Witnesses to Christ

Commended to God and His Word
Lesson 17
Acts 20:1-21:14

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
April 24, 2016
Acts – A New Day Dawns

- Clarity
- First coming of Christ is complete
- Christ is the final revelation of God – must be recorded
- The work of salvation is complete and visible

**Major changes:**
- No new Gospel
- Increased role of the Holy Spirit
- No need for the Law of Moses
- Israel is “set aside”
- World-wide spread of the Gospel
- New structure for the believing community – decentralized
Key Texts in Acts

- Acts 1:8 – the mandate – witnesses to Christ
- Acts 2 – the coming of the Holy Spirit
- Acts 15 – the place of the Law of Moses
- Acts 20 – the nature of Christian ministry or life without the Law and the nation
Witnessing to Christ

- Begins in Jerusalem (1-7)
  - Coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost
  - Initial witness to Christ
  - Early church function
  - Persecution by Jews

- Spread through Judea and Samaria (8-12)
  - Pattern of Pentecost repeated
  - Salvation of Paul
  - Salvation of Cornelius
  - Persecution by governmental authority
  - The word of the Lord continued to grow . . . (12:24)
Paul’s Third Missionary Journey
Three Sermons by Paul

- Antioch – Sermon in the Synagogue – Jews
- Athens – Sermon on Mars Hill – ignorant pagans
- Asia (Miletus) – Sermon to Ephesian elders – the believing community
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- Travelogue (20:1-16) – Ephesus to Miletus
- Sermon to Ephesian Elders (20:17-38)
- Travelogue (21:1-14) – Miletus to Caesarea
Travelogue - Ephesus to Miletus
Acts 20:1-16

- Ephesus to Corinth (20:1-2)
  - Paul exhorted the disciples in Ephesus
  - Ministry to Yugoslavia (Romans 15:19)
  - Collection of gift for poor in Jerusalem
  - Epistles: 2 Corinthians, Romans

- Corinth to Troas (20:3-6)
  - Companions with gift (20:4)
  - Luke joined Paul in Macedonia
  - Passover in Philippi
  - Five day trip to Troas
The Incident with Eutychus

- Stayed 7 days
- First day of the week – broke bread
- A long sermon – until midnight
- Eutychus fell asleep and fell out of a 3rd story window
- Paul raised him from the dead
- Paul resumed speaking and continued until dawn
- A lesson on the ways of God
Troas to Miletus (20:13-16)

- Paul went by land to Assos
- Party sailed to Mitylene, Chios, Samos and Miletus
- Skipped Ephesus – hurrying to Jerusalem for Pentcost
Paul’s Testimony (20:17-38)

- Final word to the churches
- Serving the Lord
- Humility – lowliness of mind
- Plots of the Jews – tears and trials
- Did not shrink from declaring what is profitable
- Ministry to Jews and Gentiles
- Repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ
- Bound by the Holy Spirit
- Testifying the Gospel of the grace of God
Paul’s Exhortation (20:25-35)

- Innocent of the blood of all men
- Be on guard for yourselves and the flock of God
  - Savage wolves – from within and without
  - Admonishing with tears
- Commended to God and to the Word of His grace
  - Sovereign grace
  - The Living Word
- Old Testament pattern: recurring covenants
  - Joshua 24:14-25 – choose today; make covenant
  - ASA (2 Chron 15:12); Jehoiada/Joash (2 Chron 23:16); Hezekiah (2 Chron 29:10); Josiah (2 Chronicles 34:31); Ezra (Ezra10:3)
- Better to give than to receive
Travelogue - Miletus to Caesarea
Acts 21:1-14

- Sailed from Miletus to Cos, to Rhodes to Patera
- Sailed from Patera, past Cyprus to Tyre (Phoenicia)
- Tyre
  - Unload cargo
  - Stay 7 days
  - Warning through the Spirit
- Tyre to Ptolemais to Caesarea
  - Philip – one of the seven
  - 4 virgin daughters who were prophetesses
  - Agabus prophesies bondage for Paul
  - “The will of the Lord be done.”
A Response

- Commended to God – thanksgiving
- Commended to His Word – zeal
- The will of the Lord be done!