

THE BOOK OF ACTS

“The Apostle Paul: A Principled Life, A Powerful Legacy”

(Acts 20:1-38)

❖ A Faithful Witness and a Working Fellowship

- Trouble and Travel in Tandem

“When the uproar (in Ephesus) had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said goodbye and set out for Macedonia. 2 He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, 3 where he stayed three months. Because some Jews had plotted against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. 4 He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. 5 These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. 6 But we sailed from Philippi after the Festival of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days.” (Acts 20:1-6)

- Tragedy and Triumph in Troas

“On the first day of the week, we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. 8 There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. 9 Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. 10 Paul went down, threw himself on the young man, and put his arms around him. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “He’s alive!” 11 Then he went upstairs again, broke bread, and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. 12 The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.” (Acts 20:7-12)

- **This was the TRAGEDY!**
- **But we also see a TRIUMPH!**

So Acts 20:1-12 teaches us three things:

We should Cultivate Community

We should Honor the Lord's Day

We should Stay Awake and Engage Deeply with God's Word

❖ **A Principled Life and a Powerful Legacy**

- **A Living Example with Lasting Impact**

We see this in Acts 20:17-21. Notice what it says:

"Now from Miletus, he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. 18 And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable and teaching you in public and from house to house, 21 testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20:17-21)

- **A Living Sacrifice Led by the Spirit** (vs 22-27)

“And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. 24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. 25 And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, 27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.” (Acts 20:22-27)

- A Faithful Walk in the Spirit Even Unto Death
- A Faithful Watchman for the Souls of His Disciples

“Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, 27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.” (Acts 20:26-27)

- **Spiritual Advice with a Serious Admonition** (vs 28-32)

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. 32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (Acts 20:28-32)

- Dangers of a Failing Testimony

- Dangers of False Teachers

- **Humble Service and a Heartbreaking Farewell**

"I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. 35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " 36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, 38 being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship."

- Giving Without Any Expectation in Return

Paul quotes Jesus when he said, *"It is more blessed to give than receive."*

- Grief with Anguish Expressed in Tears

- When he saw false teachers wreaking havoc in churches, he was brought to tears.

- When he saw Christians embracing all kinds of harmful teachings and being ensnared by all kinds of sins, he was brought to tears.

- And when, at times, even his ministry partners, such as Demas, departed from the faith to pursue worldly ambitions, Paul was brought to tears.

- ▶ Great Weeping by All and Final Embrace of the Apostle

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." (1 Timothy 4:7-8)