

## **Paul Goes to Jerusalem**

Acts 20:1 – 21:17

by Don Falkos

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Paul left Ephesus for Macedonia and Greece, where he spent three months encouraging believers. On his way back he stopped at Troas. He was speaking to a group of believers in an upstairs room, and since he was leaving them the next day, he talked well into the night. A young man named Eutychus was sitting on the windowsill. He fell asleep and dropped three stories to his death. Paul went down, took the young man in his arms, and said to the others, "Don't worry, he's alive!" Eutychus was taken home alive and well. Paul continued talking until dawn, and then he left them.

Paul and his companions sailed down the coast of Asia Minor. The leaders of the church at Ephesus went to meet with Paul in Miletus. He told them, "I am going to Jerusalem, where the Holy Spirit tells me I will suffer. I know none of you will ever see me again. Guard yourselves and God's people. False teachers will come. So watch out! Help the weak, and remember what the Lord said. 'There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.' " Paul prayed with them, and with much sorrow they sent him on his way.

At Caesarea on the Sea, the prophet Agabus took Paul's belt and used it to bind his own feet and hands. Then he said, "So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and be handed over to the Gentiles."

Along the way, many people begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem. But he said, "I am ready not only to go to jail but even to die for the sake of the Lord Jesus." Paul continued on to Jerusalem where the believers welcomed him warmly.