



FAITH

& LOVE

Church of God in Christ

Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C
Bible Band

Lesson 7 April 14, 2026

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY
JOURNEY

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PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY



Background Reading:

- ❖ Mark 1:4
- ❖ Acts 18:24-28; 19:1-20
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 3:4-5

Devotional Reading:

- ❖ Acts 20:17-27

Guided Questions

1. Why was it so important for Paul to get to Jerusalem?
2. What was the purpose of this third missionary journey?
3. What was the motivating power that drove Paul?
4. What ultimately led to the conclusion of the third missionary journey?

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Background Reading

Mark 1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

Acts 18:24-28

24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

Background Reading

Acts 19:1-20

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Background Reading

Acts 19:1-20

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

7 And all the men were about twelve.

8 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

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Background Reading

Acts 19:1-20

11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.

14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

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Background Reading

Acts 19:1-20

16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

17 And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

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Background Reading

1 Corinthians 3:4-5

4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

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Devotional Reading

Acts 20:17-27

17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Devotional Reading

Acts 20:17-27

22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

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Central Verse

Acts 20:24 (KJV)

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”

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INTRODUCTION

Paul had spent a great deal of time on his second missionary journey. He returned to Antioch tired, worn, and weary, but he was encouraged at the work that God had allowed him and the missionary team to accomplish. Antioch was a major center for the early saints and served as a launching place for many of Paul's endeavors. Paul left Antioch and traveled to the regions of Galatia and Phrygia to visit and strengthen the congregations that he and his team had founded during his earlier missionary journeys. To make sure of their doctrinal soundness and unity.

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INTRODUCTION

Paul understood the importance of continued discipleship, encouragement, and correction where needed. The letters that he wrote to the churches, which later became part of the New Testament Bible, were written because he took the time to visit and see the needs of the people. After checking on the established churches, he was able to start at least two new churches.

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DISCUSSION

After Paul left Antioch, he revisited established churches in the regions of Galatia and Phrygia in Asia Minor, visiting churches in Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Pisidian Antioch. These were churches that he established on his first missionary journey, but he didn't stay long in those areas. He soon moved on to Ephesus, where he spent a considerable amount of time. Paul spoke boldly in the synagogue, where strong opposition came. He relocated to the lecture hall of Tyrannus and continued to teach daily. He ended up staying in Ephesus for about two years, during which time many people from the province of Asia heard the Word.

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DISCUSSION

Both Jews and Greeks were able to hear and receive the Word. God used Paul to work many miracles of deliverance and healing. Wherever God is moving and working, the believer can be assured that Satan will come to stir up some opposition. As the gospel flourished, local artisans saw their business threatened.

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DISCUSSION

A silversmith named Demetrius stirred up the people by telling them that Paul's teaching against their crafted gods was contrary to the teachings of God and had caused the people to refuse to buy their idols. Paul's teaching of Jesus as Lord caused the people to denounce the goddess Diana, which brought considerable financial gain to the sellers of these idols. This led to a riot, which the city officials later managed to defuse. So, Paul left Macedonia in northern Greece, where he had sent Timothy and Erastus. He went to the cities of Philippi and Thessalonica to encourage the Saints in those cities. He also visited southern Greece, where he revisited Corinth and addressed many problems within the Corinthian church. It is said that while he was there, he wrote First and Second Corinthians to correct the unseemly behavior of some of the members there.

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DISCUSSION

He finally left Macedonia and went to Troas. In an upper room gathering, Paul spoke until late into the night. He preached for a long time because he had plans to leave the next day. A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in a window seat, fell from a third-story window and was believed to be dead. Paul went down and ministered to him, presenting him back alive and whole. Paul then went back, served communion, and talked until morning. Then his team departed by ship for Assos while he took a coastal route and walked to Assos, where his team picked him up.

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DISCUSSION

Then they all traveled to Mitylene, Tropylium, and Miletus along the southwest coast of Asia Minor. He bypassed Ephesus, as he did not want to linger there, preferring to reach Jerusalem by Pentecost. So, He had the Elders from Ephesus to meet him in Miletus. They met with him, and he prayed with them, encouraged them, warned them against false teachers, and shared with them the hardships he would face in Jerusalem. After tearful good-byes, the Ephesian Elders said their good-byes, and he got back on the ship and departed.

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DISCUSSION

Paul and his team sailed to Patara, then to Tyre in Syria, where they stayed a week. They sailed to Ptolemais, where they stayed briefly before going to Caesarea, where they stayed with Philip the Evangelist. They remained with Philip for many days.

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CONCLUSION

While Paul was in Caesarea, one of the prophets from Judea, named Agabus, came. He warned Paul not to go to Jerusalem. He told Paul that the Holy Ghost had let him know that things would not be good for him if he continued to Jerusalem. He told Paul that the Jews there would catch him, bind him, and give him over to the Gentiles. Paul let them know that he was not afraid, because he was ready to give his life for the sake of Jesus Christ and for the name. The Saints finally stopped trying to persuade Paul from going to Jerusalem.

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CONCLUSION

They finally got with him and drove him in their carriages to Jerusalem. They were greeted warmly at first and were given lodging in the home of Manson, an old disciple. The Jews greeted him and asked many questions, until a significant disagreement came because some of the Jews were not in agreement with Paul's acceptance of the Gentiles. They felt that he was disregarding Moses' teachings on circumcision and other aspects of the law. These Jews had accepted Jesus and the Holy Spirit, but they still felt the need for the law and other Jewish customs in the context of their loyalty to God.

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CONCLUSION

After several days of Paul's teaching, a group of Jews stirred up the crowd, and they grabbed Paul, and he was arrested and turned over to the authorities. This ended his third missionary journey.

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ESSENTIAL THOUGHT

**If a person's conviction is worth living for,
then it is worth dying for.**

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NEXT LESSON

April 21, 2026

Believers Dealing with Storms