



Overview of Third Preaching Trip

- ▶ Acts 18:23–21:17
- ▶ Approximately 2800–3000 miles
- ▶ About 4–5 years
- ▶ Have been to these cities or regions so far
 - Galatia
 - Phrygia
 - “upper regions”
 - Ephesus
- ▶ Now on to
 - Troas
 - Macedonia
 - Greece
 - And then return trip to Jerusalem



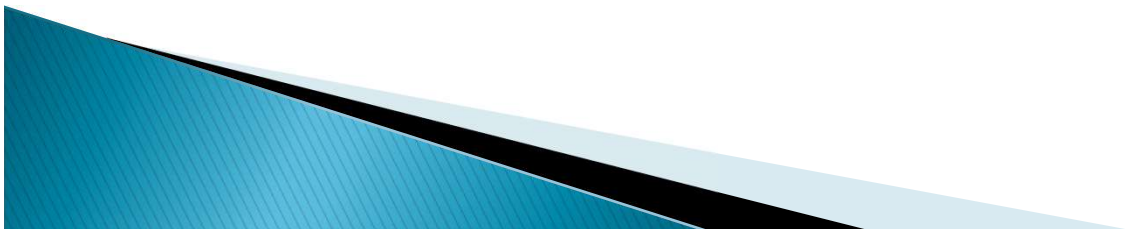
Assos, Mitylene, Chios, Samos, Trogyllium, Miletus

- ▶ From Mitylene – next day came opposite Chios
- ▶ Next day arrived at Samos; stayed at Trogyllium
- ▶ Next day came to Miletus



Meeting with the Elders from Ephesus

- ▶ Reminders, Instructions, Warnings, and Exhortations
- ▶ “You know...what manner I always lived among you”
- ▶ Paul’s example!
 - Serving the Lord
 - with all humility
 - With many tears and trials



Paul's Example

- ▶ Kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you
 - Publicly
 - House to house
- ▶ Testifying to Jews & Greeks repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ
- ▶ Not moved by these things
 - Trial awaits him in Jerusalem
 - Chains and tribulation
 - But the outcome?
 - Unknown



Paul's Example

- ▶ Does not count his life dear to himself
 - Revelation 12:11
- ▶ Determined to finish his race (course) and the ministry
 - Acts 26:16–18
- ▶ Did not shun – avoid declaring – to the Ephesians the whole counsel of God
 - Therefore:
 - Innocent
 - Ezekiel 3:17–21



Paul's Example

- ▶ Coveted no one's silver, gold, or apparel
- ▶ Provided for his necessities and for others with him
 - Ephesians 4:28
- ▶ Supporting the weak



Acts 20:28 – A Beautiful Verse to Remember

▶ Elders:

- First, take heed to yourselves
- Second, to the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers
 - Among which – which flock?
 - 1 Peter 5:2
 - Acts 14:23
- Shepherd the church of God
 - Feed and tend
 - The church of God = the saved
 - Purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God
 - Whose church is it?



Using Bible words in Bible ways

Elder = Overseer = Bishop = Shepherd = Pastor

▶ Elders – v.17

- Presbuteros, #4245
- Acts 11:30; 14:23
- Titus 1:5
- 1 Peter 5:1
- Presbytery
 - Presbuterion, #4244
 - 1 Timothy 4:14

▶ Overseers – v.28

- Episkopos, #1985
- “Bishop”
 - Philippians 1:1

- 1 Timothy 3:1,2

- Titus 1:7

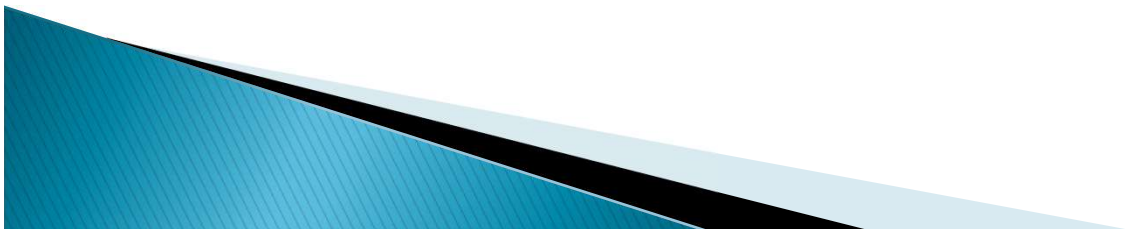
▶ “To shepherd” – v.28

- Poimaino, #4165
- “Feed”
- 1 Peter 5:2
- Pastor or Shepherd
 - Poimen, #4166
 - Ephesians 4:11
 - 1 Peter 2:25 – Christ



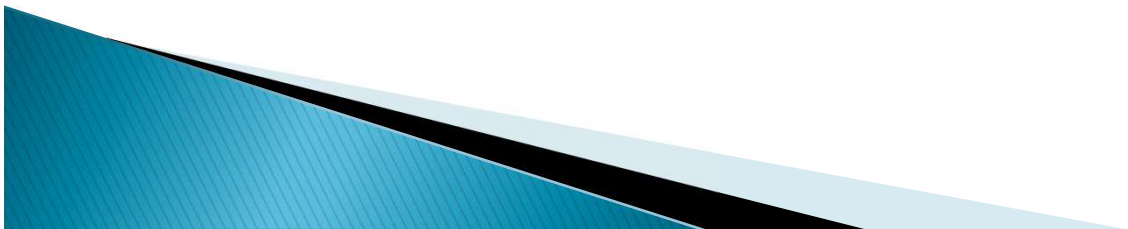
Elder (Presbyter) = Overseer (Bishop) = Shepherd (Pastor)

- ▶ Elder
 - Maturity, wisdom
- ▶ Overseer
 - Oversee, watch over the church
 - To look upon, to look at, to take care of
- ▶ Shepherd
 - Feed and tend
- ▶ How are these terms used by religions today
 - Not according to the “oracles of God”
 - 2 Timothy 1:13



Warning in Picturesque Terms

- ▶ “After my departure”
 - Opportunity
- ▶ Wolves
 - Matthew 7:15–20
 - Fruits
- ▶ Will come in among you
 - In your midst
 - Appear to be like one of you
- ▶ Not sparing the flock
 - 2 Peter 2:1–3



And even from among yourselves

- ▶ Rise up
- ▶ Speaking perverse things
 - “misleading” things
 - 2 Timothy 1:13
 - 1 Peter 4:11
 - 2 Corinthians 11:12–15
 - Wisdom needed



The powerful antidote – the one and only

- ▶ Danger: Wolves can eat you up, but they look like sheep
- ▶ What to do?
 - Watch
 - Remember
 - The word of His grace
 - Build you up
 - Save you eternally
- ▶ You mean the Book we hold within our hands has the power to save us and to keep us saved when believed and obeyed?
 - Yes!
 - What happens when we don't go *to* the Book and we don't go *by* the Book?
 - What then is the source of edification?

