

Paul's Love for the Church

Acts 20:1-16

PART THREE

Introduction

The Unquestionable and Unsurpassable Love of the Apostle Paul

Philemon 7-20

Love for Jesus Christ was the single, inexhaustible driving force in Paul's life. And it is to be the driving force in all believers as they strive to imitate Paul (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

Philippians 3:17

Philippians 4:9

1 Corinthians 4:16

1 Corinthians 11:1

The power of Christ's love explains why Paul is so "afraid" for the sake of the believers at Corinth:

2 Corinthians 11:2-3

"afraid" 'frightened, alarmed; exceedingly afraid.'

"sincere" Gk *haplotes*; 'simplicity, singleness.'

Paul was consumed with concern for the saints in the churches:

2 Corinthians 11:28-29

"anxiety" Gk *merimna*; from *merizo* 'to be divided, disunited by discord.' (through the idea of distraction):
"care that brings disruption to the personality of the mind" (Zodhiates).

"made to fall" Gk *skandalizo*; 'to entrap, trip up, or entice to sin, apostacy.'

"indignant" Gk *puroumai*; 'to ignite; set on fire; literally 'I burn.'

v1 - v2

2 Corinthians 2:12-13

2 Corinthians 7:5-9

v3

Unstoppable! That's the unfailing power of Paul's undying love for the Church.

v4

These were representatives from the major areas where Paul had established churches.

This is a beautiful picture of Christian unity!

All these Gentile churches banding together just to give generously to the poor Jewish Christians in Jerusalem.

v6

v7

“the first day of the week” Sunday

Paul met with the Christians for what would be an early Christian worship service consisting of:

1. gathering together on Sunday,
2. breaking bread (Communion),
3. preaching, (apostle’s teaching)
4. sharing a meal together (fellowship; v11).

v8 - v9

v10

There were some unmistakable connections to the resurrection of Christ.

v11 - v12

v13

Paul chose to walk the 20 or so miles to Assos so he could enjoy the fellowship and share the gospel.

v14 - v15

v16

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7

5 basic ways the believer CARES for the Church:

1. **C**omfort the saints (2 Cor. 1:4)
2. **A**dmonish the saints (Col. 1:28)
3. **R**estore the saints (Gal. 6:1)
4. **E**ncourage the saints (Heb. 10:25)
5. **S**erve the saints (Gal. 5:13)

“Pursue love” 1 Corinthians 14:1