

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Leaving a Legacy that Honours Christ

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor

September 28, 2025

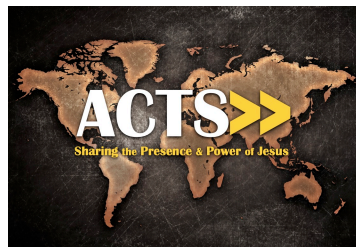
What does a faithful & fruitful life look like?

What does it look like to finish well & leave a legacy that honours God?

Acts 20:17-38 (NLT) But when we landed at Miletus, [Paul] 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 leaders. 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.

1) Commit to the do God's work.

¹⁹ "I have done the Lord's work humbly and with many tears. I have endured the trials...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."



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."

2) Care for God's people.

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 leaders."

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."

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."

So "Let love be your highest goal." 1 Corinthians 14:1

3) Cultivate a life of generosity.

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.'"

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give". Winston Churchill

Philippians 2:12-24 (AMP) So then, my dear ones, just as you have always obeyed [my instructions with enthusiasm], not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, **continue to work out your salvation** [that is, cultivate it, bring it to full effect, actively pursue spiritual maturity] with awe-inspired fear and trembling [using serious caution and critical self-evaluation to avoid anything that might offend God or discredit the name of Christ]. ¹³ For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure.

Big Idea: Leave a legacy for Christ by labouring for God, loving people, & living generously.

"A society grows great when the old plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit."

- **When we labour for God, love people deeply, & live generously, we leave behind something that will outlast us—a legacy that truly honours Jesus.**

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used today is the New Living Translation (NLT) & the Amplified Bible (AMP)



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Leaving a Legacy that Honours Christ
#22 of 23 - September 28, 2025

Context

1. What is happening in Acts 20:17–38? Why is Paul gathering the Ephesian elders, and why is this moment so significant?
2. How does Paul's farewell here connect to his larger mission and ministry throughout the book of Acts?

Observation

3. What qualities of Paul's ministry stand out to you in this passage (vv. 18–24, 33–35)?
4. What warnings does Paul give the Ephesian elders (vv. 28–30)? Why are these important for the church then—and now?
5. What emotions and values do you see in Paul's final words and in the response of the elders (vv. 36–38)?

Meaning

6. What does Paul's example teach us about what a faithful and fruitful life in Christ looks like?
7. How does this passage help us understand what it means to finish well and leave a Christ-honouring legacy?
8. How do Paul's commitments—to do God's work, care for God's people, and live generously—fit together in shaping a godly legacy?

Application

9. Which of Paul's examples (labouring for God, loving people, living generously) do you find most challenging to live out personally? Why?
10. What is one practical step you can take this week to invest in a legacy that honours Christ—whether in your family, your church, or your community?



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