

Fact Sheet for **“Be Encouraged and Stand Firm”**
Acts 20:1-16

Pastor Bob Singer
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Look at Paul's heart for believers and the difficulties he encountered along the way.

There was nearly a riot in Ephesus, instigated by Demetrius and the silversmiths.

ESV ¹ ¶ After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.

Consider even the reason for Paul's 2nd and 3rd missionary journeys (Acts 15:36; 18:22-23).

Paul mentioned this time in 2 Corinthians 2:12-13 and 7:5-7.

Paul wrote 2 Corinthians while here.

² When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. ³ There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

While in Greece Paul wrote Romans. Read Romans 15:23-29 for further context.

⁴ Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.

⁵ These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, ⁶ but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

They made this 150 mile trip in five days.

⁷ ¶ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

They met on Sunday.

Likely not communion

⁸ There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered.

Sleepy atmosphere

⁹ 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.

“And she's not only merely dead: She's really, most sincerely dead!” (Munchkins in the Wizzard of OZ)

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."

Cf Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 17:21; 2 Kings 4:34-35)

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.

“Eutychus” – lit. “good fortune” or “fortunate”

¹³ ¶ But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land.

¹⁴ And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. ¹⁵ And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus.

¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

You know what kind of reception Paul had in Jerusalem!

When you look at Paul's motivations and life experiences be encouraged in your faith.

Keep eternity in mind (Hebrews 9:27)

For the unbeliever (Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15)

For the believer (Ecclesiastes 12:13; Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10)

Criticism for our beliefs (2 Corinthians 2:15-16)

Money isn't everything (Matthew 16:26)

Sharing the Gospel (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 10:13)

Training our children (Galatians 5:22-23)

Be encouraged in your faith even when others don't like it (John 16:33).

Speak up when you can make a difference (Colossians 4:6).