

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHAPTER 20:26-28

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER # SM - 210

TITLE:

The Apostles Farewell Address - Part 3

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."*

When Engineers Wanted to build a bridge across the Niagara River, their first problem hit them hard... they couldn't get a rope across it because it was too great a river. So they first attached a string to a kite and they flew the kite across. Then they tied a wire to the string and pulled that across, then a rope to that string, then a barge to the rope, and then a bridge to the barge... God builds His church with a lot a little strings...

Isaiah 28:10

For the Lord says, precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little."

In verse 26-28 Paul Unveils to us the responsibility of every Christian in the family of God and that is... • To be active and effective about sharing Jesus • and to give out the complete instruction of Bible doctrine • so that the church will grow as a living dynamic in the world...

The Latter Part of Verse 28 gives us the Purpose of Paul the Apostle and the Passion of the Pastor Paul ...

...to shepherd the church of God !

Paul is Completing His Missionary Journey

1.) Having a Clear Conscience toward all Men vv. 26

First off, There Are (3) Things That We Need To See in Verse 26

A. We Must Be Willing to Witness of God vv. 26a

Have you ever Wondered if God speaks to You?

- does God ever speak to me?
- how do I know if it is God speaking to me?

God will often speak to you *with words of Encouragement, or Love, or Direction. But ever Christian will be able to identify the voice of God when #1 were thinking about doing something wrong. #2 When He calls us to tell someone about His son Jesus! - (the struggle begins)*

There are 2 Big Hearing Problems that we Have...

(Having Sin on Our Hands)

Isaiah 59:1-2

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. :2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

(Having Fat in Our Ears)

Hebrews 5:11

I'd like to talk to more about Jesus of whom we have much to say, but it will be **hard to explain, since you have (become) (dull) of hearing.**

“Hard to Explain”

The Meaning is that they had Experienced a Spiritual Peak in their walk and now were gradually descending down from where they had come.

“You Have “**Become**” *(an acquired, degenerating trend)* Sluggish of Ear”

“You Have Become Dull of Hearing”

* *Dull* *3576 nothros (no-thros')*;
to become sluggish, thick, to plug the ear with fat,
apathetic, to lose passion, deadened.

Ceasing to contribute to

* *Hearing* *189 akoe (ak-o-ay')*
to stop being an audience

Verse 26

Tells us the "why" of our mission as Christians. It means that we are to be searching hi & lo for anyone who needs to hear the message of Jesus Christ!

We will either be Evangelizing as a church or we will
Fossilize as a people

Romans 3:23
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:12
They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one."

We are to Reach them - with Jesus !

Luke 15:10
"Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God
over one sinner who repents." - THE PRODIGAL SON

(the only story that portrayed God in a hurry - hurry to forgive)

Verse 26a

"Therefore"

The "Therefore" *is therefore a great reason and it is found in verse 25*

Verse 25

**"now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God,
- will see my face no more.**

He's handing the Baton over
to the Ephesian Pastors...

(I use to be Fast, very Fast, Running the 440 relay)

The Baton, right hand to left to right hand

The Hand off was the critical moment

Paul is Completing His Missionary Journey

Having a Clear Conscience toward all Men

B. Because He Looked through 'Eternity' glasses vv. 26b

Why did Paul call the Ephesian elders together?

I testify to you this day

* **Testify** GRK 3143 **marturomai** (mar-too'-rom-ahee);
a legal, courtroom term meaning "I give testimony before
these witnesses, (God being the Judge)

"this day"

Baton Passed! "This is the Apostle Paul Signing Off"

Paul's Preaching had an End !!!

2 Thessalonians 1:10

when Jesus comes, in **that Day**, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

He Operated Under an Eternal time clock *daylight (soul) savings time*

2 Timothy 1:12

I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until **that Day**.

2 Timothy 4:8

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on **that Day**, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Paul is Completing His Missionary Journey

Having a Clear Conscience toward all Men

C. By being Innocent of the Outcome vv. 26c

that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

* **Innocent** GRK 2513 katharos (kath-ar-os');
to have become clean, or cleared of a task, to have fulfilled a call

**We Need to Ask a Question,
What does it mean to be innocent of the blood of all men**

How Do We as a Church be Innocent?

start seeing the church the way Jesus Sees it !

Matthew 28:18-19

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. :19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

THAT'S US... WE, THE CHURCHES CORPORATE THING TO DO

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY

How do I as a Christian be Innocent?

see the world the way Jesus sees it !

2 Timothy 4:5

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

THAT'S YOU... ME, THE CHURCHES INDIVIDUAL THING TO DO

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY

- #1 MEET THEM;** you will have to greet them first (The Hop)
- #2 LOVE THEM;** when opportunities arise use them (holiday, illnesses)
- #3 TELL THEM;** give them the gospel message of the Bible (call us)
- #4 SHOW THEM;** back up the message of God by how you live

Dwight L. Moody and the missed altar call in Chicago. That night the great Chicago fire ravished the city (Oct. 8-9, 1871)

Excuse Me Please... But Your House is on Fire !!!

**if they live or die...
I have done all that I could have done to save them**

Nothing More Could Have Been Done

Tomorrow at the Office, the Yard, the Plant, The Neighborhood

Nothing More Can Be Done

Hey Joe, I'm a Christian, and I pray,
is there anything you'd want me to pray for you for?

The Watchman

**WAS TO STAND GUARD, WATCHING AND WARNING
HE WAS TO BE FAITHFUL, NOT FEARFUL**

Ezekiel 33:3

when the watchman sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, :4 `then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes his life, his blood shall be upon his own head. :5 `He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life.

Ezekiel 33:9

"Nevertheless if you warn the unbeliever to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his sins; but you have delivered yourself.

Paul is Completing His Missionary Journey

By Having a Clear Conscience toward all Men

2.) By Being Faithful to the Biblical Message vv. 27

Here In Verse 27, There Is (1) Thing
That We Need To Identify With.....

....If we are going to be Faithful to the Biblical Message

Verse 27

Gives us the "what" of our mission as Christians when we say the "the What" we mean the content of our preaching, teaching and our living out of the whole counsel of the Bible.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, :2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain. :3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, :4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

The Gospel, The Doctrines & The Duties privileges & responsibilities

Paul is Completing His Missionary Journey By Being Faithful to the Biblical Message

A. He was Careful to not Avoid the truth vv. 27

For I have not shunned to declare to you

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

This week at a home-visitation (emotions vs. reality)

the whole counsel of God

* **whole** GRK 3956 *pas* (*pas*);
to present all, any and every bit of the whole:
to thoroughly give.

* **Counsel** GRK 1012 *boule* (*boo-lay'*);
the Will and the Purpose God's complete will.
The Complete Purpose

THE WORD BEING BROUGHT

2 Peter 1:21

for the word of God never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

THE WORD BEING TAUGHT

Nehemiah 8:5

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. :6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground..... :8 So they read **distinctly** from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave **the sense**, and helped them **to understand** the reading.

THE WORD BEING FOUGHT

Ephesians 6:17

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Paul is Completing His Missionary Journey

By Having a Clear Conscience toward all Men

By Being Faithful to the Biblical Message

3.) By Being Mindful of the Church of God vv. 28

Finally, There Are (4) Things
That We Need to See Here in Verse 28

Verse 28

Teaches us "The Where" of our mission as Christians, when we say The Where, we mean the gathering of God's people, the church of Jesus Christ in the earth today.

Background;

What Happened... See 1 Timothy 1:1-6

Paul is Completing His Missionary Journey
By Being Mindful of the Church of God

A. Warning us to Take Heed to yourself First vv. 28a

Therefore take heed to **YOURSELVES**

* Heed GRK 4337 prosecho (pros-ekh'-o)
to hold the mind to. to pay attention to, be cautious about,

True Ministry is *the overflow of what's happening in your life and mine*

- The People cannot be first in my life
- My family cannot be first in my life
- This church cannot be first in my life

Jesus Must be First in My Life

the overflow of that relationship.... is called ministry !!!

Abraham was Blessed of God because he first was an Altar Builder before he was a Well digger

Genesis 12:7

Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land."
And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Paul is Completing His Missionary Journey
By Being Mindful of the Church of God

B. Warning Pastors to Take Heed for the Body vv. 28b

and (take heed) to all **THE FLOCK**,
among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers,

My Job Is to Instruct You and to Warn You
(blow the Trumpet)

where the truth is,
falsehood will not be far away

Matthew 24:4 Jesus Said

"**Take heed**..... that no one deceives you. (false doctrine)

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Luke 11:35 Jesus Said

take heed..... that the light which is in you is not darkness. (false, imitation)

Luke 21:8 Jesus Said

Take heed.....For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.'
Therefore do not go after them.

Mark 13:33 Jesus Said

Take heed..... watch and pray;

Paul is Completing His Missionary Journey
By Being Mindful of the Church of God

C. Because The Lord has Ordained His Pastors vv. 28c

to shepherd the church of God
POINT THEM IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Genesis 13:3

And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, :4 to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

**Paul is Completing His Missionary Journey
By Being Mindful of the Church of God**

D. Because it was Bought at a Great Price vv. 28d

which He purchased with His own blood.

if gold backs the value of the U.S. Dollar, then what that dollar can buy represents it's worth...

If God backs the value of His Sons Blood,
then what that blood can buy represents our worth

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 7:23

You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

The Ginger Bread Man... The little girl made him, but he ran away, finding him captured in a storefront window... she bought him

**"Little Ginger Bread Man,
I made you and now I have bought you,
Now You're doubly Mine"**