

Chapter Twenty

Chapter 20

- Verse 1 begins with, “After the uproar had ceased,”.
 - Do you think this was the end of all persecution for Paul and his companions?
 - Do any of us ever get to a place where we can safely let down our guard and believe that “the uproar has ceased”?
 - As long as we are faithfully proclaiming the truth of the Word of God, can we also be certain that we will meet with resistance and persecution?
- How does verse 3 answer the previous question regarding continued persecution?
- According to verse 6, what festival did Paul celebrate while in Philippi?

- Why might it be significant to note this?
- From this reference, can it be fairly stated that Paul was no longer “Torah observant” and thought that the Torah was “done away with”?
- Verse 7 states, “On the first day of the week, when the disciples were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day; and continued his speech until midnight.”
 - Traditional Christianity frequently uses this text to argue that the early “Christians” met on Sunday.
 - It is critical to understand that the word “day” is not in the Greek text, it is inserted by translators. The actual sentence literally states, “On the first of the week”.
 - According to Jewish reckoning of time, a new day begins after sunset, therefore, the above reference indicates Paul is talking about the time after sundown on the weekly Sabbath (Saturday). The fact that he continues preaching until midnight is further evidence of this. It can hardly be argued that Paul held a “Sunday morning service” and preached until

midnight!

- According to verse 8, “There were many lights in the upper room where we were gathered together.”
 - Exodus 35:3 states, “You shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations on the Sabbath day.”
 - The source of the flames would either be those still burning that were set prior to the Sabbath or were lit after the conclusion of the Sabbath after the setting of the sun.
- Verses 9-12 relates the story of Eutychus, whose name means “fortunate”. This young man fell asleep and apparently fell three stories and was taken up dead.
 - Some think that the young man did not actually die. Luke, who recorded the story, was a Physician and stated that “he was taken up dead”. Do you think he was wrong in his diagnosis?
 - If the young man had not died and was brought back to life, why would the text say the others were “greatly comforted”?
 - What did Paul do?

- What was the result?
- What impact do you think this had on their faith and the validity of Paul's ministry?
- Verses 13-16 relate Paul's travel itinerary.
 - According to verse 16, Paul wanted to arrive in Jerusalem to participate in which feast?
 - From this reference, can it be fairly stated that Paul was no longer "Torah observant" and thought that the Torah was "done away with"?
- Verses 17-38 record Paul's farewell address.
 - In verse 19, how does Paul describe his service to the believers?
 - How does verse 20 speak to his response to the trials he endured?
 - According to verse 21, did Paul minister to both Jews and gentiles?
 - In verses 22-23, Paul relates his being "bound by the Spirit" in his direction forward, despite rumors or pending afflictions.

- How is that a model for all believers?
- How does verse 24 provide clarity to us regarding Paul's priorities and values?
- How can we apply the same to our own lives?
- In verse 26, Paul alludes to the responsibility to fully declare the "whole counsel of God".
 - Would this statement of Paul be true if, as is later claimed, he rejected the authority of the Torah?
 - As an aside, this author has always chosen to utilize his personal Bible teaching outlines and Scripture lists when counseling and teaching others. This practice is based on Paul's words here regarding the "best practice" model of "declaring the whole counsel of God" rather than limiting that teaching and counsel to the smaller subset of memorized facts and Bible verses.
- In verses 29-30, Paul warns about false teachers.
 - How does he describe their ethics and tactics?
 - From where do these false teachers emerge?

- Why do you think it is important to recognize this fact?
- Does the claim to be a Bible teacher, theologian, pastor, etc., automatically confer unquestioned authority or are they also subject to the Word of God and accountable to its “teaching, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness” as outlined in 2 Tim 3:16?
- What is the apparent motivation of these false teachers?
- In verses 31-35, how does Paul relate his own work ethic as an example in contrast to these false teachers?
 - What does this ethic say to some in ministry today who appear to have an inordinate affection for money and personal wealth?
- In verses 36-38, we see Paul’s final farewell.
 - What did he do?
 - What was the response of the believers?