

Acts 18:22- 20:38
Ministry in Ephesus

I. *Strengthening the Churches – 18:22-23*

- The Galatian Region (Derbe, Lystra, Iconium)
- Ministry: Acts 13-14; 16:1-6; 18:22-23
- Likely Paul's earliest Epistle
- Authorship Never in Dispute
- Brief Outline
 - A. Defending the Gospel – 1:1-10
 - B. Defending Apostleship – 1:11-2:21
 - C. Relationship between Law and Grace – 3:1-4:11
 - D. Life in the Spirit – 4:12-5:26
 - E. The Law of Christ – 6:1-10
 - F. Closing Exhortation – 6:11-18

II. *Ministry in Ephesus – 18:24 – 20:1*

- A. The Disciples of Apollos – 18:24-28
- B. Future Apostolic Center: home to Timothy, John the Apostle, Mary the Mother of Jesus
- C. Roots of the Pauline Community – 19:1-10
 1. Gentile God-fearer disciples or Jewish Synagogue members who were followers of John the Baptist's Message
 2. Not familiar with the Message of Jesus Christ, but rather with the expectation that the kingdom was approaching.
 3. Conversion-Initiation: Belief, Baptism, Reception of the Spirit
 4. Three Year Ministry at Ephesus – at the “scholē,” result was “all of Asia” hearing the word
 5. Important to grasp Paul's Urban Center strategy: City to Country
 - a. *Dialelogomenos*: argumentation
 - b. *Didaskalos*: instruction
 - c. *Kerygma*: preaching
- D. Confrontation of the Powers: Acts 19:11-41
 1. The Continuing Battle with Idol-Demons (see 1 Corinthians 10)
 2. 50,000 drachmas: 1 drachma was a day's wage: 135 *Years* of Salary
 3. War with Diana of the Ephesians
 4. Temple was Massive – like a modern stadium; cult of women and fertility; images had multiple breasts; Temple complex completely run by women. Does this have any bearing on 1 Timothy 1:3-4; 2:11-12?
 - The “assembly”: *ekklēsia* – the elect company called out of the city to govern the city. That is the same word used for “church.”
 - Note 19:21-22: probably at this time the epistles to Corinth are written

III. *In Transition to Jerusalem – 20:2-38*

- A. Visit to Macedonia and Greece – 20:1-4 (note his “apostolic company”)
- B. Romans written while at Corinth (to prepare the way ahead of his planned visit – Romans 15:7-33; 16:1-5)
- C. Journey Back to Miletus: 20:5-16
 - Eutychus – “lucky;” indeed he was! Patron saint of all sermon sleepers
 - “His life is in him” – what many preachers must keep saying to themselves when they see the dozers!
 - Perhaps Paul had in mind the early Christian Hymn, recorded for us in Ephesians 5:14
- D. Exhortation and Prayer with the Ephesians Elders: 20:17-38
 - 1. Commitment of the Elders to Paul
 - 2. The Reason is Clear Enough: Paul’s commitment to them and the truth of the Gospel – 20:19-21, 24, 27, 33-34
 - Non-Gospel quotation of Jesus: Acts 29:35
 - 3. Paul’s Message: 20:21 (Repentance and Faith); 20:24 (Gospel of Grace); 20:25 (Kingdom of God); 20:27 (Whole Counsel of God).
 - 4. The Work of Elders – 20:28 ff
 - a. Watch yourselves
 - b. Watch the flock
 - c. Shepherd
 - The “blood of God”