July 25

Second Journey

From Tents to Teaching

Paul went on to Corinth and met some new people – Read: Acts 18:2, 3. Paul worked as a tentmaker – his job but – Read: Acts 18:4.

Silas and Timothy arrived from Berea and Paul took on a difficult task – Read: Acts18:5. Paul ran into opposition – Read: Acts 18:6.Because of that opposition –Read: Acts 18:7, 8.

God appeared to Paul and gave him encouragement – Read: Acts 18:9, 10. Paul stayed on in Corinth another eighteen months.

If we have heard the Good News of Jesus and refused to believe then our lost soul is totally our own fault.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Mark 1:15.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Now that I have heard your Good News, O Lord, help me not to be hard hearted and change my life for all eternity.

July 26

Second to Third Journey

An End and Beginning

Paul ended his second journey – Read: Acts 18:18-21. Antioch seems to be the beginning and ending point of Paul’s journeys. His third Journey begins by him leaving Antioch - Read: Acts 18:23. Paul covered a lot of ground and not in a Chevy, mostly on foot, perhaps on camel or donkey; the going was slow and hard. Paul’s life was not an easy one, between the trouble he got into for the Lord’s sake, the jailing, and the long miles on the road, even so Paul remained a humble, loyal servant of the Lord.

Our lives are not half as tough as Paul’s; we should have not any trouble remaining a faithful servant of the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Acts 18:22

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to keep steadfast in my faith and work through all situations to glorify your Name.

July 27

The Third Journey

In Ephesus

Paul and Apollos, a new guy on the missionary circuit, were on the same page about Jesus but not the Holy Spirit – Read: Acts 19:1-7. Paul righted the wrong and “baptized” them with the Holy Spirit, it isn’t clear if they were re-baptized or if the term baptism was used for the laying on of hands done by Paul.

Paul once again tried to reach the Jewish people in the synagogue but when they refused to accept Jesus as their Savior, Paul took those who did believe and held discussions elsewhere. God blessed Paul – Read: Acts 19:11-12. But like all good things there have to be ones that misuse the privilege – Read: Acts 19:13-16. Those that were riding on Paul’s coattails so to speak were not prepared to take the consequences of their actions. They came “clean” – Read: Acts 19:18-19.

We too, must go “by the Book” not books of horoscopes or other man-made books but the Holy Bible, God’s Holy Word in our witnessing of Jesus.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Acts 19:20

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to follow your Book, O Lord, and not to deviate to man-made ceremony.

July 28

The Third Journey

Total Unrest

A group of silversmiths were called together by Demetrius because he felt threatened by Paul’s teachings of the Lord. Demetrius made silver statuettes of the goddess Artemis and Paul was teaching against man-made gods. Demetrius was afraid of losing his livelihood if the demand for his statuettes disappeared, perhaps even the Temple of Artemis would lose its importance and when he spoke to the crowd – Read: Acts 19:28.

The whole city got caught up in the turmoil- Read: Acts 19:29-31.

Finally the city clerk took charge – Read: Acts 19:35-41. Unorganized assembly never brings about results for anyone.

Our faith is to be based on the Lord Jesus Christ, not on man-made idols.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Acts 19:32

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I, O Lord, keep my worship only onto you and keep today’s idols of greed and recreation in their proper perspective.

July 29

The Third Journey

A Lengthy Speech

When the big uproar in Ephesus was over Paul encouraged the believers, then moved onto Macedonia and beyond – Read: Acts 20:2, 3.

The people traveling with Paul and Silas went on ahead and waited in Troas. Paul and Silas stayed in Philippi until the end of the Passover then they sailed to Troas.

In Troas they spent a week, then on Sunday – Read: Acts 20:7-11. The interesting thing here is a person died, Paul revived him and he went back to the meeting and talked until dawn – no big deal, a slight imposition in the middle of the meeting!

We sometimes are asleep in our faith in the Lord, even onto death, but we too can be revived by study, worship and prayer.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Acts 20:12

PRAYER THOUGHT: May my faith be awakened with your grace and mercy, O Lord. Help me to awaken others unto your peace and love.

July 30

The Third Journey

A Quick Trip

Paul quickly moved on from Troas to Miletus, Paul was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem before Pentecost. In Miletus, Paul met with the elders he summoned from Ephesus and spoke to them – Read: Acts 20:18-35.

After an emotional departure, because they knew they would not see Paul again, Paul left by ship to Cos.

Paul sets a very good example for us to follow, although in a hurry, Paul takes time to be with the believers, encouraging and following the example of Jesus himself of humility, self-denial and dedication to God.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Acts 20:27

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I have the dedication of Paul in spreading your Gospel, O Lord.

July 31

The Third Journey

On to Jerusalem

The next day they traveled to Rhodes to Patara. Then they boarded another ship to Phoenicia, past Cypress onto Tyre in Syria. They stayed there a week and then continued on to Ptolemais, then the next day onto Caesarea. After a few days Agabus came from Judea, he prophesied about Paul – Read: Acts 21:11. The believers begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem but – Read: Acts 21:13-16.

Paul arrived to a warm welcome in Jerusalem and met with James and the Church elders – Read: Acts 21:19. What a report that must have been, three journeys packed with experiences of witnessing for the Lord, experiences both good and bad.

We would do well to learn to turn bad situations into good witnessing for the Lord, like Paul, we probably won’t land in jail like Paul, but we can turn accidents and diseases into praise for the Lord as he heals us. Even death in the family can bring us to the realization that we are not going to live forever here and that we are going to a much better place.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Acts 21:14.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for experiences both good and bad, help me with your guidance to turn bad experiences into something good.