

**Mission Accomplished – Move Forward**  
**By Pastor Larry Burden**  
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*Acts 20*

**I. Paul begins his RETURN to Jerusalem**

**A. He has COMPLETED HIS ASSIGNMENT in Ephesus**

1. He **EXITS** having the **GREATEST MANIFESTATIONS** of his **ministry assignment**

a. **EXTRAORDINARY MIRACLES** manifested with the anointing being **TRANSFERRED** to **scarfs and aprons**

As they were **LAI**D UPON the **BODIES** of the **SICK** they were **HEALED**, and **DEMONS LEFT THEM**

b. **HOLINESS** filled the **ATMOSPHERE** of the **CITY**

The **7 SONS** of **SCEVA** met **HOLINESS** when attempting to **USE** the **NAME** of **JESUS** to **PROMOTE** their **SELF=SERVING MINISTRY**

2. **MOST IMPORTANTLY**, a **SPIRIT** of **REPENTANCE** broke out

a. **GODLY FEAR** swept the **CITY**

b. **BELIEVERS CONFESSED** their **SINS** and their **SECRETS**

c. **OCCULT PRACTITIONERS** publicly **REPENTED** and **BURNED** *their BOOKS and SCROLLS of SPELLS and INCANTATIONS* (19:19)

**Could it be that THIS** is the **PICTURE** of **TRUE REVIVAL** and **RESTORATION?**

**B. Prior to HIS DEPARTURE, a HUGE RIOT BEAKS OUT**

1. The **PRINCE** is simply **NOT HAPPY** with **REVIVAL**, **RESTORATION**, **REFORMATION** and **TRANSFORMATION**

**WHEN REVIVAL** and **REFORMATION** begin to **MANIFEST**, just **KNOW** that **CIVIL UNREST** will **ESCALATE**

**DO NOT BE SHAKEN** when it **COMES, REJOICE** and **REMAIN STEDFAST** in the **UNSHAKABLE ONE**

**Heb 12:27 (TPT)** *Once and for all I will not only shake the systems of the world, but also the unseen powers in the heavenly realm*

**THIS** is **ONE REASON WHY WE** have **SEEMINGLY BEEN ROCKED** this **YEAR**

**FATHER** has been **PREPARING US** for the **GREAT AWAKENING** and the **SHAKINGS** that are **ASSOCIATED WITH IT**

**AMERICA** is **POLARIZING** as **NEVER BEFORE**, and **WE** are about to have the **WAKE-UP CALL** of all **WAKE-UP CALLS** to **DATE**

We should **NOT** be **FATALISTS**, but we **SHOULD BE REALISTS** and **WAKE UP** to **SEE THAT WHICH HAS ENGAGED US** to **DESTROY** the **SPRITUAL FREEDOM** we are **PRIVILEGED TO ENJOY!**

The **EKKLESIA** is about to **ENTER** a whole **NEW LEVEL** of **OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY**

Make no **MISTAKE**; We are **BEING TRAINED** and **EQUIPPED** to **GOVERN**

## **II. TWO NOTABLE EVENTS** in this **CHAPTER**

### **A. FIRST**, the **ALL-NIGHTER** in **Troas (VS 6-12)**

1. Followers gathered to take **COMMUNION** and **HEAR** Paul **PREACH**
2. **Because** he was **leaving NEXT DAY**, we **spoke** past **MIDNIGHT**
  - a. **Young lad** named **Eutychus** was seated in an **open window** of the **third-floor meeting room** that was **illuminated** by **oil lamps**

*V9...as Paul's sermon dragged on, Eutychus became drowsy and fell into a deep slumber. Sound asleep, he fell three stories to his death below*

**NOTE TO SELF:** It is **NEVER GOOD** to **FALL ASLEEP** in **CHURCH!**

- b. **GOOD NEWS** is that Paul went downstairs and **RAISED HIM** back to life

**SIDE NOTE:** The name *Eutychus* is translated, *Fortunate* or *Lucky* – He was that night!

3. Following this **INTERRUPTION**, Paul returns upstairs, serves **COMMUNION**, eats a **MEAL**, and **PREACHES** until **DAWN**

**11** *Filled with enormous joy, they took the boy home alive and all were encouraged*  
Isn't it **WONDERFUL** that **WHEN WE FALL**, Jesus is there to **PICK US UP** and **BREATHE LIFE INTO US AGAIN**

**B. Second, Paul's MEETING with the ELDERS in Ephesus**

1. He was **PRESSED** for **TIME** to return to Jerusalem for **Pentecost**
2. He sends a **MESSAGE** for them **TO COME** and **MEET** with **HIM**

IT would be **HIS FINAL MEETING** and **MESSAGE** as a **SPIRITUAL FATHER** to **HIS SONS**

**C. The FAREWELL MESSAGE**

1. His **EXAMPLE** of **LEADERSHIP**
  - a. *Served* with **HUMILITY** and **MANY TEARS**

He did not **CONDUCT HIMSELF** as **ENTITLED** or **IMPORTANT** but rather a **SERVANT**

- b. *Endured* **MANY ORDEALS** and **PLOTS** to **KILL HIM**

He **PESEVERED** in **TRIALS** without altering the **MESSAGE** to **PLEASE** the **CROWD**

- c. *Never Held Anything Back* in his message

The **MESSAGE** was **SIMPLE** – **Repent** and **Receive Salvation** through **Jesus** by **Faith**

*V26-27 If any of you should be lost, I will not be blamed, for my conscience is clean, because I have taught you everything I could about God's eternal plan, and I have held NOTHING BACK*

2. His **RESOLVE** to **MOVE FORWARD**

*V22-24 And NOW I am captive to the Holy Spirit to go to Jerusalem, without really knowing what will happen to me there. Yet I know that the Holy Spirit warns me in town after town, saying, Chains and afflictions are prepared for you. But whether I live, or die is not important, for I don't esteem my life as indispensable. It is more important for me to FINISH the ministry my Lord Jesus has ASSIGNED to me, which is to faithfully preach the wonderful news of God's grace.*

- a. The **TRIALS** of **HIS PAST** had **PREPARED HIM** to **PRESS STRONGLY TOWARD** the **FINISH LINE**

**2 Timothy 4:6-8** *And now the time is fast approaching for my release from tis life and I m ready to be offered as a sacrifice. I have fought an excellent fight. I have **FINISHED MY FULL COURSE**, and I have kept my heart full f faith. There is a crown of righteousness waiting in heaven for me, and I know that my Lord will reward me on his day of righteous judgment. And tis crown is not only waiting for me, but for **ALL WHO LOVE AND LONG FOR HIS UNVEILING**.*

3. His **FINAL CHARGE** to the **ELDERS**

- a. **GUARD** your **HEARTS**

You **CANNOT TAKE CARE** of **OTHERS** if you **FAIL** to **ATTEND** to your **OWN SPIRITUAL HEALTH**

**NOTE:** We are **ALL** a **WORK IN PROGRESS**, so be **KIND** to **YOURSELF** and yet **WITHOUT EXCUSES**

- b. **GUARD** the **CHURCH**

**V 28** *Be true shepherds over all the flock and feed them well. Remember, it was the Holy Spirit who appointed you to **GUARD** and **OVERSEE** the churches that **BELONG TO JESUS**, the **ANOINTED ONE**, which He purchased and established **BY HIS OWN BLOOD***

- c. **BEWARE** the **WOLVES** both **WITHOUT** and **WITHIN**

**TEACH SOUND DOCTRINE** so that the **CHURCH** will **RECOGNIZE** the **FALSE** when it **APPEARS**

**WHILE** it may be **POPULAR** in the **CULTURE**, it **DOESN'T MEAN** that it is **DOCTRINALLY SOUND** or **ACCEPTABLE** by **GOD**

1. They were **CHARGED** to **BE ALERT**
2. **MAINTAIN** the **SAFE PLACE**
3. **REMAIN PURE** in **HEART** and **CLEAN** with **HANDS**

**2 Peter 2:1-3** *In the past there arose false prophets among God's people, just as there will **CONTINUE TO BE** false teachers who will secretly infiltrate in your midst to divide you, bringing with them their destructive heresies. They will even deny the Master, who paid the price for them, bringing swift destruction on themselves.*

*Many will follow immoral lifestyles. Because of these corrupt false teachers, the way of truth will be slandered. They are only out for themselves, ready to exploit you for their own gain through their cunning arguments. Their condemnation has been a long time coming, but their destruction does not slumber or sit by idly, for IT IS SURE TO COME.*

These INFILTRATORS will SPIN the TRUTH to MEET their SELFISH AGENDAS

- d. OPERATE in MONEY MATTERS with INTEGRITY
  - 1. Don't EXTORT MONEY from GOD'S FAMILY
  - 2. WORK HARD and HELP OTHERS who CAN'T WORK or HELP THEMSELVES

*V35 I've left you an example of how you should serve and take care of those who are weak. For we must always cherish the words of our Lord Jesus who taught, Giving brings a far greater blessing than receiving.*

- D. The LONG GOODBYE
  - 1. I LOVE the FATHER HEART of Apostle PAUL
  - 2. He KNEELS and PRAYS WITH THEM ALL
  - 3. They CRY LOUDLY, HUG and KISS PAUL, and their HEARTS BROKE

*V 38 What broke their hearts the MOST were his words; You will not see my face again.*

- 4. They WALK HIM to the SHIP, and he MOVES FORWARD into DESTINY

**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED – MOVE FORWARD**

### III. LESSONS of Paul's LIFE

A. It is IMPORTANT HOW we RUN the RACE

- 1. Humility in Conduct
- 2. Resolve to GIVE our ALL
- 3. Enduring to the FINISH LINE

B. It is IMPORTANT HOW we TREAT one ANOTHER

1. **WATCHING** one another's **BACKS**
2. **BEING MINDFUL** of others' **NEEDS**
3. **RESPECTING, HONORING,** and **ENCOURAGING** one another
4. **REMAINING ON GUARD**
  - a. Our **OWN HEARTS FIRST**
  - b. **OTHERS** in **HARM'S WAY**
5. **LIVE** a **LIFE** of **INTEGRITY**
  - a. **WORK HARD** and **SUPPORT** the **LESS FORTUNATE**
  - b. **WORSHIP GOD** and **NOT MAMMON**
  - c. Be **MINDFUL** of **HOW** you **MEASURE SUCCESS** in your **LIFE CALLING**
6. **HONOR** your **FATHERS** and **MOTHERS** in the **FAITH**