

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHAPTER 20:17-25

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM - 209

TITLE:

The Apostles Farewell Address - PART 2

BEING READY TO SHARE THE LORD

THEME:

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and "you shall be witnesses to Me" in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

At Night, In My Daughters' Room after turning out the Light what looks like hundreds of stars began to shine from the walls & ceiling...

Daniel 12:3

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

Acts 20 Reveals to us

Paul's Pastoral Heart for the Flock of God

On Wednesday Nights in the study in Hebrews, we've come to the Characteristic of a Godly Spiritual Leader and Our responsibility to them...

Pt. 2 of "The Apostles Farewell Address"

Leaving them a picture - Impression

~~~~ The Power of a Lasting Image ~~~~

1.) Paul's Farewell Talk, Walking the Talk vv. 17-21

2.) Paul's Farewell Walk Walking the Talk vv. 22-25

1.) Paul's Farewell Talk, Walk the Talk vv. 17-21

## First off, - There Are (4) Things That We Need To See in This Section

### A. Paul Calls Those Responsible

vv. 17

#### John 15:16

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Paul is inviting them *to judge him, examine him, to call his life in to inspection.*

\* *Elders* **GRK 4245 presbuteros** (*pres-boo'-ter-os*);  
presbyter - one experienced in spiritual matters.  
not based upon age it is upon exposure

The Qualifications of the (Elder, Bishop, Pastor)  
*is given in...*

### 1 Timothy 3:1-7 & Titus 1:5-9

- The word Elder, *speaks of his position in the Lord* (*he is to have spiritual maturity*) able to discern and to instruct
- The word bishop, *is the word episcopas meaning the one who is to be overseeing the church* (not overbearing - but to sit and to watch out for their welfare.)
- The word Pastor, *is what he does, it's the method of ministry, one who is feeding* (not beating) *the flock of God... Pastor means a shepherd*

The **Elder** is the Man, To **Bishop** is his Ministry, **Pastoring** is his Method

#### 1 Peter 5:2

Feed the flock of God which is among you, as the overseer thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for dishonest gain, but of a ready mind; :3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples

## Verse 18

A key to spiritual growth: *they made themselves available to meet*

~~~~~ Paul talks to them about the Past ~~~~~

* **What Manner** *GRK 4459 pos (poce);*
(in an interrogative way) you've noticed my
style in life. the way I lived

Always lived among you

a consistent Christian life (in the midst of ups & downs)

Paul's Farewell Talk, Walking the Talk !

B. His Obligation was toward Jesus vv. 19-20

Serving The Lord (*not the Body... Not the people*)

* **serving** *GRK 1398 douleuo (dool-yoo'-o);*
to be a slave to someone. The Divine Obligation
to be in bondage God (Awesome)

who are you serving ? - Jesus I hope !!!

People will let you down *and disappoint you & even hurt you*

- NOT SERVING TO MEET SOME STRANGE NEED YOU HAVE
- NOT SERVING TO DO IT FOR SOME SOCIAL REASONS

But because you love Him and you're doing unto Him
(*the insurance against burn out*)

* **Humility** 5012 *tapeinophrosune* (*tap-i-nof-ros-oo'-nay*)
humility of mind toward ones self, to be modest
a loneliness of self - **meaning you're not in your own mind**

How do we become humble?

you can write a book about it, you can teach a series on it

"How I became the most humble man in the world"

Numbers 12:3

(Now the man Moses was very humble, more humble than all the men who were on the face of the earth.) - **the problem is Moses wrote the book of Numbers!**

Proverbs 27:2

Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger,
and not your own lips.

But Jesus Said;

Matthew 18:4

**"Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is
the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

The 4 'R's of Humility

- #1 **Recognizing** who we really are compared to Jesus Christ
- #2 **Recover** from Recognizing who we really are next to Jesus Christ
- #3 **Remember** to Recognize who we really are compared to Jesus Christ
- #4 **Rejoice** in Jesus, Remembering that we are now Recognized in Him!

Humility Tears & Trails...
...Trails Tears & Humility,

The Fruit of a True ministry and spiritual trials...

***Becoming small, While Jesus becomes Bigger!
Unlearning, so that we can become children again***

Biblical Humility is a two-way street

#1

HOW YOU VIEW YOURSELF

having a clear understanding that whoever you are and whatever you are if it's anything good... its from God.

Talents, Gifts, looks, Abilities, Intellect... it's God's on loan to you

We are Obligated to Him for Everything

#2

HOW YOU VIEW OTHERS AROUND YOU

Do you Minister to them, not to build the Church, But because you love them - it's the Church that builds Them Up

Bottom line is that Their welfare is our concern,
while our welfare is Christs' concern

I can look out & take care of you because...
Jesus is taking care of me

Paul's Farewell Talk Walking the Talk !

C. He was Obedient to The Calling

vv. 20

Verse 20

* *kept back* GRK 5288 *hupostello* (*hoop-os-tel'-lo*);
to withhold, to cower away from or to shrink under the order,

Paul didn't whimpo & whimpee

Obedience can Sometimes be Painful
(like a doctor who knows what you need)

I Know You're really in Pain... so I won't give you this shot - is bad

Obedience to the point of being Confrontational...
When Needed.

Like Jesus was, In the same Spirit

2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when they will not endure **sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

2 Timothy 3:1

But know this, that in the last days **perilous times will come**: :2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

Let's Test the Above Verses

- If I were to tell you *that you need to stop sleeping with that girl - How do you react to that - "You're Judging me Jack ..."*
- If you're abusive to *your husband or wife you must stop it now - How do you react to that - "You're Judging me Jack ..."*

Matthew 7:16

"You will know (identify) them by their fruits. (false believers)

**Pastors are not to cower away from
or to shrink under these orders,**

" From House to House "

One on one to the spiritual Hungry

In San Diego - The Helm's Bread and Bakery Truck

Paul's Farewell Talk Walking the Talk !

D. He was careful to Give The True Gospel vv. 21

* **Testifying** GRK 1263 *diamarturomai* (*dee-am-ar-too'-rom-ahee*)
to give earnest and solemn witness of Jesus

Repentance

(That is Turning) Toward God

* **Repentance** GRK 3341 *metanoia* (*met-an'-oy-ah*);
to alter course, to turn the ship around
to demand a change of course

Acts 17:30-31

"but now commands all men everywhere to repent, :31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

The Message of the First Missionaries, is the same message for us today

Mark 6:12

So they went out and preached that people should (recognize that you are going the wrong way. stop and turn around, a head in the opposite direction) repent.

Repentance is Like This; *It's like a sick-man telling you of his illness. I have the flu, I have asthma, I'm H.I.V. positive, We are all S.I.N. Positive, SIN sick.*

Repentance is no longer passing the blame...
it stops with you.

- it's understanding that you could never right the wrongs
- it's knowing that being as good as you possibly could, you could never settle the account with God. - you need mercy & grace - and Now!!!

Faith

(That is Trust) Toward our Lord Jesus Christ

* **Faith** GRK 4102 *pistis* (*pis'-tis*);
to be persuaded, to have reliance, assurance to stand

2.) Paul's Farewell Walk, Walking the Talk vv. 22-25

It's Not Over till the Fat Angel Sings

The Warning is;

Do not be thinking about yourself... or you'll not finish the race at all

STOP THINKING ABOUT YOURSELF

But Jack, That's Denial - Yes it Is - Amen Praise God it is!!!

Luke 9:23

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow Me.

You Have A Daily Appointment to Forget about Your Past, your hang-ups, your problems.

The More Self-Serving & Self-Centered our Culture, The More Therapist-Dependent, Co-dependent and drug-dependent we become..

Jesus Said;

"... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Jesus Said Again;

"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

**I know that my life is dear to Him...
so I am free, knowing that He is thinking about me**

Paul's Farewell Walk Walking the Talk !

C. Paul the Runner, Decided to Run vv. 24b

"so that I may finish **my race** with joy,"

* *Joy GRK 5479 chara (khar-ah');*

cheerfulness, i.e. calm delight:

I can put up with the junk *of Life because, I know where I am going In Life*
with Jesus Christ

Philippians 3:12-15

Paul said: Not that I have already attained, or am already complete; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. :13 I do not count myself to have apprehended it yet; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, :14 I press toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. :15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind;

That will Produce Joy *(even though your still running in the race)*

Paul's Farewell Walk Walking the Talk !

D. Paul the Steward, He Invested Wisely vv. 24c

"and the ministry which **I received**
from the Lord Jesus"

Paul's Farewell Walk Walking the Talk !

E. Paul the Witness, He Walked the Talk vv. 24d

"to **testify** to the gospel of the grace of God."
(the teaching ministry)

Verse 25

"and the **Preaching** the Kingdom God..."
(the evangelistic messages)

2 Timothy 4:6

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. :7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Isaiah 45:22

"Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.