



THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY

NEILL GIBSON

14B

THROUGH MACEDONIA TO GREECE

SESSION 14B

ACTS 20:1-3

- Where is Timothy at this point?
- During these three verses are also the time when 2 Corinthians and Romans were actually written.
 - 2 Cor. from Macedonia
 - Romans from Corinth
- Luke hits this rather briefly, but especially Romans is considered by many to be Paul's greatest theological masterpiece.

CORINTHIAN INTERACTION

- Relevant passages from Pierson's book:
 - p. 70-72 "Trouble at Corinth"
 - p. 73-74 "The Jerusalem Relief Fund"
 - p. 124 "Go-between" (Imaginary letter)
 - p. 131-134 "Corinth, AD 56/7"

2 CORINTHIANS 10-13

- With you we carry real authority – you are in our *sphere*. (10, esp. v. 8, 13)
- Godly jealousy (11:1-11)
- Comparison of true and false apostles (11:12-12:13)
- Conclusions (13:6-10)

REMEMBER THE ROMAN SITUATION

- Jews had been expelled under the reign of Claudius
 - This was how Paul met Aquila and Priscilla, Jews from Rome
- Romans is written from Corinth about 7-8 years later, and he sends greetings to Prisca and Aquila, who have apparently returned there.
 - This would indicate that other expelled Jews would have now returned to Rome, and the now thriving (Gentile) church there would now have an influx of believing Jews, causing something of an identity crisis. It brings up the question, "What is the role of Israel?"

REMEMBER PAUL'S TRAVEL PLANS

- The "Collection" is in full swing now, and he plans to escort it with the delegates to Jerusalem, hoping it will be well-received.
- He also is hoping to reach Rome after that is complete.
- So, he is wanting to help address the crisis in Rome, provide the proper context for Israel in the Gospel, and prepare the Roman church for his attempted visit. This is at least one angle of the occasion for his writing the book of Romans.

"The convergence of causes that motivate the letter indicates Paul's need, at this particular point of his career, to develop and clarify the fundamental issue behind his apostolate, the question of Israel's function in the gospel. This is the issue behind the collection, and it will be a central topic of conversation in Paul's forthcoming visit to Jerusalem; but it is also the issue that troubles the most illustrious church in the West: Rome."

-J. Christiaan Beker

ROMANS 9-11

- You can definitely see echoes of the "Collection" in the hope of eschatological fulfillment of the redemption of Israel, but there is a greater future hope toward which, as Paul, we need to:
 - Carry sorrow and grief for the lost sheep of the house of Israel (9:1-5)
 - Desire and pray for their salvation (10:1)
 - Move them to jealousy (11:11ff.)
 - Labor for the fulness of the Gentiles, believing to see the *all* after the *until*.

ROMANS 16

- What many gloss over, here we want to highlight.
- Prisca and Aquila alert us to the Jewish exile from Rome being complete.
- There is a treasure of relational data here, nearly more than in the other epistles combined!
 - There is a growing network of capable ministers in Paul's sphere, including of course "Timothy my fellow worker".



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