

Acts Chapter 20

Joy of the Lord is my Strength

- **Chapter 19:** Riot in the Theater of Ephesus
 1. Started by Demetrius the Idol-maker
 - "We are losing money" and "seen a huge drop in sales"
 - "Paul and associates are blaspheming goddess Diana"
 2. Paul's friends dragged into Theater. **Riot breaks out**
 3. Paul prevented from going into Theater by other friends

Mayor of Ephesus quiets the crowd with logic...**Don't make Rome mad!**

Acts 19:40 ...we are in danger of being called in question for today's uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering." 41 And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

I. Friends along the Way

1 After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and departed to go to Macedonia.

- **Paul embraces new Ephesian believers:** Throws arms around them
Lit. Respectfully received to himself as friends and equal fellow workers in Christ
- **Paul leaves Ephesus:** Crossed the Aegean Sea for Macedonia. Near Greece

2 Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece 3 and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

- **Encourages Macedonian converts:**
 1. **Remembering friend Barnabas?** Son of Encouragement
 2. **Paul encourages with many words**
- **Power of Words**

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue...

Proverbs 12:25 Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.

Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

- **Encouraging Words to Establish**

Romans 1:11 ...I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be **established**— 12 that is, **that I may be encouraged** together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

1 Thessalonians 3:2 to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, 3 that no one should be shaken by these afflictions

Establish gr. *stērizō* Lit. to make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix, to strengthen, make firm, to render constant, confirm,

God is a God of encouragement: His desire is that we are established

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

- Paul encouraged the Macedonian believers
- **Macedonia to Greece**
 1. In Greece 3 Months
 2. Desired to return to Syria; i.e. **Antioch** home-base
 3. Jews plot to kill him in Greece. Instead returns to Macedonia

"It may have been planned to attack him on board ship, especially if the vessel was crowded with Jewish pilgrims for Passover or Pentecost." [Williams]

4 And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. 5 These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas.

- Sopater of Beria goes to Asia with Paul
- Other friends go to Troas to wait for Paul
 1. Aristarchus and Secundus: **Thessalonica**
 2. Gaius and Timothy: **Derbe**
 3. Tychicus and Trophimus: **Asia**
- Paul is taking collection from their respective cities back to Jerusalem
- These may be representatives to vouch for Paul's integrity at Jerusalem

6 But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

- **We sailed away...** Writer Luke, Paul and others:
 1. Sail from Philippi after Passover/Unleavened Bread back across Aegean Sea
 2. Arrive in Troas [Roman Province of Asia Minor] To meet friends v.4
 3. Stay in Troas 7 days described below

SUMMARY Friends: Paul embraces friends from Ephesus. Paul encouraged friends in Macedonia. Paul takes a friend to Beria and meets friends in Troas

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

II. Troas

7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...

- **"Came together"** First Day of week; i.e. Sunday to break bread: Communion
- **Break Bread:** Law of First Mention

1. First mention of word/term/concept in Bible has special meaning
2. Breaking Bread first mention:

After Abram rescues nephew Lot ...something strange/wonderful happens...

- Abram or Abraham the Father of Faith breaks bread with a mystery man thousands of years before Lords Supper [Communion] instituted?

Genesis 14:18 ... Melchizedek king of Salem brought out **bread and wine**; he was the priest of God Most High.

Hebrews 7:1 ...this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace," 3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

- **Who is this "mystery man"?**
 1. King of Salem; i.e. King of Jerusalem or King of Peace [Shalom]
 2. Priest of the Most High
 3. Received tithes from Abraham
 4. King of Righteousness
 5. Without beginning or end
 6. Like the Son of God
 7. Perpetual Priest/Eternal Priest

Only One that fits this description: Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.

- **Bread and Wine** symbolic of Communion/Fellowship with God and each other

Matthew 26:26 ... Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." 30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

- **Early church "broke bread":** Fellowship with God and each other

Acts 2:42 ...they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

- **We break bread once a month:**
 1. Peculiar people brought together by Jesus sacrifice
 2. Equal at the foot of the cross.

One body made up of very different parts brought together by bread and wine; i.e. body and blood of Jesus

...on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread

7b Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

- **Teaching of the Word till midnight:** Should be encouragement to you!

8 There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. 9 And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep;

- Many Hours/Many lamps/Not much space
- **Eutychus**
 1. Young man sitting in 3rd floor window
 2. Sinking into deep sleep

8b...and as Paul continued speaking [finishing up], he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.

- **Application Obvious...**

Consequences for falling asleep during message: Certain death

- **Eutychus lying on ground dead...**

10 But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him."

- **Paul runs downstairs...**
 1. Lays himself on the boy
 2. Embraces the boy
 3. Looks up and yells...

"Don't worry he's alive!"

- **OT parallel in 2 Kings 4:** Elisha raises the son of the Shunammite woman

11 Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. 12 And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

- **Paul now has their attention;** i.e. keeps talking until morning! Over 6 hours!

SUMMARY: Troas Boy is alive. Believers in Troas are spiritually alive. Paul leaves for Miletus

III. Miletus

13 Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had given orders, intending himself to go on foot.

- Luke and boys sailed to Assos
- Paul walks/talks/mediates on Word. **Alone time.**

Luke 5:16 [Jesus]... often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

Luke 6:12 [Before choosing apostles] Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Matthew 14:22 [After grieving for John the Baptist, feeding 5000] Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. 23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

Mark 1:35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. 36 And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him. 37 When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."

- **Paul's Swan Song:** 2 Timothy

2 Timothy 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. 9 Be diligent to come to me quickly; 10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. 12 And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. 13 Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments. 14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. 15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. 16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.

- **Fellowship with believers is sweet...**
- **Hard Truth:** Only Jesus will never let us down...never leave us nor forsake us

Proverbs 18:24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

- Have we learned how to spend alone time with Jesus?

14 And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene.

- **Luke meets Paul at Assos:** All board ship to Mitylene

15 We sailed from there, and the next day came opposite Chios. The following day we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium. The next day we came to Miletus. 16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

- Sailed from Mitylene to Chios to Samos and finally to Miletus

- By-passed Ephesus?

16b ...so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost?

- A short visit would not be enough. Calls for the Ephesian Elders

SUMMARY: Miletus. Much needed alone time

IV. Ephesian Elder Farewell

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

- Does not go to Ephesus but calls Elders from Ephesus to himself in Miletus

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..."

You know how I lived. You watched my life. Heard my words...My interactions...my Spirit led decisions, result of listening to the Spirit

1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

- We should be able to say this

19 [I was] ...serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews...

- I served the Lord with all humility?
- **Tears/Trials:** Brought on by the Jews trying to stop me
-

20 ... I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house...

- More info of Paul's daily life in Ephesus
- Taught publicly and privately; i.e. House to house

21 [I was] testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Preaching **All the Word** to **All the people**
 1. Rich/Poor
 2. Young/Old
 3. Intelligent/Those "not so much"
- V 20 kept nothing back:
 1. Spoke of Repentance toward God
 2. Faith toward and in Lord Jesus Christ

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.

- **I am going to Jerusalem:** Bound in spirit to bring offering
 1. Holy Spirit has testified in every city...Prophetic word
 2. There will be Chains and Tribulations when get there

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.

- **Unmoved by Persecution:**

**I do not count my temporal physical life dear to me...
Compared to the eternal life that awaits me**

2 Corinthians 4:16 [Paul]...we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, **but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

- **Unwavering Eternal Perspective:**

Romans 8:18 [Paul]...I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, **we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.**

- **2 Goals:**
 1. **Finish the Race:** Walk of faith...finish with Joy and as a winner
 2. **Finish the Ministry:** Life of service...also finish with Joy not losing heart

My life is a testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I live to testify of the Gospel of the Grace of God. Imitate me as I imitate Christ.

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.

- I am moving on to the next station of this race
- Taking the torch of the Gospel around the world

You my friends...You will see my face no more...

- Paul continues exhorting the Ephesian elders to persevere

V. Whole Counsel of God

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**.

- **Therefore;** i.e. Because I will not see you again... I leave you with these words:

"I am innocent of the blood of all men **because** I taught you the '**whole counsel of God**'"

Many churches are not teaching the "Whole counsel of God"

- **Incomplete/Inadequate Counsel of God:** People Pleasing

Revelation 3:15 [Jesus to Laodicea] "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ...**20 Behold**, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. [Jesus not welcome]"

- **Church of Laodiceans** will be found **guilty of the blood of its hearers**
 1. **Creation:** Evolution/Creation work together. 6 days impossible even for God
 2. **Sin:**
 - We don't use the word "sin". After all...God is love
 - We say *misstep/mistake* that our kindly old codger in sky overlooks
 - After all...God is love
 3. **Jesus:** Good teacher, great man...best of men! No virgin birth or resurrection
 4. **Judgment:** No. Everyone goes to heaven...Remember...God is love after all
 5. **Redemption:** Not needed; We are born good/get better...no need of a cross
 6. **Sanctification:** We have classes on that. We have not heard of Holy Spirit
 7. **Justification:** No need. Everyone is forgiven. Remember...God is love after all
 8. **Glorification:** Eternal life with everyone
 9. **Spiritual Warfare:** What's that?
- Many shrink back from declaring the whole counsel of God...ashamed?

Romans 1:16 ...I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the **power of God to salvation** for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Church of Laodiceans will be found guilty **of the blood of its hearers because they did not preach the whole counsel of God**

Taking Paul's testimony at full strength, we must say that those preachers who deliberately fail to declare the whole counsel of God are guilty of the blood of all men. The preacher who preaches what his audience wants to hear, and not the whole counsel of God, hurts both his audience and himself! [Guzic]

Jesus stands *outside* the lukewarm church Jesus is *inside* the church that teaches the "Whole Counsel of God"

- **Church of Philadelphia** will be found **innocent of the blood of its hearers**

Revelation 3:7 [Jesus to Philadelphia] 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one

opens": 8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have **kept My word**, and have **not denied My name**.

- **Kept My Word:** gr. Tēreō. Lit. To attend to, take care of, to guard, keep in same state it began, detain, hold fast
- **Not denied My Name:** Jesus and all the implication of the Name of Jesus. Everything which the name covers, everything the thought or feeling of which is aroused in the mind by mentioning, hearing, remembering, the name, i.e. for one's rank, authority, interests, pleasure, command, excellences, deeds etc.

Jesus calls those faithful who "**Keep His Word and do not Deny His Name**"

"Well done good and faithful servant enter in to the joy of your Master"

- **Church of Philadelphia** will be found **innocent of the blood of its hearers**
 1. **Creation:** 6 Literal Days
 2. **Sin:**
 - Depravity of man:
 - Beginning with Adam
 - Running throughout every man/woman born since
 - Innate/Inborn tendency to rebel against God and what he says is good
 - Sin is an abomination to a Holy God
 - Sin is the cause of separation from God our Creator
 3. **Jesus:** Divine Son of God, Creator, Redeemer, Savior, Alpha-Omega, Friend, Judge, Lamb, Lion...God
 4. **Judgment:** Eternal Everlasting Punishment and without reprieve
 5. **Redemption:**
 - Blood of Jesus the innocent Son of God Only currency for our sin
 - Paid in full on the cross and applied only to those who believe
 6. **Sanctification:**
 - Becoming more like Jesus as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit
 - Self-denial and self-sacrifice
 7. **Justification:**
 - Jesus sacrifice on our behalf of our sin accepted as payment in full
 - 100% Clean and Forgiven. Without it we are doomed
 8. **Glorification:**
 - Eternal life with Jesus
 - Rapture
 - Gods refocus on Israel. Repentance and Redemption for Jacob.
 - Millennial reign of Christ
 - New Jerusalem
 9. **Spiritual Warfare:** Angels/Demons
- Paul says he is innocent of judgment that comes upon his listeners because he has taught them the **whole counsel of God**

Preached the Word and let the chips fall where they may...

In the apostle this utterance was no egotism; it was a fact that he had, without courting the smiles or fearing the frowns of any, preached the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but

the truth, as it had been taught to him by the Holy Spirit, and as he had received it in his own heart. O that all ministers of Christ could honestly [take up the challenge to do the same]! [Spurgeon]

- Paul desired, *hunted for* the approval of God not man:

1 Corinthians 4:3 ...with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

As Christian workers, worldliness is not the trap which most endangers us; nor is it sin. The trap which we fall into is extravagantly desiring spiritual success. Never seek after anything other than the **approval of God**.

- Paul taught Timothy the importance of the Whole Counsel of God

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 **Preach the word!** Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 **For the time will come** when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

- **2 Churches of the End Times:**

1. Stand on Word/God Pleasers: Church of Philadelphia
2. Turn aside to fables/People Pleasers: Church of Laodicea

Don't mess with the Word of God. Preach it All. Period.

Matter of Eternal Life and Eternal Judgment

Revelation 22:18 [Jesus]...I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the **Book of Life**, from the **holy city**, and from the things which are written in this book. [cf. Deut. 4]

SUMMARY: Whole Counsel of God

VI. Shepherd the Flock

- Paul the Evangelist now Paul the Pastor/Shepherd

28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers...

- **Overseers:** Pastors, Elders and Deacons
 1. Take heed to yourselves
 2. Take heed to our congregation
- **Heed:** gr. *Prosechō* Lit. To bring near, to bring a ship to land, be attentive to
- **To Study:** Study children; learning styles, unspoken needs, hurts. Be able to give...
 1. Guidance

2. Counsel

- Overseers take heed **first to yourselves**, then the congregation

Psalms 26:2 Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart.

1 Corinthians 11:28 ...let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

Matthew 7:3 ...why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?

- **Overseers:**
 1. Take heed to yourselves: Humility
 2. Take heed to congregation: In humility
- **Congregation:** Remember it is the Holy Spirit who raises up leaders for our benefit:

Hebrews 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

28b [Holy Spirit has made you overseers to]...shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

- God purchased the Church "with His own blood"! [Deity of Christ in view]
- **Shepherd Job Description:**
 1. **Feed:** Word of God
 2. **Protect:** Within and without. Prayer. Church discipline.
 3. **Guide:** Through perilous times. Circumspect

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

Heed/be attentive...**For I know this...**

- **Attacks**
 1. Savage wolves after the sheep
 - Come in and sit among you
 - Show no mercy

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

- **Attack from within**
 1. Rise up from the congregation
 - Speak perverse things [little off]
 - Purpose to draw disciples [learners] to themselves [not Jesus]

It is often easier for pastors to deal with the wolves that come from the outside - obviously false teachings and goofy winds of doctrine. But it is very difficult to deal with those who rise up from among yourselves, because you don't want to believe that they are in fact

speaking perverse things and trying to draw away the disciples after themselves. But Paul insisted that such people were real, and that pastors would have to deal with them! [Guzic]

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

- You have the instruction... but you will not heed the instruction [Listeners/Doers]

Remember [after it happens] I did not fail to declare the whole counsel of God

- Ephesus Elders would **fail to "take heed"** to the congregation leading to turmoil
- Definition of Love not love at all:

1. Attacks from without

- 2 John: Mary was allowing any teacher into her home
- Justified it by saying it was the "loving thing to do"
- Rebuked by John...

2 John v.10 [John] If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, **do not receive him** into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

2. **Attack from within:** Letting people teach heresy spread like gangrene.

2 Timothy 1:15 This you know, that all those in Asia [Ephesus] have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

- **Ephesus Leadership lacking;** later Timothy would be sent to Pastor and later John
 - After probable church split from attacks Ephesus would...
1. Try to fix the problem by testing everyone
 2. End up legalistic/loveless/turning away from Paul

Revelation 2:1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. 4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. 6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.'"

Ephesus had trouble finding Center: Pendulum swinging from Love to Truth

1. **Began too lazy in discipline** ["Come as you are" taken to extreme]
 - We have freedom in Christ
 - No church discipline: God is love
 - Allowed false teachers from without/within tear up the sheep]

2. **Afterward too legalistic/loveless** [Cold]

- You need to be Holy...like me
- Checklist at door
- Leave your love outside too

Balance "Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy."

Jesus was filled with Grace and Truth

Shepherd the Flock: Overseers are accountable

VII. Commended to God

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.

- **Paul commends the Ephesians:**

1. To God
2. To God's Word; i.e. the Word of His grace
 - Able to build you up
 - Able to give you an inheritance

Romans 8:16 ...The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

- **Heirs of what:** Heirs of everything
- **Note:** Word is able to build you up **if** you **read it/believe it /apply it**

33 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak.

- **Follow me as I follow Christ**

1. I was not concerned about getting rich
2. I worked making tents to provide for me and those with me
3. Supporting the weak is of great importance

35b...And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

- Not in the gospels but unpacked in Sermon on the Mount

36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, 38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

- **Knelt down on the beach**

1. Prayed
2. All wept freely
3. Ephesian Elders fell on Paul's neck/kissed him
4. Sad because he said...you will not see my face again...until glory

SUMMARY: Ephesus Commended to God and Paul off to Jerusalem for some f