

## The Way Growth of the Church

### Lesson 13: Paul's Third Missionary Journey – Antioch to Troas

*\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\**

#### Review (Where We've Been)

##### *The "Over Time" Spread of the Gospel...*

- **34AD** Saul Converted/Commissioned to Take the Gospel to Gentiles (Acts 9)
- **48AD** Paul's First Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14) – *about 1 ½ years*
- **49-51AD** Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Acts 15-18) – *about 2 ½ years*
- **52-57AD** Paul's Third Missionary Journey (Acts 18-21) – *about 5 years*

#### BIG Idea

Paul did not settle down in Antioch because one of Paul's great aims in life was to take the Gospel to those who had never heard.

**Romans 15:20 (NLT)** My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. **21** I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says, "Those who have never been told about him will see, and those who have never heard of him will understand."

"Taking the Gospel to those who haven't heard should be the purpose of every Christian. We should do all we can to fulfill Jesus' command to take the Good News to every person. Not all go to other places as Paul did. Nevertheless, we can all pray for and help support those who do go." – Firm Foundations

#### Information (What You Need to Know)

Paul sets out from Antioch on his third missionary journey (52AD) and revisits the established churches so that he may strengthen them (reminding and teaching).

**Acts 18:23 (ESV)** ...he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.



## Glimpses of the Gospel on the Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey...

### ■ Paul in Ephesus (3 years)

“Paul ministered in Ephesus about 3 years (52–55AD). His reaching the residents of Asia reflects his missionary strategy of setting up in the major cities and sending coworkers into the surrounding region to establish churches.” – ESV Study Bible  
**Acts 19:1 (ESV)** ...Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples.

✓ Paul speaks in the synagogue for three months, but faces opposition

**Acts 19:8 (ESV)** And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. **9** But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them...

✓ Paul reasons in the hall of Tyrannus (lecture hall) for two years

**Acts 19:9 (ESV)** ...he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. **10** This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. “An ancient writing (not inspired) said Paul held meetings at the school of Tyrannus from 11am-4pm. Most people rested from work at these times, including Paul, who worked while ministering in Ephesus.” – David Guzik

✓ Paul wrote a letter to the church at Corinth (1 Corinthians) while in Ephesus

✓ Paul casts out demons and witnesses people rejecting the practice of magic

**Acts 19:19 (ESV)** And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all... **20** So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

✓ As the word of God prevailed, Satan stirred up opposition against Paul

○ The silversmiths, who made idols of the goddess Artemis (*Diana in Roman mythology*) and sold them, lost income as people turned to the Lord

**Acts 19:23 (ESV)** ...there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. **24** For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. **25** These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. **26** And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. **27** And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.”

- The silversmiths stirred up the crowd, and Paul left after this incident  
**Acts 19:28 (ESV)** When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” **29** So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul’s companions in travel. **30** But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him.  
**Acts 20:1 (ESV)** After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.

- **Paul in Macedonia and Greece**

- ✓ Paul visited those who believed during his previous journey to Macedonia  
**Acts 20:1 (ESV)** ...he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. **2** When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement...
- ✓ While in Macedonia (Philippi), Paul wrote another letter to Corinth (2 Corinthians)
- ✓ Paul travels to the Greek city of Corinth (he stays there 3 months)
  - He taught and encouraged the people who believed during his first visit
  - He wrote a letter to the church in Rome (Romans) while in Corinth

- **Paul left Corinth for Troas**

- Acts 20:6 (ESV)** ...we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.
- ✓ The church gathered on the first day of the week and broke bread  
**Acts 20:7 (ESV)** On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread...  
 “They obeyed the Lord’s command to remember His body and blood, which He gave as the payment for sin. We call this Communion/The Lord’s Supper.”
- ✓ The church listened to the Scriptures being taught  
**Acts 20:7 (ESV)** ...Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.
- ✓ Paul performed a miracle in the church at Troas  
**Acts 20:9 (ESV)** And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. **10** But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, “Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.” **11** And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. **12** And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

## Application (What You Need To Do):

I'm ending with a question.

Why didn't Paul simply settle down in Antioch? *Because it was his life's ambition to take the Gospel to those who have not heard*

We cannot say that taking the Gospel to other people is someone else's job.

It's our responsibility.

### *All may not go, but all can...*

- Prayerfully support those who have gone (locally or globally)
- Financially support those who have gone (15% of all giving goes to support local and global spread of the Gospel and strengthening of churches)
- Prayerfully consider your own calling to local and global missions (is God asking you to go?)
- Willingly volunteer to go when we have opportunities (short-term missions)
- Strategically determine our calling, as a church body, to plant and send out

“Every saved person this side of heaven owes the gospel to every lost person this side of hell.” – David Platt