

CP – 3/3/24

Acts 20:17–27 – Paul’s Address to the Ephesian Elders, Part 1

Sermon Outline

1. Paul’s Ministry in Ephesus (20:17–21)

- Paul lived among the people. (18b)
- Paul saw his ministry as service to the Lord. (19a)
 - Paul served with humility. (19a)
 - Paul served in love. (19b)
 - Paul served with fortitude. (19c–20)
 - ****All serving should be “as unto the Lord”****
- **The gospel, when rightly applied, produces servants who serve the Lord in humility, love, and fortitude.**
 - **Humility: right view of God and self**
 - **Love: right view of the Church and the Great Commission**
 - **Fortitude: right view of life/death and Lordship/Sonship**
- Paul ministry had 2 main focuses: (20–21)
 - Edification and Maturation of the Saints (20)
 - All that was profitable (not preferable or favorable)
 - Declaring — Proclaiming the facts
 - Teaching — Explaining and Applying
 - Repentance and Faith of unbelievers (21)
 - Testify — to bear witness
 - Inclusiveness of the testifying
 - The call of the testifying: Repentance to God and faith in the Lord Jesus
- ****The primary role of the pastor as shepherd is to feed, guide, and protect the sheep of the fold God has entrusted them to care for.****
- **Preaching the gospel clearly and weekly serves both purposes.**

2. Paul’s Submission to the Holy Spirit for the Future (20:22–27)

- Paul was constrained by the Spirit. (22a)
- Paul did not know if he would live or die in Jerusalem. (22)
 - Paul knew that hardships awaited him. (Romans 15:30–33)
- Paul desired to be a good steward of the time and calling the Lord gave him. (23–24)
 - My course: God’s purpose and plan in the time given to Paul
 - My ministry: testify to the gospel of the grace of God
 - **Paul wanted to faithfully perform his share in the task of God’s great redemption story (1 Timothy 4:6–8)**
 - **We all have an appointed time, ministry, and share in the task. Let’s be good stewards of all 3.**

- **The glory of God had given Paul loose hands on all things temporal, especially his own life.**
- Paul wanted to leave a legacy in Ephesus. (25)
 - A “faithful watchman” (Ezekiel 3:18–19; 33:1–9)
 - “The whole counsel of God”

Small Group Discussion

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Scripture passage and sermon Sunday? What stood out most to you? What questions do you have?
2. What about the way that Paul served the Ephesians resonates with you? How can we view all that we do as serving the Lord?
3. How does the gospel make us humble, tender, and courageous?
4. What is biblical repentance? How is it different than just guilt or an emotional reaction to the mistakes we make?
5. How can you apply Acts 20:22–24 to your own life?
6. Spend some time in prayer that we would all be good stewards of our allotted time, ministry, and share in the Lord’s purposes.