

INTRODUCTION

* Two weeks ago, we considered the extent and effect of God’s work in Ephesus through Paul. Paul spent more than two years in Ephesus at that time. Last week, we tracked Paul’s travels from Ephesus to Macedonia to Greece and then back to Troas, where he spoke to a gathering of the church.

* In Acts 20, Paul is at the end of his third missionary journey, and he is hurrying to get to Jerusalem by Pentecost. He sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, took five days to get to Troas, spent seven days in Troas, and thus had at most 31 days left to get to Jerusalem (perhaps less). He chose to avoid going to Ephesus and sailed past it down to Miletus. But Paul sent for the elders in the church at Ephesus in order to speak to them one last time..

* Today we look at the rest of what happened in Acts 20, where Paul speaks to the elders from Ephesus. His message to them includes both a testimony of his time in Ephesus – how he lived and ministered to the Ephesians – and a charge to the Ephesian elders.

INSTRUCTION

I. Paul’s Testimony Acts 20:18-35

Why?

Key Items in Paul’s Testimony

v.19 S_____ the L_____

A note on Humility:

v. 20 K_____ back N_____ that was H_____ (Profitable)

v. 20 Taught P_____ and P_____

v. 21 Bold and Consistent W_____ to non-believers

v. 26 Innocent of the B_____ of all M_____

v. 27 D_____ the whole C_____ of God

Greek #1012 boule – counsel, purpose, will, advice

Purpose of God regarding man’s salvation through Christ

Luke 7:30; Acts 2:23; 4:28; Hebrews 6:17

v. 31 W_____ everyone Night and day for T_____ years

v. 33 Coveted no one’s W_____

v. 34-35 Worked Hard ... providing for needs: his, his team’s, the weak

A Model for a Good Disciplemaker

What seems significant to you?

II. Paul’s Charge to the Elders Acts 20:18-35

v.28-30 T_____ H_____ (Be on Guard)

Greek #4337 prosecho – Matthew 7:15; Luke 17:3; Acts 5:35; Hebrews 2:1

v. 31 W_____ and W_____

v.32 Keep our Focus and Allegiance on God

God is ultimately our protector ... from sin, from “wolves”, from false teachers

v. 34-35 Follow Paul's Example:

➔ Work to provide for your needs and others needs

➔ Be a G_____

INTROSPECTION

- * Elders: Are we on guard, watching and warning?
- * Elders: Do we sometimes shrink back? Are we declaring all that is profitable?
- * How do you view the role of elders?
- * Do you desire oversight and admonishment?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT

INTERACTION

- * In what ways have you seen or heard of a church not being protected from “savage wolves” and false doctrine? How can we guard against such things in our church? What else do we need to guard against?