



Acts 20:17-38

Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. 18 And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, 21 testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there,
23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. 24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. 25 And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again.

26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, 27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

32 And now I commend 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. 33 I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. 35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

37 And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, 38 being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

1. The Beauty of Life Well Lived in Community

Acts 20:18-21

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, 21 testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ

Acts 20:33-35

33 I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.

34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. 35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"





“Paul did not serve to advance his own fame. He served in ministry to ensure that God’s grace toward him would not be in vain. Paul pressed on toward the upward call of God in Christ. He lived every moment of his life so that he might be able to say, “I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”
(1 Corinthians 15:10)

- Albert Mohler

2. A Wise Admonition Based on Concern

Acts 20:28-31

28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

Luke 4:13

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

3. A Healthy Affection Demonstrated

Acts 20:36-38

And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, 38 being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship

4. An Investment That Bears Dividends

Paul shows no concern for his personal safety because his ultimate concern is to spread the gospel and to finish the course that God has set before him.

Paul is constrained to go to Jerusalem, placing his trust completely in God, who controls his destiny.

Acts 20:32

And now I commend 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.

3 John 7-8

For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. 8 Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

Philippians 4:17

Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.

“Paul’s impact on this church’s life cannot be overstated, and the affections they had for him are demonstrable proof of that relationship. The ministry of any pastor will leave a lasting impact on the life of the church. Caring for the flock is stressful work, but a pastor who endeavors to minister according to the pattern of Paul among the Ephesians can usually enjoy an equal measure of affection and respect. More importantly, and by God’s grace alone, the pastor who longs to minister as Paul ministered will not have worked in vain...”

“...When this life of labor ends, servants of Christ who lived as Paul did will walk into that celestial gathering and hear those resplendent words, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21)

- Albert Mohler



1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

So we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (MSG)

Not content to just pass on the Message, we wanted to give you our hearts. And we did.

