



June 11-17, 2017

Text: Acts 21:1-19

**ACTS-ION: The Dynamic Life
of Christ's Church - Then and Now**

SUMMARY OF SERMON: As Paul headed towards Jerusalem at the conclusion of his third missionary journey he was able to stop and visit Christian groups in various cities, in some cases with Christians he had never before met. Yet in all cases there was warmth and love expressed through their mutual identity in Jesus Christ. This love enabled them to stay close in love even when they disagreed over secondary issues.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The readings this week will be about the unity of Christians: challenges and blessings.]

Monday, June 12 – **Ephesians 4:1-16** [Paul here paints both what unity in the Spirit requires on our part but also what unity in the Spirit will accomplish in terms of our maturity and effectiveness in living for Jesus.]

Tuesday, June 13 – **Psalms 133** [This short, sweet psalm celebrates God's children living in unity. It not only blesses the Lord when we live and love in unity but it also releases His blessing on us.]

Wednesday, June 14 – **Revelation 5** [This beautiful scene of heaven features those who have put faith in Jesus Christ (the Lamb of God) from all different groups of people (v.9). The unity is clearly on the crucified, risen, and glorified Lamb.]

Thursday, June 15 – **III John** [Unity in the Church is threatened when those like Diotrephes (v.9) act out of pride and self-centeredness rather than submission and love. Demetrius (v.12) lived the goodness found through submission and love.]

Friday, June 16 – **Numbers 2** [The unity of the people of Israel was the worship of God, symbolized by the Tabernacle in the center of their camp. Each of the tribes (like Christians of different denominations or cultures) have their place but the focus of their identity is on the centrality of the Lord.]

Saturday, June 17 – **I Corinthians 12:12-31** [Paul's comparing the body of Christ to the human body is a vivid analogy reminding us that unity in Christ is not uniformity. We have different personalities, gifts, backgrounds, etc. What unites us is the Holy Spirit (v.13). And love, as the following chapter famously reminds us.]



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