

A row of lit candles in a dark setting, with a central text box. The candles are lit, and their flames are visible. The text box is white with a black border and contains the text "A SUNDAY NIGHT SERMON" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters.

# A SUNDAY NIGHT SERMON

# Acts 20:7-12 (NASB)

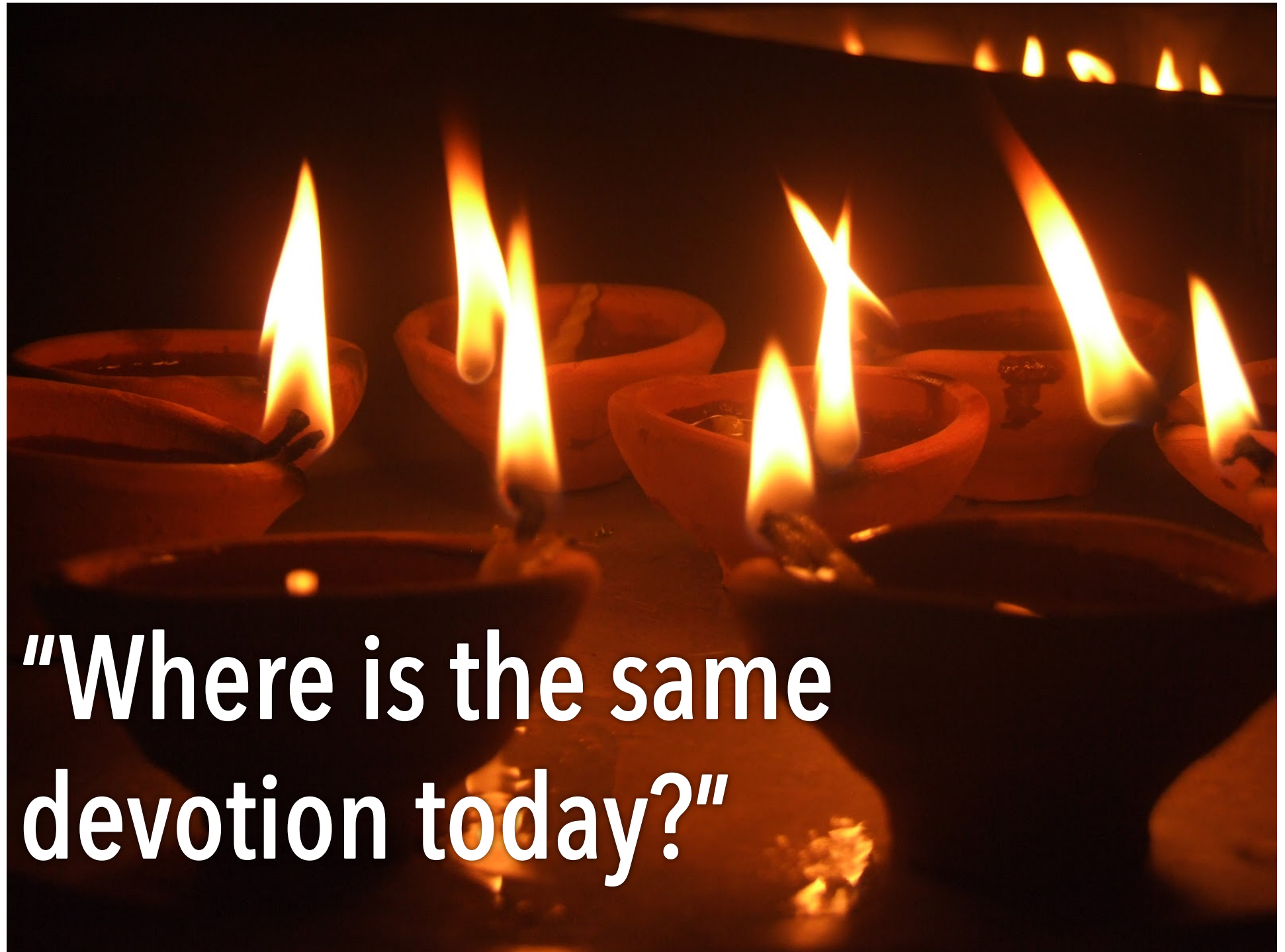
7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. 8 There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. 9 And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. 10 But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him." 11 When he had gone back up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. 12 They took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted.

# The First Day Of The Week

- This example is binding (1 Thess. 1:6, 2 Thess. 2:15), but should not be seen as limiting. Just because they worshiped on Sunday does not mean they ONLY worshiped on Sunday (Acts 2:42-47).
- Christian worship is not limited to a time or a place (John 4:21ff), but we do follow the example of the apostles and early Christians by participating in certain acts of worship every Sunday (1 Corinthians 11:23, 16:1-2).

# "He Prolonged His Message"

- With a tight schedule, Paul wanted to maximize his time in Troas. He "kept on talking", literally he "stretched out" his message.
- "There were many lamps..." They worshiped where they could, in an upper room. This place was the most convenient because it was generally wide open and got a nice evening breeze. The lamps made it possible to keep studying. All of these things are expedients that illustrate the use of tools in aiding worship and Bible study without fundamentally altering them.



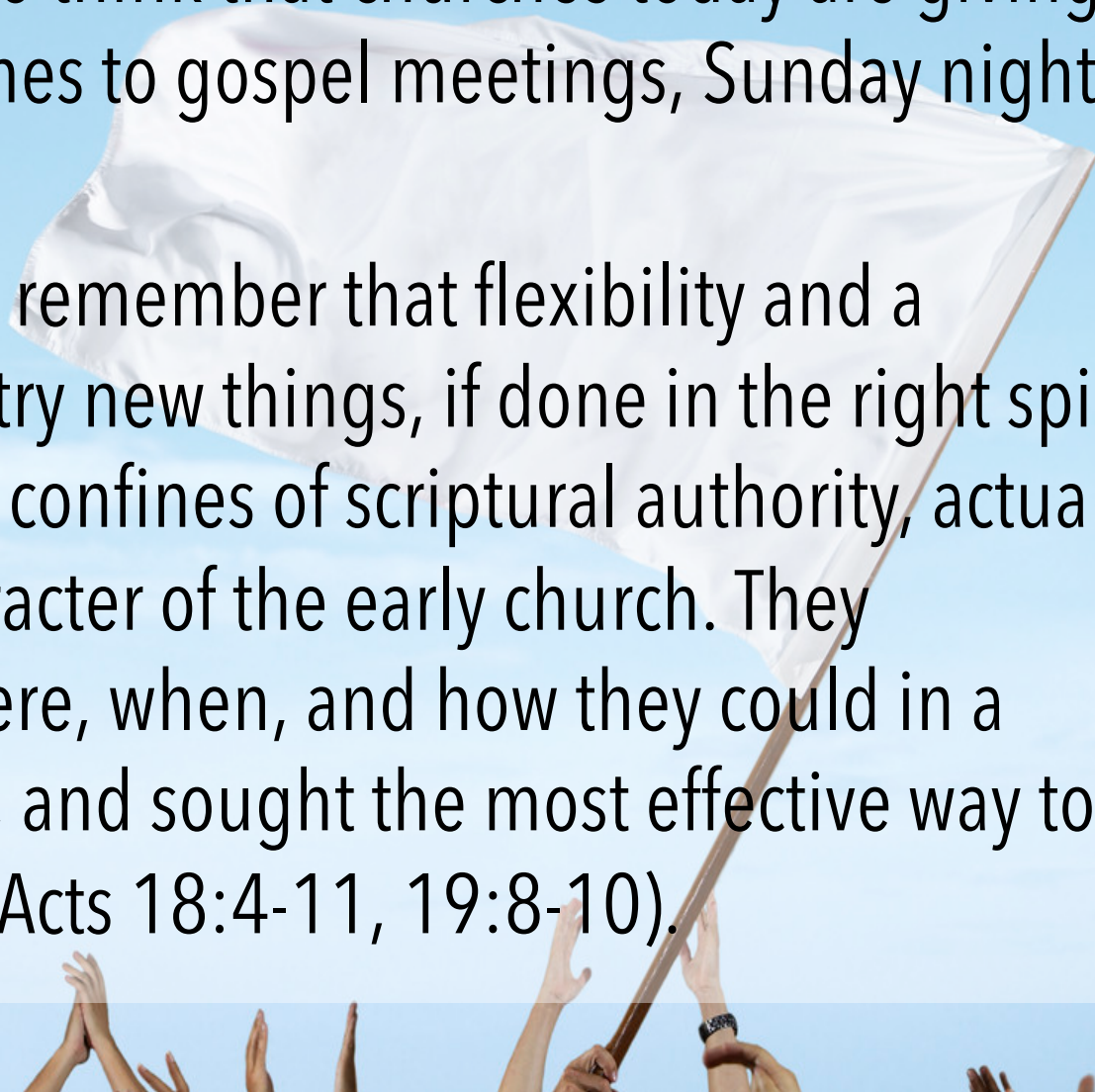
**“Where is the same  
devotion today?”**

# Preaching Until Midnight?

- On the one hand, I understand how hard it is to see priorities shift and worship/Bible study suffering for it. Is the gospel precious to us (Romans 1:16)? Is it important enough? Do we long for it (1 Pet. 2:2)?
- On the other hand, we have to live in the world as it is, not how it used to be. We must take an approach to worship and Bible study that actually works and not mope around with an "ideal" stuck in our heads. Would it work to preach until midnight today? Would that be effective?

# Waving The White Flag?

- It is tempting to think that churches today are giving up when it comes to gospel meetings, Sunday night worship, etc.
- But we have to remember that flexibility and a willingness to try new things, if done in the right spirit and within the confines of scriptural authority, actually reflect the character of the early church. They worshiped where, when, and how they could in a hostile culture, and sought the most effective way to reach the lost (Acts 18:4-11, 19:8-10).



# Reality Hurts, Literally

- Eutychus is an illustration of the realities that Christians have always faced:
  - Human bodies get sleepy
  - There is only so much one can take
  - The “limit” is often linked to age, maturity, experience, engagement, physical condition, culture, and “what you’re used to”
  - The body is a thing to be harnessed, not used as an easy excuse (1 Cor. 9:27, 1 Thess. 5:6ff). Worship and Bible study should not be made to intentionally push the body, but is not *vice versa* also true?



