

# 08/06/23 Message

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Part of Blurred Faith

August 5, 2023

## Message: Finish the Work

### Series: Blurred Faith

This is a series discussing the real impact life has on our faith. It is often too easy to abandon or detour from God's will when our faith is blurred. Sometimes, just sometimes we don't realize our faith is blurred because we don't know what it's like to live without the blur!

## Paul Brings Clarity to Blurred Faith

### *Acts 20:17-38 (NLT)*

17 But when we landed at Miletus, he sent a message to the elders of the church at Ephesus, asking them to come and meet him.

18 When they arrived he declared, "You know that from the day I set foot in the province of Asia until now

19 I have done the Lord's work humbly and with many tears. I have endured the trials that came to me from the plots of the Jews.

20 I never shrank back from telling you what you needed to hear, either publicly or in your homes.

21 I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus.

22 "And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. I don't know what awaits me,

23 except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead.

24 But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

25 "And now I know that none of you to whom I have preached the Kingdom will ever see me again.

26 I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it's not my fault,

27 for I didn't shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know.

28 "So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders.

29 I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock.

30 Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following.

31 Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you.

32 "And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself.

33 "I have never coveted anyone's silver or gold or fine clothes.

34 You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me.

35 And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

36 When he had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them.

37 They all cried as they embraced and kissed him good-bye.

38 They were sad most of all because he had said that they would never see him again. Then they escorted him down to the ship.

Paul tells the elders:

- I have DONE the Lord's work (v19)
- Paul uses a word that pictures him serving as a slave
- I have ENDURED trials (v19)
- Paul stuck with it! He pressed on!
- I have never SHRANK BACK (v20)
- Paul didn't let anything hold him back from serving God!
- I am BOUND by the Spirit (v22)
- Bind or tie up is the literal meaning, in a way he couldn't get out of it.

*Why this message? Why now? Why today? Because not only am I sick and tired of Satan winning battles against churches; not only am I sick and tired of Satan winning battles in your lives; God is sick and tired of it too!*

*—Pastor Chad*

***Acts 20:24 (NLT)***

But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

If your faith is blurred, it's time for clarity! Finish the work!