



## This week's sermon

### **The Way the Great Apostle Says Goodbye**

***Acts 20:17-21:1***

#### 1. The mission of spreading the Gospel:

“testifying to both Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

that *he* may finish *his* course and the ministry that *he* received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

2. Making disciples who share and show the transforming power of the gospel requires diligent work, and never shrinking back from sharing all the truth of the Bible, even when it is unpopular within the church or within the culture.

3. Jesus, on the cross--the cross that has been proclaimed throughout the ages, the cross by which we are saved, the cross that we proclaim daily at Harvest--proved the love of God for sinners. Having purchased us with His blood, He calls you to guard the flock against false teachers who do not understand the church's great value in the eyes of God.

4. We trust you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

### **Digging Deeper into the Message**

The gospel is basically a story...It's like explaining to somebody the plot of a play and gradually they realize that they're supposed to have a part in this play and they need to be understanding this story in order that they can come and play that part. So it's not just "Here are some ideas. You need to believe A, B, C, and D", it's "Here's this extraordinary story and God wants you to be within that story." Now if you do that, you have to pay attention to where those people are coming from (sometimes literally and certainly metaphorically). - N.T. Wright

Read Acts 13:13-52 and chapters 17 and 26. Contrast how Paul shares the message of Jesus with the Jews, the philosophers and then with Agrippa.

Look up what stoicism and epicureanism are about. In what way does Paul address these views in chapter 17?

Reflect on the people in your life and pray about how best to share the "extraordinary story."

An interesting, short article to think about: *Gospel*

*Definitions: N.T. Wright* by Trevin Wax.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevin-wax/gospel-definitions-nt-wright/>



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