

Acts 20 Handout

v.1-5 - After the uproar in Ephesus, Paul leaves for Macedonia, revisiting those churches, probably Phillippi, Thessalonica, and came into Greece and spent three months. He was probably in Corinth (after the II Corinthians letter) where he most likely wrote the letter to the Romans. Upon leaving, Paul changed his route which would have had him sailing from Cenchrea to Syria because the Jews were waiting to ambush him and he was also carrying the offerings from Macedonia for the poor saints. So he went to Macedonia and sailed from Phillippi (the port at Neapolis) for Troas (actually 15 miles from or so from Troy). His companions met him at Troas: Sopater, Berea; Aristarchus and Secundus, Thessalonica; Gaius of Derbe, Timotheus, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.

v.6-12 -They stayed in Troas for seven days. On the first day of the week (Saturday evening) , in an upper room, Paul preached to them from the meal time till midnight, but he was so long speaking that EUTYCHUS, having fallen asleep, fell from the third loft and died. Paul embraced him and life came back into his body. Paul continued speaking till day break when they departed.

v.13-38 - These verses are a recording of the only address in the book of Acts that Paul made to believers. Luke and the Paul's companions sailed to Assos while Paul went by land. He met them at Assos and they sailed to Mitylene, then Chios, then Samos, Trygillum and then, finally, MILETUS. He did not stop in Ephesus because he wanted to get to Jerusalem in time for the day of Pentecost. Miletus was 30 miles from Ephesus. He summoned the elders and leaders of the church of Ephesus to Miletus so that he could address them one last time. From v.18-21 Paul reviews his ministry to them: He in humility, with many tests, and through threats of the Jews, taught them the gospel, holding back nothing. v.22-27 He lets them know what lies ahead for him. He is going to Jerusalem where the Holy Ghost has revealed he will be in bonds. He is not afraid. His life is not dear to him, so that he will "finish his course with joy:". He has preached the truth and has no one's blood on his hands.

v.28-35 - Paul now exhorts them to be warned because of the things that will challenge them in his absence. Feed the church because wolves will enter into the flock to destroy. And some will grow from among them to draw away disciples. (v. 31 we hear he has labored with them for three years). He commends them to the grace of the Lord and to the word of his grace. God will build them up. v.33-35 Paul claims that he worked, using his craft to finance his and his companions necessities. They should also labor to support the weak. Jesus said "It is more blessed to give than to receive".

v.36-38 - Paul prays for them; they weep and kiss and for they know they will never see him again. They walk him to the ship.