

READING THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2021 Week 20 (May 17-21)

("Let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly" ... and bear fruit in our lives) – Colossians 3:16.

Historical Context (Paul's third missionary trip).

57 AD Paul writes his Letter to the Romans from Corinth.

At the end of three months, Paul leaves Corinth, going back up through Macedonia because of the plot against him when he was about to sail. Paul is accompanied by Timothy and others, while the rest remain behind.

Crossing over from present day Bulgaria into Turkey, Paul waits for quite some a time in Troas for those who stayed behind and who were supposed to sail straight across the Aegean Sea from Corinth.

While Paul waits, Timothy is sent ahead to Ephesus as previously planned. As the delay lengthens, Paul sends a letter of encouragement from Troas to Timothy: which we know as I Timothy.

The group left behind ends up sailing from Philippi, which is 454 miles north of Corinth.

Because of the delay while waiting for the group in Troas, Paul decides not to go to Ephesus as he had intended.

When this second group arrives in Troas, Paul travels south with them another 21 miles south to Assos. They then sail down the eastern coast of the Aegean Sea to Miletus.

Having passed the port of Ephesus, and landing at Miletus, Paul sends for the elders from Ephesus (38 miles by sea, and 63 miles by land) to come and visit him.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Clarification from the Greek (the original language)</u>
Mon.	Romans 14 (:14)	Unclean = This is a teaching from the O.T. Law about what foods could and could not be eaten (cf. Leviticus 11 – which gives the Kosher (clean) and unkosher (unclean) foods. The Hebrew word "Kosher" literally means "fit". Therefore, food that is fit / appropriate / legit to eat. Jesus talks about kosher and unkosher foods in Mark 7:14-23.
Tues.	Romans 15 (:1)	Failing = "Weakness / Sickness / Disease / Stumbling / Staggering / Timidity." It is the opposite of strength.
Wed.	Romans 16 (:2)	Benefactor = The form of the word was used by the Romans to describe the legal representative of a foreigner. In Jewish communities, this described someone who was their representative before the non-Jewish legal authorities, and also someone who was a wealthy patron / contributor.
Thurs.	Acts 20 (:22)	Captive = "Having been bound." It is used to describe tying up animals, and putting people in chains. The form of the verb is something that has been done to you, and not done by yourself.
Fri.	I Timothy 1 (:4)	Divine Training = "Stewardship [we have received] that belongs to God."

While “stewardship” was first used to describe the management of a household, it came to describe every kind of activity that comes from holding office. It is the word from which we also get “economy.”

This is a stewardship that comes from God. Therefore, the next verse follows, saying “the goal / end of the order / instruction we have received ...” for the management of the household of God.

In the following verse, we pick up again the theme from the letter to the Romans, which is the obedience of faith (Romans 1:5 and 16:26) which finds expression in love (Romans 13:10).