

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CHAPTER 20:28-38

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM - 211

TITLE:

The Apostles Farewell Address - PART 4
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."

Driving down to the Church *this morning I am sure that I drove past many Traffic Signs... Slow Children - Dip Ahead - Watch for falling Rock*

Up here on Chino Hills Parkway "Deer Crossing" (like they only cross between the signs)

**I don't remember seeing those signs this morning
- but I know they're there**

- In Verse 17 Paul began *his farewell address to the Ephesian elders by giving them a message regarding;*

#1 **The Past** vv. 18-21,

#2 **The Present** vv. 22-27

#3 and now he winds it up by giving them a message of warning about
The Future vv. 28-38

1.) He Gives Us Warning About the Future vv. 28-31

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

A. The Work of the Lord, is the Work of the Lord vv. 28

The Church is Important to God...

- Important to the Father because it has His Name On it
- Important to the Son because it has His blood Over it
- Important to the Holy Spirit because He lives Inside of it

The Church is Important to Us, Cuz, We are it !

As Christians & Church leaders- We are to be taking Heed

1 simple way is...

"Ask Yourself - How is this going to bring glory to God"

Personally; you'll find it hard to sin if you're asking that question

If we can't say "Praise the Lord" in the middle of it,
we probably shouldn't be doing it.

1 Corinthians 10:31

**Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.**

Corporately; As a church or ministry, Ask it again and again !!!

Isaiah 48:11

...I will not give My glory to another.

The Work of the Lord, is the Work of the Lord

Acts 20:28

**"to shepherd the church of God which He (He who - God)
purchased with His own blood...."**

Can God bleed ?

(The Bible Teaches that God is Spirit)

When did God bleed ?

(The Bible Teaches that God the Son died)

Hebrews 9:12

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Revelation 1:5

Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

Revelation 1:17-18

...He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. :18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore....

Revelation 2:8

`These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came back to life:

My Friend, You Sold yourself into the sin-market a long time ago,
But God has bought you out of it...

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.

He Gives Us Warning About the Future

B. That There will be Danger's Around Us vv. 29

Paul Likened a False Teacher to a **Wolf** among **Sheep**

(**ATTACK TACTICS**)

A wolf or a coyote will normally approach sheep openly & slowly. an act of disarming is achieved by lingering in the area ever closer. and then with a quick bite would take part of a foot, then a piece of ear, part of the lip then the shoulder...

A SLOW AND TORTUROUS DEATH

Matthew 7:15

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. :16 "You will know them by their fruits.

Watch em', wolves eat sheep, sheep do not eat sheep

Remember Absalom The Wolf
(he sat at the gate & said - he's so busy - If I were the King)

fleece rather than feed you

"Well if I were the pastor here, if I were an elder..."

HOW TO SPOT A WOLF - 1A

- **If you're a Shepherd**, you can Look Under their Wool & squeeze their fruit - **it's Plastic - Decorative - Fake**
- **If you're a sheep**, Just wait for the wind to start blowing or the rain to start falling, the weather of the World will expose them - You'll see their Fruits... (and boy do they stink)

WOLVES - CULTS - HERESIES - ANTI-CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

Knowing what the Bible teaches **ENABLES YOU** to detect a wolf
The Church at large, is Weak in Discerning Today

He Gives Us Warning About the Future

C. The Dangers Among Us

vv. 30

2 Peter 2:1

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

1 John 2:18

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist (the man) is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. :19 (Identifying Feature #1) **They went out from us, but they were not of us**; for if they had been of us, (Identifying Feature #2) **they would have continued with us**; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

2 Timothy 3

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! :6 For of this sort are those who creep into households...

God Gives a Pastor - A Shepherd's Eye

(It's not a beautiful or fun thing)

He Gives Us Warning About the Future

D. There Are Dangers from Within

vv. 31-35

PAUL LIST'S 5 SINS THAT THREATEN THE LIFE OF A CHURCH

that are destructive to the Pastor and the Body

1. **Carelessness** There is a danger of falling asleep at the wheel

* **Watch** GRK 1127 gregoreuo (gray-gor-yoo'-o)
to keep awake, to be alert and vigilant

A Solider keeping guard who has... **heard of** attacks,
... **heard of** Ambushes

Matthew 24:43

But understand this: If the owner of a house knows the time of night that the thief is coming, he will set up a **watch** and will not allow his house be broken into.

Matthew 26:41

"**Watch** and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is

Luke 21:36

"**Watch** therefore, and pray always

Mark 13:37

"And what I say to you, I say to all: **Watch!**"

* **Remember** GRK 3421 mnemoneuo (mnay-mon-yoo'-o)
to be exercising the memory, to re-call; or to rehearse.
to mention it.

Hebrews 13:7

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

"as a pastor, I Come from a Long line
of Sheep dogs"

Paul would cry over the thought of 1 Lamb Chop

2.) **Shallowness** we need to be well balanced in prayer and in the word

3.) **Covetousness** a consuming and controlling desire to have things

1 Timothy 3:3

The Pastor is not to be given to alcohol, not violent, not desirous for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous (not longing for things)

4.) **Laziness** there wasn't a self-serving attitude, others didn't serve Paul

As far back as I can remember I used to wonder why My mother's hands were so much more weathered and wrinkled than my friends mothers. **(There has never been a harder working woman - it showed)**

5.) **Selfishness** The True Meaning to this Be-Attitude (Be in this Attitude) is;

"That it is a happier life lived if you share what you have with those around you"

Luke 12:16-21

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. :17 "And he thought within himself, saying, `What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' :18 "So he said, `I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. :19 `And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." :20 "But God said to him, `Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' :21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

We are being blessed of God, the crops are growing and producing abundantly, we need a bigger barn to hold the people,

We are on the Eve of securing a bigger barn in chino hills - watch out

1 Chronicles 29:16

"O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy name ***is from Your hand***, and ***is all Your own***.

Luke 12:22

Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on.

(nor the building that is to be used)

He Gives Us Warning About the Future

2.) He Gives Us Warning About Ourselves vv. 32

*Next, There is Really Only (1) Thing
That We Need To See in Verses 32*

A. He Warns Us about Our Position in Christ vv. 32

* **Commend** GRK 3908 **paratithemi** (par-at-ith'-ay-mee);
to place alongside, to deposit or to hold in safe keeping
(to tuck into bed)

I commend you to God

I direct you to His Pastoral Care - Prayer

* **Grace** GRK 5485 **charis** (khar'-ece)
the divine impression - influence upon the heart, unreasonable favor, an unearned gift, undeserving pleasure, - worthiness

I commend to the word of His **grace**,

I direct you to The Word His Grace - The Bible

which is able to **build you up**

The Bible

which is able to **give you an inheritance**

The Bible

Colossians 1:12

give thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. :13 Who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Not Earned, Not Bargained For, Not Deserved

There is over 5 million U.S. dollars in Brazil with my name on it my brother and my sister too. But the Brazilian government says I need to move Brazil to spend it - I need to be translated there to receive it

By birth, I Qualify, ~ By Moving, I can receive it

Ephesians 1:18

Open your eyes and understanding... that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance...

among all those who **are sanctified**

Hebrews 10:10

By that will (of God) we **have been sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ **once and for all.**

&

Hebrews 10:14

For by **one offering** he has perfected forever them that are sanctified.

An Amplified Reading Of The Text is Like This;

He has made us absolutely, once and for all time, perfected by himself being the sacrifice, and that's not all. Day by day we are becoming more like him because we have been sanctified.

Sanctification, (Is a Declaration from Heaven)
it's NOT a Process

There's Nothing In Bible That Says Sanctification Is A Process

Greek aorist tense, in a moment of time,
a past fact, an event in time. - it happened

* sanctified 37 hagiozo (hag-ee-ad'-zo)
to make holy (the unholy) , to make pure (the impure) to consecrate what which was
not consecrated (to be set apart from sin and set apart for holiness)

SANCTIFICATION

IS GOD'S ACT OF REMOVING THE SINNER
FROM THE DEMANDS OF SIN

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, :10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. :11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Your Sanctification is Complete (It's Historic)
so Walk like it - Talk like it - Act like it

We Do Mature in the Lord

WRESTLE WITH SIN NOW... But that's not Sanctification

The Story About The Father *who was trying to deal with his rebellious 2 year old was overheard saying "Albert, stay calm, Albert, take it easy, Albert, don't do anything stupid, Albert, watch that temper" just then a lady said, "what a patient father you are with that little Albert" but the father turned to here and said "Lady I'm Albert!"*

3.) He Gives Us Warning About Stuff

vv. 33-35

From Verses 33-35, There Are (3) Things That We Need To Know

A. To Watch Over Our Eyes & Heart vv. 33

- Silver speaks of Earnings (Income)
- Gold speaks of Power (Influence)
- Apparel speaks of Clothing (Inseam) power ties & colors

That wouldn't be good for me

He Gives Us Warning About Stuff

B. Be Quick to Perform Christian love vv. 35a

we need turkeys

He Gives Us Warning About Stuff

C. To Think About the Needs of Others vv. 35b

1 Reason why Russia is a blast

1 Timothy 6:6

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. :7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. :8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. :9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. :10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

4.) He Warns Us About Our Life Style vv. 36-38

*Finally, from Verses 36-38, There's (2) Things
That We Need To Know*

**Friday Mornings Here - 5:30 am.
Fellowship in the Spirit**

I Think They Prayed Like This...

O' God please keep our pastor safe - bless the journey that lies ahead of him - Remind him always of our love for him - Remind him always that his work toward us was not in vain - tell him often that we are growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus...

I Think Paul Prayed Like This...

Father, please don't let any of these guys fall from grace - cause them to hunger for your word and to walk in a way that brings you glory - remind them of all that I taught them - give them discernment to know what is the right thing to do and o' yes

Colossians 2:5

For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

To them, Paul was as good as dead,
he was never going to be seen again

He Warns Us About Our Lifestyle

I am Proud (in the Lord) of this Church
in my absences...

you're loving, you're warm, you're easy to teach and to be with

1 Thessalonians 4:13

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. :14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. :15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. :16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. :18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.