

Series: "Finishing What was Started"

C.R. 2-4-24

"Paul the Pastor"

Text: Acts 20: 17-21

Intro: For most of the study in this great book we have seen Paul the evangelist. He has been travelling, and church planting, and moving from place to place. We have seldom been able to peek into what it was like while he stayed with a group. For the next two weeks we get to do that. We get to hear from his own words what it was like in Ephesus in that 3 year time frame (v.31) and he pastored those around him.

1) He was not Lazy (v.17-19a)

- a. Paul was able to say you guys know how I lived among you.
- b. Serving the Lord. He served.
- c. Service cannot be done lazily.
- d. Note v.35. You do not have to convince people that you have worked hard. They will know it.
- e. Paul was devoted. He loved them, and because they mattered to God they mattered to him.

2) He Was Humble (v.19)

- a. Notice. He served with Lord with all humility
- b. It is interesting to note how he said look at how I have lived in front of you.
- c. Paul first calls attention to himself as an example. Not an example instead of Jesus, but an example as he followed Jesus.
- d. **Guzik:** *Paul didn't act like a religious celebrity and expect people to serve and honor him; he just wanted to be serving the Lord with all humility.*
- e. There are so many bad examples of what it means to follow Jesus.
- f. Those who talk more about themselves than Jesus are not the examples that we should want to follow.

- g. With many tears. What a heart that Paul had. If the Pastor will weep for you and over you, then he indeed is not a shepherd.

3) He Faced Discouragement. (v.19)

- a. Paul mentions the trials he faced.
- b. Swindoll: Ministers who avoid sexual immorality, greed, and pride still must struggle with unfair criticism.
- c. He faced spiritual darkness, personal rejections so severe that many wanted to see him dead.
- d. But, he did not let the discouragement win. Jesus meant more.

4) He Faced Fear. (v.20)

- a. The Greek word shrink means “to hold oneself back” or “to draw away”.
- b. There have been many cases of intimidation in the church.
- c. Paul said “ I didn’t let the fear win, because you needed what was being taught”.
- d. It is difficult to go out in this world who hates our message, but it is appalling at how we must face it in the church as well.

5) He Was Efficient. (v.20-21)

- a. The word profitable here refers to anything that helps, creates and advantage, or confers a benefit.
- b. Paul measured every action by how it would help the Ephesians.
- c. He was willing to try different things if he thought it would help them grow in the Lord.
- d. He even went house to house. He taught in groups, in homes, one on one, publicly, privately.
- e. His message was efficient. He gave priority to sound doctrinal teaching.

- f. If Paul didn't limit his message, he didn't limit his audience either.
He wanted to preach all the word of God to all people.