



ACTS

The Church Empowered
for Mission



ACTS 20:17-38

17 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.

ACTS 20:17-38

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.

ACTS 20:17-38

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.

ACTS 20:17-38

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.



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ACTS

1. SERVE THE LORD IN HUMILITY WITH TEARS & TRIALS (VS. 17-19)

Around 50 mi.

Fellow brothers whom
Paul invested in

17 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

Consistent/Committed driven by Conviction

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;

Don't assume difficulty means that God has abandoned you.



ACTS

We have all heard the story of the man who preached so well and lived so badly, that when he was in the pulpit everybody said he ought never to come out again, and when he was out of it, they all declared he never ought to enter it again...Too many preachers forget to serve God when they are out of the pulpit, their lives are negatively inconsistent. Abhor, dear brethren, the thought of being clockwork ministers who are not alive by abiding grace within but are wound up by temporary influences; men who are only ministers for the time being, under the stress of the hour of ministering, but cease to be ministers when they descend the pulpit stairs. True ministers are always ministers.... It is a horrible thing to be an inconsistent minister.”

-Charles Spurgeon, Lectures to my Students



ACTS

2. DON'T SHRINK BACK FROM DECLARING & TEACHING TRUTH (VS. 20-21, 25-27)

Which led to Paul being ostracized (multiple times)

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

Essence of the message

Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

For Paul: The OT
the whole counsel of God.

Faithful proclamation
must be Biblical proclamation.



ACTS

3. HAVE CONFIDENCE NOT IN KNOWING WHAT IS TO COME BUT WHO IS CARRYING YOU THERE (VS. 22-24)

Hope rooted in the God who carried Him

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

God's plan for Paul always included suffering (Acts 9:16)
city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. 24 But I do not account my life of

Paul's ambition = faithfulness
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.

"A man or woman who never does anything except what can be done easily will never do anything worth doing at all." -Kent Hughes



ACTS

4. THE MOST DANGEROUS WOLVES COME FROM WITHIN VS. 28-31

Don't assume immunity from sin

The One who ultimately appoints overseers

28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit

The Church belongs to Christ

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,

Threat not from outside, but rather within

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. *"The true Christian's nostril is to be continually attentive to the inner cesspool."* -C.S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcom*



ACTS

5. GRACE MOTIVATES GENEROSITY (VS.32-35)

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 **False teachers were traveling around Asia preaching for excessive financial gain** 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.'"

When grace gets ahold of our hearts, radical generosity will get ahold of our lives.

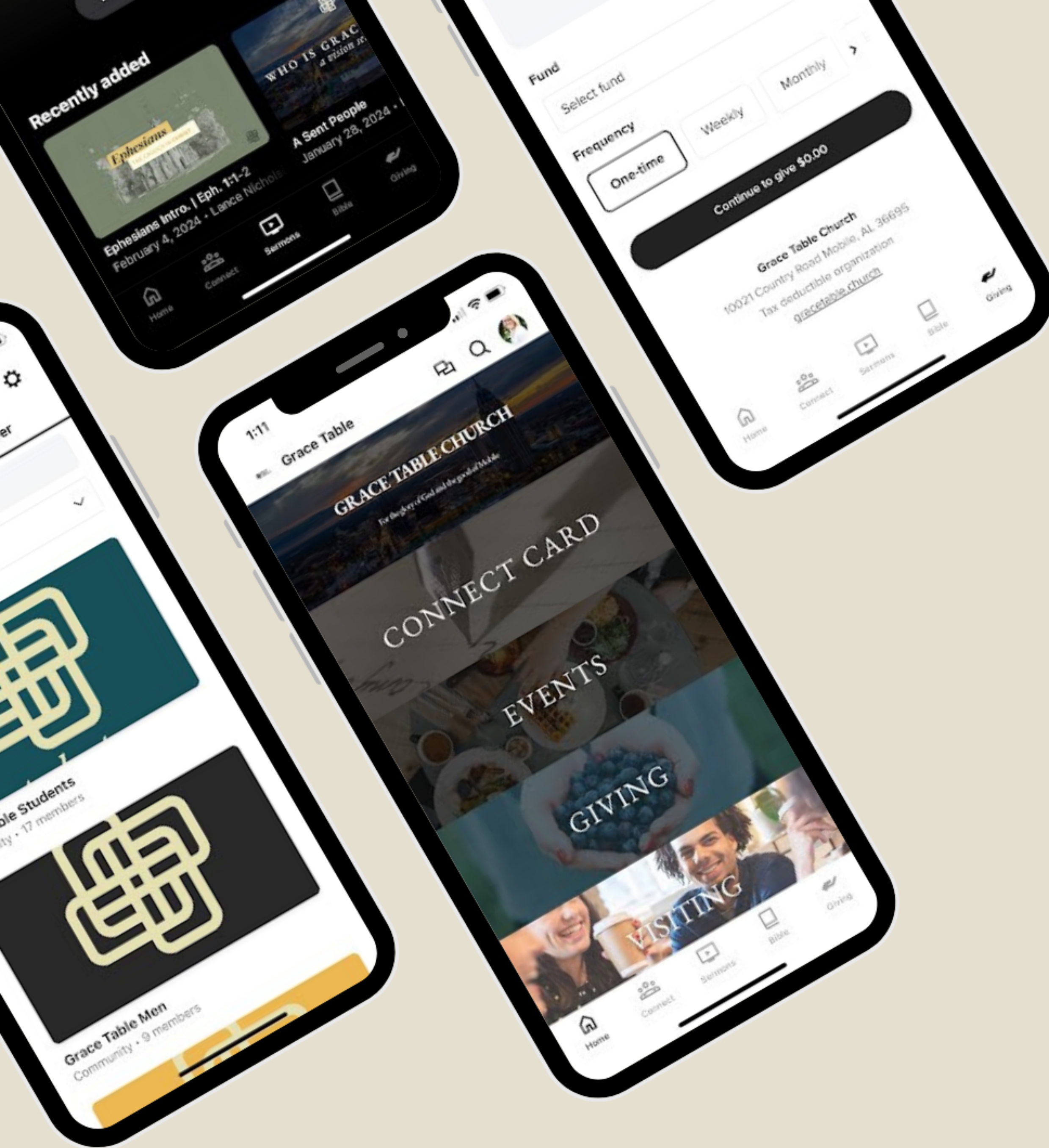




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Download the Grace Table App



Available in your app store





men's BOOK STUDY

NEXT GATHERING, AUGUST 25TH
6-8 PM | LUPERCALIA ART GALLERY

the
PURSUIT
of
HOLINESS



MEN'S SUMMER

WORK DAY(S)

AT NEW FACILITY

NEXT ONE, AUGUST 29TH / 8 AM



MISSIONAL *communities*

FALL SEMESTER LAUNCH WEEK OF SEP. 21



MC *leader* TRAINING

WED, SEP. 2ND | 6:30 PM | DINNER & CHILDCARE PROVIDED



BENEDICTION

Leader:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

-2 Corinthians 13:14

People:

And also with you.



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