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Spiritual Maturity Is Demonstrated By Trusting God's Perfect Plan For Your Life... Walking By Faith.



Acts 20:17-38



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Delivered - vs. 17-27

Bonds of fellowship of ministry

- A special gathering with the leadership from Ephesus
- Final farewell to the region
- Paul's goal remained to go where others had not gone Romans 15:20

and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation,



Bonds of fellowship of ministry

Life on missions

- · Faithfulness in laying foundation from the beginning
- Living humbly before God and others
- · Willingness to suffer for the gospel



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Delivered - vs. 17-27

Bonds of fellowship of ministry

Life on missions

Accurately proclaiming the gospel

- Do not shrink back caused by fear or shame
- Continually teaching in both public gatherings and house to house
- Regardless of cultural traditions
- Repentance and faith in Jesus Christ



Bonds of fellowship of ministry

Life on missions

Accurately proclaiming the gospel

Continually led by the Holy Spirit

- Willingness to suffer physically for the advancement of the gospel
- Remember Paul's calling Acts 9:15-16
- Pressing forward to the end -Philippians 3:12-14



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Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



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- Pressing forward to the end -
- Loving God while loving others
 2 Timothy 4:6–8



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2 Timothy 4:6-8

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.



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2 Timothy 4:6–8

Philippians 1:21

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.



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Deceived - vs. 28-31

Be on guard

- Moving forward with an expectation of danger
- Self protection do not be naïve thinking you are except from warfare
 1 Timothy 4:16

Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.



Deceived - vs. 28-31

Be on guard

- Moving forward with an expectation of danger
- Self protection do not be naïve thinking you are except from warfare
 1 Timothy 4:16
- All the flock called to oversee by the Holy Spirit Galatians 1:6–7

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

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Deceived - vs. 28-31

Be on guard

Remember the foundation

- The new covenant through Jesus Christ Luke 22:20; John 1:29
- God's plan of redemption for the world Matthew 16:13-20



Deceived - vs. 28-31

Be on guard

Remember the foundation

Certainty of coming danger

- Comparison to fierce wolves
 Matthew 7:15-20; Matthew 10:16; Luke 10:3
- Diversion from the truth

Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

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Deceived - vs. 28-31

Be on guard Remember the foundation Certainty of coming danger From within

- Teaching a different doctrine 1 Timothy 1:3-7
- Irreverent babbling, quarreling 2 Timothy 2:14-19



Deceived - vs. 28-31

Be on guard

Remember the foundation

Certainty of coming danger

From within

Testimony of compassion

- Three years of ministry
- Whole-hearted, determination to faithfully share the gospel



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Demonstrated - vs. 32-36

God is the head of the church

- · His grace
- Building up
- Inheritance
- Sanctified

Colossians 2:6–7

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Demonstrated - vs. 32-36

God is the head of the church

Living out Jesus daily

- Not a burden to anyone
- Dependence of faith Philippians 4:11–13

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

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Demonstrated - vs. 32-36

God is the head of the church Living out Jesus daily Reaction to reality

- Ending time in prayer
- Importance of prayer in all situations
- Understanding the final words in person
- Sorrow for end of the time together



Pointing Towards Christ? Or Pointing Away From Christ?

