

February 18, 2024
Acts 20:1-16 "Gathering"

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Vv 1-4, Paul left Ephesus and traveled north to Troas, then to Philippi where he met up with Titus. Titus had good news to share from the church at Corinth. While there in Philippi Paul wrote **II Corinthians** and sent it on ahead while he remained in Philippi for an undisclosed period of time.

Paul arrived in Corinth and stayed there for 3 months. During this time Paul penned the letter to the **Romans**, to a church he had not founded nor visited up to this point.

Although Luke never mentions it in this section of Scripture, Paul was very dedicated to taking up and delivering an offering for those suffering in Jerusalem. This offering from Gentiles to Jews could only bolster unity between the two people groups and could help in the spread of the gospel. This offering delivery was a personal sacrifice for Paul. It was in the opposite direction in which he wanted to go. He desired to go to the unreached region of Spain; he didn't want to build on any other man's foundation, **Romans 15:20**, but first, the offering. Unity is essential for a healthy church.

Vv 5-6, After this trip, Paul makes his way back to Philippi and there he celebrated the Passover. For the first time since **Acts 16:17**, Luke includes himself in the narrative by use of the "we" passages. One word composed of two letters is used powerfully by God to give clarity to His Word. By this "we" - we know Luke is the author of Acts.

Vv 7-12, They remained in Troas for one week, any explanation as to why Luke didn't mention the offering or why they remained in Troas would be an argument from silence, so we will not go there. The Bible can never say what it has never said, it can never mean what it never meant. Do not go beyond what is written. I Corinthians 4:6.

V 14, The city of Mitylene is on the isle of **Lesbos**, birthplace of the poet, Homer. **Samos**, birthplace of the founder of mathematics, Pythagoras. Then on to the mouth of the Maeander River, in the seaport city of **Miletus**, home of Thales of Miletus a Greek mathematician, astronomer, and scientific philosopher who lived around 624-546 B.C. Philosophies and world views oh my! Think about "World Views" and how they impact evangelization. By the way, consider your own "World View." What is a "World View?"

Application: What was Paul's motivation? His love for the Lord, people, a concern for unity between Gentile and Jew, and the Lord's church compelled him, his "World View" in view here. Consider what compels you to do the things you do. What motivates you in your Christian walk? Consider **Proverbs 16:2**.