IN POWERED DISCIPLESHIP

An Inductive Study of the Book of Acts

Leading Disciples

Acts 20:1-38

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Focal Passages

- **Scripture Reading Volunteers:**
  - ✓ *Acts 20:17-24*
  - ✓ *Acts 20:25-31*
  - ✓ *Acts 20:32-38*

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Acts 1:8

"But you will receive **POWER** when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

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PAUL'S 3RD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
53-57 AD
We pickup the story in Miletus, where Paul stops briefly to reflect before traveling on to Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost.
Jews celebrated the giving of the Law, while Christians celebrated the giving of the Holy Spirit.
MACEDONIA
THRACE
BLACK SEA
BITHYNIA AND PONTUS
MARMARA SEA
ASIA
AEGEAN SEA
ACHAIA
CARIA
LYCIA
PAMPHYLIA
CILICIA
COMMAGENE
SYRIA
PHOENICIA
ABILENE
NABATEA
JUDEA
DEAD SEA
Philippi
Neapolis
Amphipolis
Thessalonica
Berea
Apollonia
Thasos
Samothrace
Lemnos
Troas
Assos
Lesbos
Mitylene
Pergamum
Thyatira
Sardis
Philadelphia
Smyrna
Ephesus
Hierapolis
Laodicea
Colossae
Chios
Samos
Patmos
Miletus
Cos
Rhodes
Patara
Attalia
Antioch in Pisidia
Iconium
Lystra
Derbe
Tarsus
Issus
Antioch
Aleppo
Seleucia Pieria
Cyprus
Sidon
Tyre
Damascus
Ptolemais (Acco)
Caesarea Maritima
Jerusalem
Ankara (Angora)
Lake Tuz
Euboea
Athens
Corinth
Sparta
PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
City
One of the "Seven Churches" (Rev. 2-3)
Paul's route

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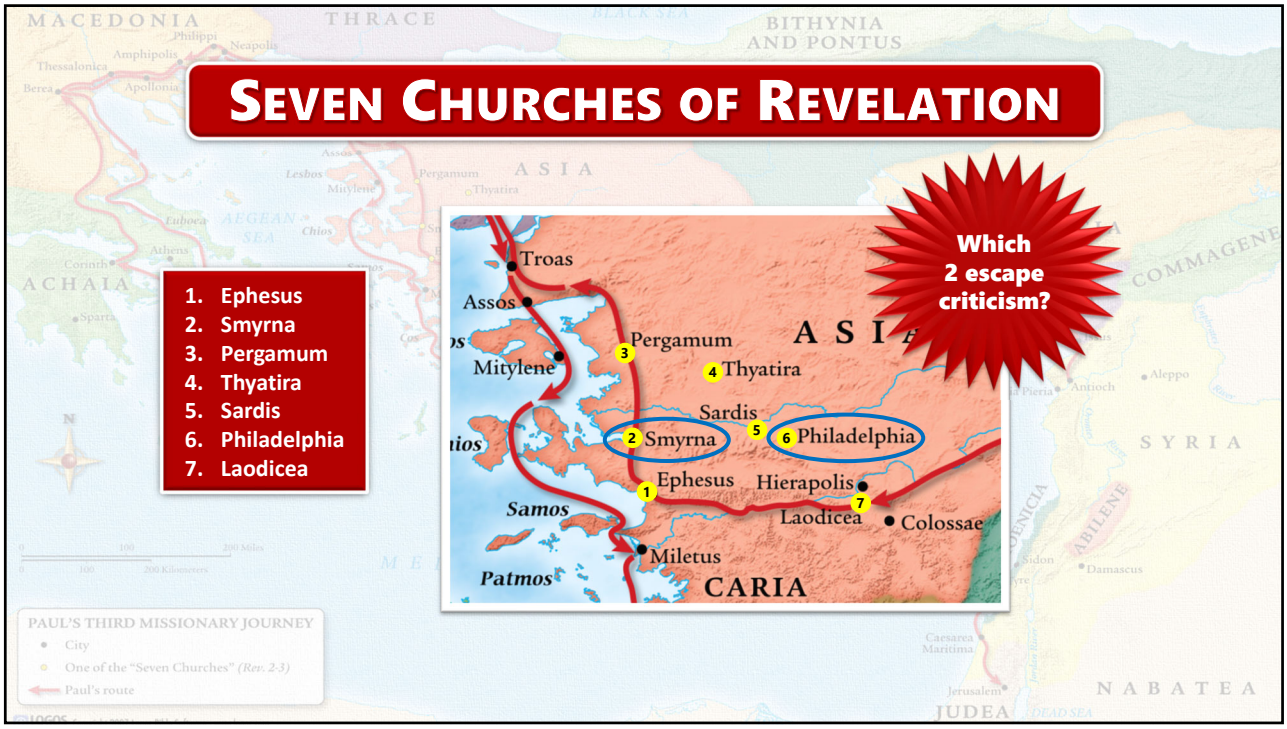
SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION
1. Ephesus
2. Smyrna
3. Pergamum
4. Thyatira
5. Sardis
6. Philadelphia
7. Laodicea
Which 2 escape criticism?
Troas
Assos
Mitylene
Pergamum
Thyatira
Sardis
Smyrna
Philadelphia
Ephesus
Hierapolis
Laodicea
Colossae
Samos
Patmos
Miletus
CARIA
ASIA
PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
City
One of the "Seven Churches" (Rev. 2-3)
Paul's route

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Servant Leadership

Acts 20

Key Word

ENCOURAGEMENT

- **Acts 20 is Luke's conclusion for Paul's three missionary journeys.**
- **From this point forward Paul's focus will be on Rome, even though the road takes him through Jerusalem.**
- **The key word for this chapter might well be Encouragement.**
- **Wherever Paul went, he focused on this crucial ministry desperately needed in so many churches, then and now.**

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Personal Testimony

Acts 20:17-24

17 Now from Miletus, he sent to Ephesus and summoned the elders of the
church. 18 When they came to him, he said to them, "You know, from the first
day I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, 19 serving the Lord
with all humility, with tears, and during the trials that came to me through the
plots of the Jews. 20 You know that I did not avoid proclaiming to you anything
that was profitable or from teaching you publicly and from house to house.
21 I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith
in our Lord Jesus.

22 "And now I am on my way to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit, not
knowing what I will encounter there, 23 except that in every town the Holy
Spirit warns me that chains and afflictions are waiting for me. 24 But I consider
my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course and the
ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace.

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Leading By Example

Acts 20:17-24

Leadership Model

1. Physically present
2. Continually engaged
3. Willfully serving
4. Humble attitude
5. Compassionate
6. Tenacious
7. Courageous
8. Wise/Knowlegable
9. Desire to teach
10. Available

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18 When they came to him, he said to them, "You know, from the first day I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with tears, and during the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. 20 You know that I did not avoid proclaiming to you anything that was profitable or from teaching you publicly and from house to house.

Sound like anyone else you may know?

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Personal Testimony

Acts 20:21-24

1. **Finish my course**
2. **Testify to the gospel**

21 I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus. 22 "And now I am on my way to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit, not knowing what I will encounter there, 23 except that in every town the Holy Spirit warns me that chains and afflictions are waiting for me. 24 But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace.

What was Paul's two-fold purpose according to this passage?

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Personal Responsibility

Acts 20:25-31

25 "And now I know that none of you, among whom I went about preaching
the kingdom, will ever see me again. 26 Therefore I declare to you this day that
I am innocent of the blood of all of you, 27 because I did not avoid declaring to
you the whole plan of God. 28 Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock
of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the
church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. 29 I know that after my
departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.
30 Men will rise up even from your own number and distort the truth to lure
the disciples into following them. 31 Therefore be on the alert, remembering
that night and day for three years I never stopped warning each one of you
with tears.

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Personal Responsibility

Acts 20:25-31

What three things did Paul charge them with doing?

Warn them about what?

- **Paul's parting words to the Ephesian Elders serve as a challenge to all leaders, now and then.**

1. **Guard the Flock**

   "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers" (v. 28a)

2. **Shepherd the Flock**

   "shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood." (v. 28b)

3. **Warn the Flock**

   "be on the alert, remembering that night and day for three years I never stopped warning each one of you with tears" (v. 31)

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Personal Responsibility

Acts 20:25-31

29 I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Men will rise up even from your own number and distort the truth to lure the disciples into following them.

Who were the "Savage Wolves?"

From where would they come?

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Personal Example

Acts 20:25-35

32 "And now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all who are sanctified. 33 I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. 34 You yourselves know that I worked with my own hands to support myself and those who are with me. 35 In every way I've shown you that it is necessary to help the weak by laboring like this and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

36 After he said this, he knelt down and prayed with all of them. 37 There were many tears shed by everyone. They embraced Paul and kissed him, 38 grieving most of all over his statement that they would never see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

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Living By Example

Acts 20:32-38

Paul's Missionary Journey Legacy

Living & Leading by Example

- **Not only did Paul teach them how to lead, but he also taught them how to live as leaders:**

1. He taught them to feed on the Word (v. 32)
2. He taught them not to covet (v. 33-35)
3. He taught them how to work hard (v. 34)
4. He taught them how to care for the weak (v. 35)
5. He taught them to memorize Scripture (v. 35)
6. He taught them to pray (v. 36)
7. He taught them to love each other (v. 36-38)

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Living Testimony

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs."

Edgar Guest
British-born, American Poet
1881-1959

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INPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP

Living & Leading by Example

- What will be your legacy? What is your personal testimony about God working in and through your life?
- How have leaders of our church been an encouragement to you in your Christian growth? How have they lived and lead by example for you?
- Have you thanked and encouraged them lately?

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INPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP

An Inductive Study of the Book of Acts

Faithful Discipleship

Acts 21:18-23:35

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