

Dec. 7-12

Monday, December 7, 2009 *Read: Acts 19:1-22* Next stop: Ephesus! Note how faith, baptism and the Holy Spirit belong together (verses 1-7). The Spirit creates faith and makes baptism a means of grace. Where the means of grace are, the Holy Spirit is. ***Prayer starter: Thank the Holy Spirit for working through the means of grace (Word and Sacraments) to call you to faith in Christ Jesus.***

Tuesday, December 8, 2009 *Read: Acts 19:23-41* Today's reading underscores the reality that the Christian faith will always have foes who seek to undermine the saving power of the Gospel. How good to know that when suffering and opposition comes, Jesus is with us. ***Prayer starter: Ask God to pour out His mercy upon those who suffer for Jesus' sake.***

Wednesday, December 9, 2009 *Read: Acts 20:1-12* In all likelihood, the heat from the lamps made the room warm and caused Eutychus to doze off. God used Paul's actions to bring the young man back to life. What a miracle! ***Prayer starter: Pray with Job: I know that my Redeemer lives...I myself will see Him with my own eyes – I, and not another.***

Thursday, December 10, 2009 *Read: Acts 20:13-24* Read verse 24 again – everything Paul did was designed to proclaim the gospel of God's grace. ***Prayer starter: What kind of race are you running? Ask God to help you show and speak His good news as you go about your daily tasks.***

Friday, December 11, 2009 *Read: Acts 20:25-38* What a beautiful picture of the fellowship believers share with one another when Christ is at the center of their preaching and service. ***Prayer starter: Make the words of Jesus a prayer and a reminder for the day: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."***

Saturday, December 12, 2009 *Read: Acts 21:1-14* More heartfelt emotion directed toward Paul and his safety. But Paul was traveling to Jerusalem to deliver an offering for the church and he would not be dissuaded. ***Prayer starter: Ask for the Holy Spirit's help to pray with faith, "Thy will be done, O Lord, and not my own. Amen."***