

FINISHING WELL! - ACTS 20:1-24

(v.1-16) we see Paul's third missionary journey winding down.

(v.1-6)

Seven men mentioned here, three were from Macedonia, *Sopater, Aristarchus, (dragged to the theater by the mob, 19:29), and Secundus*; and four were from Asia Minor, *Gaius, (probably not the Gaius of 19:29) Timothy, Tychicus, and Trophimus*.

(v.7-12) First day of the week – is a clear indication that “Sunday” was the meeting day for the apostolic (early) Church, (day of resurrection).

Eutychus - means “fortunate.”

(v.12) Born-again believers are *also* living testaments to the power of God!

(v.13-17) Paul sends for the Ephesian elders.

(v.18-24) Five characteristics of finishing well.

(1) Humility. (v.19).

Humility is the pathway to honor before God and mankind. (Proverbs 15:33) The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.

(2) Witness. (v.20, 21).

(Philippians 1:21) For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

(Romans 1:16) For 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.

(3) A bound spirit. (v.22, 23).

Spirit – the vital principal by which the body is animated; the power by which we feel, think, and decide (soul).

Jeremiah 17:5-8.

(4) Holy resolve. (24a).

Paul's resolve was manifested in two ways:

(1) He counted Christ more precious than his life.

(Matthew 16:24-25) "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

(2) Desire to finish with joy.

Joy is different from happiness; Joy is relational, happiness circumstantial!

Colossians 3:8-11. "J.O.Y." - Jesus On You!

(Psalm 16:11) You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

(5) Grace. (v.24b).

1 Corinthians 9:24-27; "*run to win the prize!*"

Grace keeps us running long term!

(2 Corinthians 12:9-10) And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

CONCLUSION: Finish Well, with *humility, witness, a bound spirit, holy resolve, and grace!*

We can finish because He has declared, "It is finished!"