

Series "The Acts Of God"
"A Faithful Servant"
Acts 20:13-27
Study-38

Acts 20:17-27

Acts 20:20-21

Paul is returning from his 3rd Missionary Journey.

This passage is unique in that it is the only recorded sermon in Acts in which Paul spoke to church leaders, (Christians).

Paul Describes, The Character of Ministry:

1. Verses 13-16 – Troas to Miletus

2. Verses 17-27 – Paul's Message At Miletus

1. Verses 13-16 – Troas to Miletus:

Acts 20:13

Acts 20:9-12

Acts 20:14-16

"day of Pentecost" – The word "Pentecost" means "fiftieth" or "Five-Tens"; "Feast of Pentecost, The Feast of Weeks,,"; Fifty days after the Feast of Passover. This Feast is described in Lev. 23:15-21

Meaning: (Fulfilled – The Coming of The Holy Spirit) It was on the first day of the week, the Lord's Day, we commemorate the resurrection of Christ, and the coming of the Spirit, and the birth of the church.

2. Verses 17-27 – Paul's Message At Miletus:

Acts 20:17

"the elders of the church." – The qualifications for this office are given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9.

Elder – Greek words “presbutos”, “presbyter”; refers to “a mature person who has been selected to serve in office.” Acts 14:23

Bishop – or “overseers” in Acts 20:28, which is episkopos; Describes the “ministry as an overseer.”

Pastor – “to shepherd”; They were chosen to “feed the church”, Acts 20:28; Paul called the local church “a flock”, Acts 20:28-29; Describes method feeder and shepherd. (Instruction/Care)

In the Book of Acts, Luke reports eight messages given by the Apostle Paul to various people: The message enables us to get a glimpse of how Paul ministered in Ephesus for three years.

Acts 20:18

“the whole time” – or “all seasons”; Time is our friend. Acts 20:31

Acts 20:19

Motive For Ministry: (Verse 19) “serving the Lord”; This word “serving” – root word is “a bond-slave” a slave, “17X in his letters to do bond service”

Manner of His Ministry: (Verse 19) “with all humility” – “Modesty, lowliness”

The opposite of humility is Pride!

1 Corinthians 4:7

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Paul Served With Tears: “and with tears”; “a man of empathy, to be in another’s skin”

Acts 20:31

The unconverted world – Acts 20:19, 31

Inconsistent Christians – 2 Cor 2:4

Unsanctified Ministers – Phil 3:18

Paul Suffered: “and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;”

2 Timothy 3:12

Gal. 6:17

Message of His Ministry: (Verses 20-21) Acts 20:20

Acts 20:21

Ministry Is Testifying: "Testifying" – This is "the act of preaching or sharing faith in Christ with others."

"solemnly testifying" – The word means "to solemnly give witness", and it reminds us of the seriousness of the message and of the ministry.

Bad News, You Are A Sinner: "of repentance toward God"; "Change of mind, change of heart"

Acts 20:24

The Good News: "and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."; What good is turning from your way if you don't turn to Jesus?

Salvation requires that one Forsake sin, one must also lay hold of Jesus our righteousness:

Acts 20:22

The Present Ministry: "And now, behold,"

"bound in spirit," – "be in bonds, knit, tie"

Acts 20:23

Verses 24-27 – Paul's Example: Acts 20:24

1. Example – Paul The Accountant: Acts 20:24 – "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself,"

"Consider", "account" are accounting terms.

Galatians 2:20

2. Example – Paul The Runner: "in order that I may finish my course,"; Phil 3:12-14

3. Example – Paul The Steward: "and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus,"

1 Corinthians 4:2

4. Example – Paul The Witness: “to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.”

“testify” – The word means “to solemnly give witness”, and it reminds us of the seriousness of the message and of the ministry.

Acts 20:25

5. Example – Paul The Herald: Acts 20:25 – “I went about preaching the kingdom,”; The word “preaching” – means “to declare a message as the herald of the king.”

Acts 20:26

6. Example – Paul The Watchman: Acts 20:26 – “I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of all men.”; “watchman on the walls” in Ezekiel 3:17-21; 33:1-9

Acts 20:31

Isaiah 56:10-12

Acts 20:27 – Paul is saying, “For I did not withdraw, or backpedal from reporting to you the whole plan of God”

Application:

1. Motive For Ministry: serving the Lord; “a bond-slave”.
2. Manner of His Ministry: with all humility.
3. Message of His Ministry: The Gospel of Grace, Teach His Word.
4. Ministry Is Testifying: Testifying – “the act of preaching or sharing faith in Christ with others”.
5. Paul’s Example: Accountant, Runner, Steward, Witness, Herald, and Watchman.