

1 **NT History****Part 26**

Acts 20:1-17 Macedonia, Illyricum, and Retrospect on Corinth

2 **Review of Paul's Ministry**1. Damascus Acts 9:19-21; Galatians 1:17; Acts 9:23-25
31-32

2. Arabia/Nabtea Gal. 1:17; 2 Cor. 11:32 32-33

3. Jerusalem Acts 9:26-29; Rom. 1:16 33/34

4. Syria/Cilicia Acts 9:30; 11:25-26 34-42
Tarsus

5. Syria – Antioch Acts 11:26-3-; 13:1 42-44

6. Cyprus Acts 13:4-12 45

Salamis

Paphos

3 **Review of Paul's Ministry**

7. Galatia Acts 13:14-14:23 45-47

Pisidian Antioch

Iconium

Lystra

Derbe

Pamphylia Acts 14:24-26 47

Perge

8. Macedonia Acts 16:6-17:15 49-50

Philippi

Thessalonica

Berea

4 **Review of Paul's Ministry**

9. Achaia Act 17:16-18:28 50-51

Athens

Corinth

10. Asia Acts 19:1-41 52-55

Ephesus

Troas Acts 20:1; 2 Cor. 12:12 55

Macedonia

11. Illyricum Rom. 15:19 56

11b. Corinth Acts 20:2-16 57

Philippi
Troas, Miletus

5

6 **Difficulty of the Work in Ephesus**

- 1Cor. 15:32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”
- Rom. 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.
- 1Cor. 16:8 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. 9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

7 **Acts 20:1-3**

¹ After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and departed to go to Macedonia. ² Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece (Achaia – Corinth) ³ and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

8 **Interlude – Corinth and Illyricum**

1. Review Paul’s interaction with the church in Corinth.
2. Paul’s ministry in the province of Illyricum (north of Macedonia).

9 **Corinth**

- Paul spent 18 months in Corinth in A.D. 50-51.
- He would visit at least 2 more times and write them at least four letters: ‘previous letter’, 1 Corinthians, ‘severe letter’, 2 Corinthians.
- Paul wrote a letter to them even before 1 Corinthians, the ‘previous letter’
 - 1Cor. 5:9 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.
- The Corinthians wrote a letter to Paul, which he responded to in 1 Corinthians.
 - 1Cor. 7:1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

10  **Corinth**

- 1 Corinthians was written during Paul's ministry in Ephesus.
- 1Cor. 1:4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- The church in Corinth was blessed with some of the charismatic gifts – 1 Cor. 12, 14.
- The church also had some severe issues: divisions, sexual immorality, misunderstanding of the resurrection, and a failure to acknowledge Paul's leadership and authority.

11  **Corinth**

- Sometime during in his ministry in Ephesus, Paul visited Corinth again. This is sometimes called the painful visit.
- After this painful visit, Paul wrote the 'severe' letter to Corinthians.
- 2Cor. 2:1 But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow...³ And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. ⁴ For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.
- 2Cor. 7:8 For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. ⁹ Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

12  **Corinth**

- After the end of Paul's ministry in Ephesus (A.D. 52-55), Paul wanted to visit the Corinthians again, but he was concerned about how he would be received.
- Paul, therefore, sent Titus to Corinth to determine what was taking place there. Titus was to have rejoined with Paul in the city of Troas.
 - 2Cor. 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord, ¹³ I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia.

13 **Corinth**

- Eventually Paul met up with Titus in Macedonia and heard the good news that the Corinthians had repented of its opposition to Paul's leadership. (2 Cor. 7:5-16)
- Not all was well in Corinth. There were still those who questioned whether Paul was truly led by the Holy Spirit because of all his sufferings.
- Paul wrote 2 Corinthians from Macedonia to explain the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit in his life, ministry, and message. 2 Corinthians also was written to prepare the way for Paul's third visit with them.

14 **Illyricum**

- With the situation under control in Corinth, Paul most likely ministered in the province of Illyricum before heading south to Corinth from Macedonia.
- A scholar quoted by Eckhard Schnabel, Jerome Murphy O'Connor, argues that Paul had not been involved with pioneer missionary efforts for several years because of his work in Ephesus and dealing with other problems, particularly in Corinth. His coworkers had been able to found new churches – Colossae, Laodicea, Hierapolis. The church in Corinth finally made peace with Paul. "Now all were tranquil. A free summer was a golden opportunity to again seek virgin territory...the prospect must have been irresistible. In any case, Paul did not restrain himself. He went to Illyricum."

15 **Illyricum**

- 1 Rom. 15:18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which

Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient — 19 in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ

16  **Acts 20:1-6**

¹ After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and departed to go to Macedonia. ² Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece (Achaia – Corinth) ³ and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

Rom. 16:23 Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother.

17  **Acts 20:4-6**

⁴ And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. ⁵ These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas. ⁶ But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

1Cor. 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: ² On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. ³ And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem.

18  **Philippi to Troas**

¹ Acts 20:6 But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

19  **Acts 20:7-11**

⁷ Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. ⁸ There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. ⁹ And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was

sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him." ¹¹ Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. ¹² And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

20 **Acts 20:13-17**

¹³ Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had given orders, intending himself to go on foot. ¹⁴ And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. ¹⁵ We sailed from there, and the next day came opposite Chios. The following day we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium. The next day we came to Miletus. ¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. ¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

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27 **Conclusion**

- "There is no question that Paul deliberately planned missionary initiatives, sometimes years ahead of their realization, but always remained open to divine guidance and the exigencies of historical circumstances: he prays, he acts as a result of dream-visions, and he realizes that not all plans can be carried out."

- Eckhard Schnabel, *Early Christian Mission*, p. 1481