

Sunday, March 10, 2019

Dr. Ricky Cummings

FBC Vidalia  
Morning Service

**Series: A Church on a Mission! – A Study of the Book of Acts**

**Sermon: Encouragement for the Church**

**Acts 20**

**Acts 20:1-2 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup>After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after **encouraging them**, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. <sup>2</sup>When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece.

**Isaiah 56:10 (ESV)** His watchmen are blind; they are all without knowledge; they are all silent dogs; they cannot bark, dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber.

### **2 ways to deal with false doctrine:**

1. Teach true doctrine – if you teach the true gospel, you can identify the counterfeit.
2. Confront the false doctrines by confronting the wolves themselves.

**2 Timothy 4:13 (ESV)** When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. (Paul is cold and in prison)

### **What do you do on the Lord's Day?**

1. Worship the Lord.
2. Rest.
3. Remember the Lord's death.

**Acts 20:7 (ESV)** On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

4. Hope in the Lord's return.
5. Receive the Word of the Lord.

### **Why are people asleep spiritually?**

1. They have never been awake spiritually.
2. They are in a backslidden state.
3. Because of familiarity

### **How do you stay awake spiritually?**

1. Pray for awakening.
2. Seek the truth from Scripture.
3. Prepare your heart Saturday night/Sunday morning.
4. Become a participator in worship.

## Principles for the Church

- The Leadership of the Church                      Acts 20:17-28

As we have seen here and in other places on the book of Acts (Acts 11:30, Acts 14:23, Acts 15:22, Acts 16:4), there is a plurality of pastors.

- Pastors are to teach people the whole counsel of God's Word.

**Acts 20:27 (ESV)** for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

- The Value of the Church                              Acts 20:28
- The Adversaries of the Church                      Acts 20:29-31
- The Discipleship of the Church                      Acts 20:32
- The Generosity of the Church                      Acts 20:33-35
- The Love of the Church                                Acts 20:36-38

### **The church of Ephesus as a whole kept out the false teachers.**

**Revelation 2:1-4 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup>“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup>“ ‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. <sup>3</sup>I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup>But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.