



STORY

Paul's Third Missionary Journey - Acts 18:23 - 21:14)

TEACHER PRAYER

Lord God, heavenly Father, "Your Word is a Lamp unto my feet and a Light unto my path." Through Your precious, saving Word strengthen my faith and lead me into all truth. Bless my study and help me to teach Your lambs. Strengthen their faith as well. Bless the teaching of Your Word wherever it is proclaimed, and let Your Kingdom come. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

VOCABULARY

itinerant - traveling from place to place or on a circuit; a person who so travels

exorcist - one who casts out demons

OUTER AIM

Paul's third great missionary journey

INNER AIM

The Word of God is proclaimed; the Church grows

BACKGROUND (*Rupprecht, Bible History References, vol. 2, pp. 524-586*)

Acts 18:23-28 Paul left Antioch after some time to revisit the brethren in Asia Minor. He traveled through the provinces of Galatia and Phrygia, "strengthening the disciples." A man named Apollos came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent speaker and well-versed in the Scriptures. Aquilla and Priscilla instructed him more thoroughly. Paul went on to teach in Achaia. *Note:* This third missionary journey of Paul lasted about four years. Three of those years were spent in Ephesus, one of the largest cities of Asia Minor.

Acts 19:1-20 Paul at Ephesus. About 12 disciples were further instructed by Paul. They together with Paul taught in the Jewish synagogues for three months. Then Paul moved to the school of Tyrannus, where he and the disciples taught for two years. Everyone in Asia heard the Word of the Lord. Paul also performed many wonderful miracles.

Acts 19:21-41 Paul labored in Macedonia and Achaia. He planned to go to Jerusalem and then later on to Rome. While still in Ephesus, there was an uproar led by a man named Demetrius, the silversmith.

Acts 20:1-6 Paul again went into Macedonia, then on to Greece. There he labored three months. When the Jews again plotted against him, he headed for Syria. He returned through Macedonia.

Acts 20:7-12 Paul spent seven days in Troas. There Paul raised from the dead the man who had fallen asleep during his late night service and had fallen down from the upper loft.

Acts 20:13-21 - 21:14 Paul is heading for Jerusalem and the feast of Pentecost. He goes by ship. He is in a hurry. He makes various stops along the way. He stops at Miletus and calls for the elders of the church in Ephesus to meet him. He gives them his farewell. He goes on to Jerusalem. He's warned about what awaits him there. He's determined to go anyway.

STUDENT PRAYER TLH #507 1 and 6

Spread, oh, spread thou mighty Word,
Spread the kingdom of the Lord,
Wheresoe'er His breath has given
Life to beings meant for heaven.

Lord of Harvest, let there be
Joy and strength to work for Thee
Till the nations far and near
See Thy light and learn Thy fear. Amen.

PRESENTATION

A map showing places mentioned in this lesson would again be helpful. This enables the students to better visualize where Paul and his companions sojourned.

APPLICATION

Paul the apostle was both pastor and missionary. He reached out to the unchurched and ministered to the church. He returned and revisited the churches and brethren seen on earlier missionary journeys. He also sent pastoral letters to them. He practiced what he preached. In his epistles, he stressed the importance of 'continuing in the things once learned' and 'confirming one another in the faith.' The same is still true today.

In this lesson we continue to see how "the Lord added daily to the church such as should be saved."

The missionary activity of Paul vividly demonstrates the Lord's promise; "So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." Is. 55:11

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Mark 16:15 - "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

Rom. 10:13 - "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Middle

Prov. 3:5 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding."

Prov. 3:6 - "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Upper

Is. 55:11 - "So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

Matt. 9:37-38 - "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

John 15:16 - "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give it to you."

HYMN CHOICES

Saints of God, the Dawn is Brightening - TLH #502

Send Thou, O Lord, to Every Place - TLH #506

Thou Whose Almighty Word - TLH #508