

## Within the Word

### Acts 20 NIV study guide

**1** When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said good-bye and set out for Macedonia. **2** He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, **3** where he stayed three months. Because the Jews made a plot against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. **4** He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. **5** These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. **6** But we sailed from Philippi after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

**7** On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. **8** There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. **9** Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. **10** Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" **11** Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. **12** The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

**13** We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul aboard. He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot. **14** When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene. **15** The next day we set sail from there and arrived off Kios. The day after that we crossed over to Samos, and on the following day arrived at Miletus. **16** Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.

**17** From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. **18** When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. **19** I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. **20** You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. **21** I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. **22** "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. **23** I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. **24** However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. **25** "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. **26** Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. **27** For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. **28** Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. **29** I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. **30** Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. **31** So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. **32** "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. **33** I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. **34** You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. **35** In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

**36** When he had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. **37** They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. **38** What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

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Please read this chapter at least twice before starting to answer the questions. There are several cities mentioned in this chapter, if you have not purchased a good map and charts book to use while studying you might consider, Tyndale handbook of Bible Charts and Maps. This is my favorite and it comes with a CD inside so you can print out any of the charts and maps to use.

1. Go back and underline or highlight the names of the men traveling with Paul at this time. Vs. 4 write their names below and where they are from.
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2. If you would like to see why these men are accompanying Paul to Jerusalem read I Cor. 16:1-4. The believers in Jerusalem were suffering and Paul encouraged the new churches to help with their needs.  
Why do you suppose he desired for them to send a representative with him all the way to Jerusalem?
3. Notice several times the pronoun “we” is used in verses 6-15. Who rejoined Paul in Philippi? (Hint: who wrote the book of Acts)
4. Vs. 7 says it is the first day of the week and the disciples gather together to break bread. They are fellowshiping together and eating together. It possibly could be a reference to communion service. Either way they are coming together for the purpose of uniting in one heart and one mind and to hear from God. What are you focused on while you are gathered together with other believers?  
Do you long to personally hear from God’s man?
5. Paul begins to speak and teach those gathered. How long did this teaching go on before a terrible accident occurred?
6. In verse 9 we are introduced to a young man named Eutychus, look up the meaning of his name. Did it ring true?
7. What was the full extent of time Paul preached to those gathered?
8. Vs. 16 says Paul decided to sail past Ephesus and not stop, why?

Remember in chapter 19 he had stayed there well over 2 years. Why is Paul in a hurry?

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9. How focused are you when God speaks to you to do something for him?  
Do you stay on track or are friends and loved ones sometimes a distraction?  
Often it is the good things that can hinder us from doing the best...God's will.
10. What truth does Paul say he has spent his time preaching and teaching? Vs.21
11. Put in your own words what Paul has taught as he traveled? Notice the simplicity of his message. It is important that we not complicate what God has kept clear when we are sharing the gospel.
12. What has the Spirit reminded him of as he travels from town to town? Vs. 23
13. Notice the amazing confidence of Paul's as he continues on. How do you face difficult or perhaps life threatening circumstances?
14. Probably you have never faced a life threatening experience for the cause of Christ, but did you ponder how you would handle it? Would you face it as the apostle Paul who said, "not knowing the things that will happen to me there...none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself"
15. How did you face your last trying circumstance? Did you face it in prayer or with a "why me" attitude?
16. According to verse 24 how does Paul want to finish his race?
17. What are you doing to insure that you will **finish strong**?
18. How is Paul's conscience toward all those his path has crossed? Vs 26
19. Could this be said of everyone who crossed your path lately? If not, why not?
20. What instruction does he leave with the leaders of the churches represented there that day?
21. Who is your flock? Who has God given you to shepherd?  
What are you to oversee? Are you living up to the example set for us?
22. Paul never forgets the great price paid for our salvation. What was the price paid?  
Vs 28
23. The apostle Paul realized that once he departed trouble would come to them.  
What does he warn them to watch out for? Vs. 29 Vs. 30 Gives their motive, what is it?  
Matthew 7:15  
Matthew 10:16

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24. Are you warning those that have been under your wings? Those God has given you to instruct. Do you warn them of what is to come?

25. Are all attacks from without? Vs. 30

26. Look up these verses and write out what you learn about watching.

- Matthew 24:4;
- I Thessalonians 5:6

27. Others may think you are an alarmist to keep reminding others that time is short, does that stop you?

What does Paul say about his time spent warning them?

28. Paul reminds them of the importance of God's word in their lives daily. What does he say it will do? Vs.32

29. What inheritance is Paul speaking of here? Read 1 Peter 1:3-4

30. What is the truth, taught by Jesus, and lived out by Paul? Vs. 35

Does your life reflect this truth?

Spend some time thinking and taking an honest look, could this truly be said of you?

We never look more like Jesus than when we are giving.

31. How does Paul end his time with these precious brothers and sisters in Christ?

Vs. 36

Parting is always difficult but especially for them this time, Why?

32. We only have the moment we are living in; we have no promise for the future. If we really believe this how would we live out this day?

Looking back over this chapter what was one or two things that stood out to you?

You might want to pray and ask God how you are to apply this lesson personally.

We do not want to simply study, let's allow the word of God to change us.

2 Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

2 Tim. 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.