to ship, and sailed unto Assos, there intending to take in Paul: for so had he appointed, minding himself to go afoot.

~ And, with that, they are on their way again with Luke doing the writing. Paul went down the coast; and if you have a good Bible with a map it will be very helpful. Paul is going to Ephesus on foot, but the others are taking ship. I am positive Paul walked it so he could witness along the way. I'm equally as sure there were many places Paul stopped and preached during this time. Well, as we follow Paul, we have a pretty good exercise in pronunciation as well as geography – and it does make for a nice travel log. Notice how Paul is determined to get to Ephesus and on to Jerusalem....

14 And when he met with us at Assos, we took him in, and came to Mitylene.

15 And we sailed thence, and came the next day over against Chios; and the next day we arrived at Samos, and tarried at Trogyllium; and the next day we came to Miletus.

16 For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.

17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

~ See, Paul's basis for speaking was that he was a faithful witness to the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Healing, speaking in tongues and raising the dead simply are not anywhere near the focal point of what Paul was all about. Later, Paul didn't heal Timothy; no, Paul told Timothy to "take a little wine" for his stomach problems, you may recall. If not – find that portion of Scripture and explain to me why Paul didn't just heal Timothy. Paul isn't pulling any punches – and neither am I – Paul gave the total Word of God; and that is what you get on the Spiritual Safari, friends – all of it....

19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

23 Save that the Holy Spirit witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

~ Alright, this is where many very good men will differ. Many excellent Bible teachers believe Paul made a mistake going to Jerusalem at this time. I, personally, believe Paul was ENTIRELY in the will of God; and I think Paul made his position more than clear. Paul said he was “bound in the Spirit” to go to Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit told Paul what was waiting for him in Jerusalem; that is: bonds and affliction. Remember, when Paul wanted to go to Ephesus the first time, the Holy Spirit put up more than one roadblock. There are no roadblocks being placed in his way now.

Well, that warning by the Holy Spirit was met with a retort from Paul that Paul didn’t care about his own life. Paul was willing to lay his life down for the furtherance of the Gospel, friends. Can any of you say YOU are willing to lay your life down for the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ? If you answer yes, then why don’t you support this safari? Honestly, I just don’t believe you if you say yes to that question. Paul was willing to risk his life to take these gifts to the poor saints in Jerusalem. Let’s not be hypocrites, friends; and guess where Paul is going? This is totally in the will of God for Paul in his life at the time in which we are studying....

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

26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

~ Many of you know I am not involved in organized religion; and I have made blunders and failures in my life that would prevent most churches from even wanting me to come to a Sunday service, quite frankly. However,

when I write these reports, I have spent more time in prayer for one report than most people spend in prayer in a full month; and I teach the Word of God as I see it, friends. I understand I am not always received in a friendly manner and, to be blunt, most people are just pious saints who don't really want to hear the Word of God. Paul found exactly that to be true, also. I consider this safari my business today; and I have deep satisfaction right now that if I went back over my reports, I might be able to say it better than I did, but there's nothing more to say. The only thing of importance to me is to declare the whole council of God, and here it is....

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

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.

33 I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.

35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

36 And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.

37 And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him,

38 Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.

~ Satan wants to destroy the church where the Bible is taught properly, correctly and completely – trust me on this. My teaching has been satanically attacked from just about every possible angle. The devil would like to wreck this safari so bad he can taste it. I rejoice with those of you who have asked for the files and are translating it into other languages and teaching in your own country. Satan is not our friend – he is the enemy – and we have many people reading who are Satan in disguise. Some of them pat me on the back and tell me how proud they are of me and what a good little man I am; so much so that I almost want to throw up sometimes. Paul told us WAY back in Ephesus this is what would happen.

There are many little Jesus people around this forum who attempt to appear as if they are doing some great work for God. Well, I don't buy most of it. I can tell who is genuine or not with just ONE question. When I am gone, there will be many who will say I was all wrong and that I just should have studied the Bible more. I commend you all to grace. I don't know if there will be any more reports; but we've already completed one safari. Like Paul, I have coveted no man's money. If this were about money, I would have quit this safari before I even started it – and that's the God's honest truth. NO one ministers unto my necessities – you can just write that down. I work night and day so as not to be a burden to you dear readers. All I am trying to do is show you all things properly, correctly and completely from the Word of God ~
