

BELIEVERS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP  
February 23, 2014

Lesson No.27

The Road to Rome  
Acts 20-23

- Paul and the Local Church
- Paul and the Local Pastors

*"click either the picture or hyperlink to watch video clips"*



Return to Jerusalem  
Acts 20-21:17



Famine Relief  
1 Corinthians 16:1-2



An Ungrateful Spirit  
Acts 21:18-19



Facing the Accusations  
Acts 21:20-40; 23:1-11

Key Verse: Acts 23:11 And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou has testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

**I**ntroduction: Soon after the riot in Ephesus, Paul left the city and made his way toward Macedonia, just as he had planned. [Acts 19:21](#)

1. Paul and the Local Church: [Acts 20:1-12](#) At Troas Paul expected to meet Titus and get a firsthand report of the situation in Corinth. He had sent Titus there to help correct some problems. When Titus did not arrive, Paul continued to Macedonia visiting the churches. [2 Corinthians 2:12-13](#)

- First Day of the Week: Christian worship took place every Sunday evening at the end of the work day.
- Weekly Gatherings: Included "preaching scripture" "worship of God" "breaking of bread" "prayer time" and "gift giving" [Acts 4:42-47; 20:7-12](#) and [1 Corinthians 16:1-2](#)
- The idea of "breaking bread" takes on different meanings: (1) Communion or the Lord's Table; (2) A Meal to refuel the body; and (3) a Love Feast [Galatians 2:10-12](#)

2. Paul and the Local Pastors: [Acts 20:13-38](#) While at Miletus Paul called for the Ephesian Elders "overseers" Paul's address to the Ephesian pastors reveals the way he ministered to the local church. All the churches knew Paul's message and his methods:

- Paul served the Lord, not man.
- Paul was a humble leader, not a proud dictator.
- Paul knew what it was to water the seed of the Word of God with tears.
- Paul preached the whole counsel of God publicly and house to house.
- Paul preached to all classes of people and exalted Jesus Christ.

I. Paul's Present Burden: vv.22-24 Paul was bound in his spirit (not the Holy Spirit) to go to Jerusalem. [Acts 19:21](#) and [Romans 10:1-4](#)

II. Paul's Warning of Future Danger: vv.25-35 Paul was not concerned about himself; he was concerned about the church and its future.

III. Paul's Farewell Blessing: vv.36-38 Paul knelt down and prayed with the Elders. They wept, knowing that this would be their last time seeing Paul this "side-of-eternity"