

**NOTHING ENCOURAGES AND STRENGTHENS  
THE PEOPLE OF GOD, LIKE THE WORD OF GOD!  
ACTS CH20:1-16**



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**RE-CAP!**

Why are New Year resolutions made? It is argued that the holidays around New Year, are indeed the most optimistic of all holidays! What is a resolution? A decision to do or not to do something! The 3 most common New Year resolutions are:

1. To improve fitness!
2. To improve finances!
3. To improve mental health!

Here is mine to the Church - The Reverend John Stott (died – 27.7.2011) became a Christian in February 1938 when Eric Nash (known as Bash) came to evangelise, Stott said of him ***“I thank God for the man who led me to Christ and for the extraordinary devotion with which he nurtured me in the early years of my Christian life. He wrote to me every week for, I think, seven years. He also prayed for me every day. I believe he still does. I can only begin to guess what I owe, under God, to such a faithful friend and Pastor”*** (Cited in The Message of 2 Timothy, John Stott, pg29).

**POTENTIAL CHRONOLOGY OF PAUL!**

Birth of Paul	5 BC - 10 AD
Death of Jesus	AD 27 - 29
Persecution of Christians	29 - 32
Paul's conversion	30
Ministry in Arabia/Damascus	30 - 33

<b>Jerusalem (1<sup>st</sup> Visit)</b> – Acts Ch9:26-29/Gal Ch1:18	33
Syria and Cilicia	35 - 46
Antioch – Acts Ch11:26 with Barnabas	46
<b>Jerusalem (2<sup>nd</sup> Visit)</b> – Acts Ch11:30/Gal Ch2:1	47
<b><u>First Missionary Journey</u></b>	47 – 48
Antioch, Syria – Acts Ch13:1-3	
Seleucia – Acts Ch13:4	
Salamis – Acts Ch13:5	
Paphos – Acts Ch13:6-12	
Perga – Acts Ch13:13	
Antioch, Galatia – Acts Ch13:14-52	
Iconium – Acts Ch14:1-6	
Lystra – Acts Ch14:6-19	
Derbe – Acts Ch14:20-21	
Lystra – Acts Ch14:21-23	
Iconium – Acts Ch14:21-23	
Antioch, Galatia – Acts Ch14:24	
Perga – Acts Ch14:24-25	
Attalia – Acts Ch14:25	
Antioch, Syria – Acts Ch14:26-28	
<b>Jerusalem (3<sup>rd</sup> Visit)</b> – Acts Ch15:2	49
Apostolic Council – Acts Ch15:6-29	49
<b><u>Second Missionary Journey</u></b>	49 - 51
Antioch, Syria – Acts Ch15:35	
Derbe – Acts Ch16:1	
Lystra – Acts Ch16:1-5	
Troas – Acts Ch16:7-10	
Samothrace – Acts Ch16:11	
Neapolis – Acts Ch16:11	
Philippi – Acts Ch16:12-40	
Amphipolis – Acts Ch17:1	
Apollonia – Acts Ch17:1	
Thessalonica – Acts Ch17:1-9	
Berea – Acts Ch17:10-14	
Athens – Acts Ch17:15-32	
Corinth – Acts Ch18:1-17	
1 Letter to the Galatians (Place - Corinth - Acts Ch18:1-17)	49
2 + 3 Letters 1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians (Place – Corinth - Acts Ch18:5)	50/51
Cenchreae – Acts Ch18:18	
Ephesus – Acts Ch18:19-21	
Caesarea – Acts Ch18:22	
<b>Jerusalem – (4<sup>th</sup> Visit)</b> Acts Ch18:22	
Antioch, Syria – Acts Ch18:22	51
<b><u>Third Missionary Journey</u></b>	52 - 57
Antioch, Syria – Acts Ch18:22	
Ephesus – Acts Ch19:1-40	52 - 55
Corinth – Acts Ch20:2-3	55 - 56
4 + 5 Letters 1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Corinthians (Place – Ephesus – Acts Ch20:1)	55 - 56
6 Letter to Romans (Place – Corinth – Acts Ch20:2-3)	56
Philippi – Acts Ch20:6	
Troas – Acts Ch20:6-12	
Assos – Acts Ch20:13-14	
Mitylene – Acts Ch20:14	

Chios – Acts Ch20:15	
Samos – Acts Ch20:15	
Miletus – Acts Ch20:15	
Cos – Acts Ch21:1	
Rhodes – Acts Ch21:1	
Patara – Acts Ch21:1	
Tyre – Acts Ch21:3-6	
Ptolemais – Acts Ch21:7	
Caesarea – Acts Ch21:8-14	
<b>Jerusalem (5<sup>th</sup> Visit + Final Time)</b> Acts Ch21:15-17	57
Imprisonment in Caesarea	57 - 59
Journey to Rome	59 - 60
House arrest in Rome	60 - 63
7, 8, 9 + 10 Letters to Ephesians, Col, Phil, Philemon	
11 + 12 Letters to Timothy (1 <sup>st</sup> Tim Ch1:3) + Titus (Ch3:12)	62
Second imprisonment - Rome	63 - 68
13 + Final Letter 2 <sup>nd</sup> Timothy	63 - 68
Martyred by beheading	68

### **PAUL'S TEAM! V1-6**

V1 + V2 – Encouraging with words of exhortation (to strongly encourage) and comfort, words of challenge and conviction, first for the disciples at Ephesus and then for the disciples in the Macedonian Churches – Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea. Romans Ch15:19 cites Paul as going as far as Illyricum (possibly Albania), before he arrives in Greece where he stays for 3 months in Corinth! Encouraging the Church with God's Word!

V3 – Paul and the disciples find out that the hostile Jews are plotting to harm him during the voyage back to Syria, and so he chooses to travel back through Greece and Macedonia by land, reducing the risk to his life, but still determined to arrive at Jerusalem (Ch19:21).

### ***Why name the team?***

Berea	-	Sopater the son of Pyrrhus
Thessalonica	-	Aristarchus + Secundus
Derbe	-	Gaius (probably the same person Ch19:29)
Lystra (Asia)	-	Timothy
Asia	-	Tychicus
Ephesus (Asia)	-	Trophimus (Acts Ch21:29 + 2 Tim Ch4:20)
Philippi (Macedonia)	-	Luke Ch16:10-16 + Ch20:5-Ch21:18

***Is it because 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians Ch16:3-4 tells us that Paul intended that local representatives from the planted Churches he had founded should convey the money collected for the poor Christians in Jerusalem?***

### **PAUL'S TALKS! 7-12**

V7 – For the first time in Acts we are told by Luke that the Church are meeting together, moving away from the traditional Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) to the Lord's Day (A Sunday because the Lord rose on a Sunday), providing us also with what Church looked like:

1. V7 - They met on the Lord's Day!

2. V7 - There was a long sermon – tea time to midnight
3. V11 - Breaking of bread
4. V11 - Another long sermon – just after midnight to morning

But seriously, what about the miracle in the middle of all this, Eutychus being prayed over and brought back to life, a teenager V8-12.

### **PAUL'S TRAVELS! 13-16**

The total distance from Troas to Neapolis is around 156 miles and with a favourable sea wind the journey could be done within a couple of days, although the return journey took 5 days (Acts Ch20:6)! Here for the first time we find Luke's fascination with details of sea travel (Ch16:11-13; Ch20:5-6, 13-17; Ch21:1-8; Ch27:1-Ch28:16). Bird watcher's are known as "Twitchers" but those who - passion is the seas and voyages, what are they known as? "Squids!"

Luke sees a parallel between Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, recorded in his first Book (Gospel of Luke) and Paul's journey to Jerusalem, recorded in Acts, his second Book!

1. Jesus travelled to Jerusalem with His disciples – Luke Ch10:38, Paul travels with disciples Ch20:4!
2. Jesus was opposed by hostile Jews - Luke Ch6:7, Ch11:53-54, Ch22:1-2, Paul is opposed by hostile Jews Ch20:3!
3. Jesus made 3 successive predictions of His sufferings - Luke Ch9:22, Ch9:44, Ch18:31-32, Paul does likewise Ch20:22-23, Ch21:4 and Ch21:11!
4. Jesus declared His readiness to lay down His life - Luke Ch12:50, Ch22:19, Ch23:46, Paul does also Ch20:24 and Ch21:13!
5. Jesus was committed to completing His mission - Luke Ch9:51, so too is Paul Ch20:24 and Ch21:13!
6. Jesus expressed His abandonment to the Will of God - Luke Ch22:42, the same is of Paul Ch21:14!

### ***Paul's alone time! - v13 Paul walks about 20 miles by himself, why? Look at Romans Ch15:30:***

1. Join me in my struggle by praying
2. Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Jerusalem
3. Pray that my service will be acceptable in Jerusalem
4. Pray that by God's Will I will be able to come to you

### **APPLICATION**

- January 21<sup>st</sup> is our first Nepal Meeting for 2024!
- Pray for TEAM – Template, Elevate, Ate, Motivate!
- Pray for finances!
- Pray for wisdom!