The farewell journey begins

[Text: Acts 20:1-12]

We will study this portion in two parts.

### Acts 20:1-3

When Paul is at **Ephesus**, 1 Cor 1:11; 16:17 People from Corinth come to tell him disturbing news about the serious factions within the Corinthian church. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians.

Paul gives his farewell message in Ephesus (may have been similar to Acts 20:18-35)

He set out to **Macedonia** to catch up with Timothy and Erastus Acts 19:22, 2 Cor 2:12,13

He reached **Troas** on the way to Macedonia, where the Lord opened a door for him but Paul did not stay! Hoped to meet Titus but did not meet him.

Reached **Macedonia** 2 Cor. 2:13. Here he is comforted by arrival of Titus and writes 2 Corinthians (2 Cor 1:6-7) and sends the letter through Titus and two others.

Paul probably spent several months revisiting and encouraging the Macedonian churches he had founded, namely **Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea**

Paul finally arrived in **Greece** and to **Corinth** in Achaia and stayed there three months. Wrote his letter to Romans.

At Corinth, he was about to board a ship to **Syria** but heard of a Jewish plot and so decided to go back via Macedonia.

Paul did so much difficult travel for the sake of the gospel. Encouraging churches was very important to him.

### Acts 20:4-12

This was the city where Paul and Silas had arrived, having been denied the opportunity to minister in Bithynia and in Asia (Acts 16:6-8) and it was here that he received the Macedonian-call vision (Acts 16:9-10). By God’s grace the gospel had reached Troas and there was a church there.

This is the first clear reference to the custom of the church to gather on the first day of the week, rather than on the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday), probably because Sunday is the day Jesus arose from the dead.

Sunday was not a holiday in the Roman Empire and the slaves and others would have had to work; the church would have met on Sunday evening.

Eutychus, whose name means “Lucky” may have been a young slave who had worked all day, and now was sitting on the window ledge, trying to fight off sleep as he listened to Paul. We know that Eutychus had really died because Dr. Luke would know.

The miracle was not emphasised. It is almost as though Paul looked at his watch and said, “Oh my, we have just lost 20 minutes of teaching time, let’s quickly go upstairs and break bread and then I have some more things which I need to teach you before I leave.” I believe that both Luke and Paul were firmly convinced that while miracles would come and go, the Word of God would be eternal. I believe that both were convinced that while miracles will not sustain faith, the Word of God will. Faith is not based upon what is seen (miracles, for example), but on hearing the Word of God.

