

Paul's Critical Words to the Elders at Ephesus

Acts 20:17-35

Background Details (17)

¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

Life Lessons From Paul's Life & Ministry (18-27) – REVIEW

1. Paul Lived His Life Consistently (18)

¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you,

2. Paul Served the Lord Continually (19)

¹⁹ "serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews;

3. Paul Taught Others Unreservedly (20-21)

²⁰ "how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ "testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Paul Faced Spiritual Resistance Bravely (22-23)

²² "And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ "except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.

5. Paul Purposed to Finish Successfully (24)

²⁴ "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

6. Paul Embraced Friendships Loosely (25)

²⁵ "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more.

7. Paul Succeeded Fully at God's Assignment (26-27)

²⁶ "Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. ²⁷ "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

Paul's Two-Fold Charge to the Ephesian Elders (28-31) – REVIEW

1. Pastor the Flock

• Take Heed to Shepherd Yourselves (You're Sheep Too)

²⁸ "Therefore take heed to yourselves

• Take Heed to Shepherd God's Flock

and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

2. Protect the Flock

• From flock-consuming, self-feeding wolves from outside

²⁹ "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

• From flock-dividing, self-promoting teachers from inside

³⁰ "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

• Because of the very urgent and real danger

³¹ "Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

Northridge Baptist Church – Pastor Kevin Subra – November 17, 2013

Paul's Final Words to the Ephesian Elders (32-35)

5 Principles for a Proper Perspective

1. Draw on God and His Helpful Word

³² "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

• To build you up

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, *[noun form]*

• To give you an inheritance

Col 3:23-24 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

2. Keep Your Focus Off of Money Or Things

³³ "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. (See 1 Tim 6:6-11; Matt 6:33)

3. Provide for Yourselves By Your Own Labors

³⁴ "Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me.

Paul worked with his own hands to provide for:

• His own needs

• The needs of those with him

Acts 18:3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.

1 Cor 4:12 And we labor, working with our own hands...

Eph 4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

1 Thes 2:9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

1 Thes 4:11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,

2 Thes 3:7-9 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, ⁹ not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

4. Labor in Order to Help Those that Are Weak

³⁵ "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak.

1 Thes 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

2 Tim 4:20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.

5. Seek to Give Rather than to Receive

And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."