

Sometimes boring sermons have a point! Acts 20:7-12 (ESV)

They say the best time to talk about long sermons is when you're doing a short sermon. So today, it'll be a short sermon about a long sermon.

One of the funny things in post modern church culture is the comments and criticisms made about the length and depth of sermons. Some churches thrive on lengthy sermons – people devour the meaning of God's word. Other churches grow and develop from shorter sermons that are short to the point and practical. Hey, it's horses for courses. Some of the largest congregations in England have 45-60 minute sermons. Some of the largest congregations in England have 15 – 20 minute sermons.

Australia is similar, some amazingly growing churches have 45- 60 minute sermons, while other growing churches have 15-20 minute sermons. Some even have both.

Why a lengthy sermon?

Let's look at Paul's sermon here.

1. Paul had much to talk about.

⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

Some times you just want to give as much as you can . He prolonged his speech - he chose to make it longer, he chose to give them more.

2. Sometimes God stuff is not that interesting – just important.

⁹ And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.

Spiritual stuff can often seem uninteresting or not thrilling – but it is necessary. There is stuff we need to know that we don't yet know we need to know!

Comment [1]:

3. **Miracles happen sometimes.**

Was he really dead? Bible says so. So did Paul bring him back to life? No God did.

Miracles happen sometimes even in a sermon. Ever had an ah ha experience in a sermon. Ever had God confirm, challenge, encourage, or even slap you in the face by what the preacher has said?

¹⁰ But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him."

4. **Sometimes a long sermon needs to be longer. Things have got to be finished.**

¹¹ And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.

Particularly communion.

Notice – break bread (Communion and then a bit more conversation then he leaves)

Now this isn't a sermon from now till day break tomorrow. Or even tonight's going right through the night. Paul must have felt it necessary to keep giving out information.

5. **The presence of a miracle is encouraging.**

¹² And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

I think the Greek here Kathy nod of infers they were encouraged by the youth being alive AND the words preached to them.

So some thought processes here:

1: be prepared to listen - long or short. Anything could happen.

2: if the preacher preaches long ask the question, why does he think I need to know this information?

3: look out for miracles in church.

4: don't sit near the window!