

Introduction

1. How should a pastor want to be remembered?

(1) For who he was? what parts?

1. For what he did? which things?

(2) Spiritual Gargster

2. The Ephesian Church

(1) Difficult place

1. Paganism, occult spirituality

2. Wealth

3. Suffered there (riot, prison)

4. Training Center

(2) Larger than anywhere else

1. He really loved them

2. On his way to Jerusalem

Acts 20:16-17

I. How I want to be remembered while I was here (v.17-21, 25-27)

1. My posture (v.17-19)

(1) v.17 - Paul wants to be with key people before he leaves

(2) v.18 - Humbly & w/ many tears

1. Humbly - humility is not a personality. It's not about the modulation or content you say.

Humility means to know your place ... under God & as a pastor
(Grown in posture)

2. w/ many tears - I've cried over so many painful moments here, but more importantly, I've cried with so many of you in yours.
(Let Andrew in)

2. My preaching (v.20-21)

(1) Public / Homes

1. Who I am up here is who I am down there

(2) Greek / Jews

1. Consistent w/ everyone

3. My part (v25-27)

(1) If your relationship w/ Jesus isn't what you'd like it to be, it isn't because I didn't tell you, confront you, or help you understand.

1. I did my part, did you do yours?

2. It won't be Andrew's job to keep your faith healthy

(2) To the unbeliever - it's not because I didn't share the Gospel w/ you.

II. How I want to be remembered while I was leaving (v 22-24)

1. I didn't decide to leave of my own doing, the Spirit led me to leave through a process (v 22a)

(1) I have tried to model how to trust your life to the Spirit

(2) Every pastor is an interim as the Spirit leads

(3) Be rooted until you're not

2. I am not expecting to do something better, I am anticipating something hard (v 22b-24)

(1) Are you excited?

1. Missionaries going to other countries

"Is it safe?"

(2) My wife and I are being sent out as missionaries

1. The context is foreign

2. Learn to speak their language

3. No relationally currency

III. How I want to remember you after I'm gone (v 28-38)

1. Transition makes the message vulnerable (v 28-32)

(1) Guard yourselves

1. From your own agendas
2. From your own messaging

(2) Guard the church

1. From those that come in
2. From those that rise up

(Do this by guarding the message)

2. Transition makes the mission vulnerable (v 33-35)

(1) Self-preservation is the first step towards death for a church

1. Christians in transition start worrying about what they will lose or get

(2) Give yourselves away to others & for others

Conclusion

(v36-38)

1. You are my love letter

* SLIDESHOW

2. The Gospel

(1) legacy only matters if
Jesus matters

3. Communion

Philippians 1:3-12 NLT

[3] Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. [4] Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, [5] for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. [6] And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. [7] So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my (suffering) and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. [8] God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus. [9] I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. [10] For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. [11] May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation-the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ-for this will bring much glory and praise to God. [12] And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News.