

**Acts 20-21      *The Third Missionary Journey.*****NOTES****Acts 20:1-16   Exhortations to Churches – *It is high time to awake out of sleep!***

1. Paul departed from Ephesus with several faithful men and went through Macedonia and Greece exhorting the churches before returning through Macedonia to Troas.
2. Paul spent seven days with the church at Troas, and was long in his preaching.
3. Paul went to Assos by himself on foot while the others went by ship, and then they sailed together down the western coast of Asia Minor before coming to Miletus.

**Acts 20:17-38   Last words to the Ephesian elders – *Nothing held back!***

1. Paul's last words to the Ephesian elders included a reminder of how they knew from the first day of his arrival his manner of life – an example for all to follow.
2. Paul's last words included a reminder of how they knew he kept nothing back that was profitable unto them, but shewed them, and taught them (privately and publicly), and how he preached repentance and faith in Christ alone to all the world.
3. Paul's last words included a reminder of how they knew he testified both to the Jews and also to the Greeks repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. After reminding of the past, Paul's focus was the now, and the reality that he must go to Jerusalem – even though it was clearly understood that bonds and afflictions will surely come.
5. Paul was not moved by life's trials and afflictions because his desire was to finish his course with joy, and the ministry, which he received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel.
6. Paul took them to record that he was pure from the blood of all men, and he had not shunned to declare unto them all the counsel of God.
7. Paul said to take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock entrusted to them by God which He had purchased with His own blood.
8. Paul said to watch, remember, and warn without ceasing, every day, with tears.
9. After 3 years of labor and love, all that Paul could do now was commend them to God and to His word.
10. Paul's final words were to remind them of the words of our Lord Jesus, how He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."
11. After Paul had spoken his last words, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.
12. The leaders of God's church in Ephesus sorrowed most of all that they would see Paul's face no more.

**Acts 21:1-40 Paul goes to Jerusalem at his own peril**

1. While headed on a straight course for Jerusalem, Paul and his company found many disciples and tarried with them as long as possible.
2. While Paul and his company were in Caesarea for many days with the disciples, the Holy Ghost witnessed through Agabus of trouble coming for Paul at Jerusalem.
3. After hearing the words of Agabus and the Holy Ghost, Paul's company and the disciples at Caesarea besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.
4. When Paul would not be persuaded, they ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done."
5. Paul and his company came to Jerusalem and were received gladly by the brethren there and the church – including James (the Lord's brother) and the elders.
6. When the Jews of Asia came to Jerusalem, they went about to kill Paul and stir up all the people against Paul and the gospel.
7. Upon being rescued by the chief captain, soldiers, and centurions, Paul asked to speak to the chief captain and then to the Jews who had just tried to kill him.

**Personal Applications**

1. What did God speak to you about tonight? What does He want you to do differently beginning now?
2. Have you taken ownership of the Gospel ministry personally? Are you ready to advance the Gospel?

*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

## Quotes from Church History:

"You say, 'If I had a little more, I should be very satisfied.' You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled."

"If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for."

– Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892; British Baptist preacher and writer, "prince of preachers")

**Scriptures for Today: Acts 20:1-16** – Exhortations to the churches: *It is high time to awake out of sleep!*

## NOTES

## PREACHING NOTES

1. Paul **departed from Ephesus** with several **FAITHFUL** men and went through Macedonia and Greece **exhorting the churches** before returning through Macedonia to **Troas**. 20:1-6

- ✓ Paul departed for to go **into Macedonia** and **Greece** to **exhort and encourage** the churches... Acts 18:23; 19:21
- ✓ The **Jews laid wait** for Paul **to try to kill him** which changed his course back to Macedonia... Acts 20:19; 9:23-24; 23:12-15; Jeremiah 5:26; 2 Corinthians 7:5; 11:26
- ✓ Paul was accompanied by **faithful men** that were **used by God** to strengthen the churches... Romans 16:21; Acts 19:20; 27:2; Colossians 4:10; Philemon 1:24; Romans 16:23; 1 Corinthians 1:14; Ephesians 6:21-22; Colossians 4:7; Titus 3:12; 2 Timothy 4:12; Acts 21:29; 2 Timothy 4:20

**NOTE** In 2 Corinthians 11:28, Paul said, "*Beside all these things (great perils) that are without, that which cometh upon my daily, the care of all the churches.*" What a great privilege and responsibility was laid on the Apostle Paul!! God designed for him to be the great preacher and church planter of the early church. He was "*before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious*" (1 Tim 1:13) but now he was a great tool in the hands of the living God. Not only was he opposed by the Devil and all the forces of hell in the spiritual realm, he was in perils by his own countrymen often (2 Cor 11:26). God would have him to have strong, faithful men by his side through this important third missionary journey to minister to him and to the churches as was deemed necessary. These men were some of the greatest Christian men who ever lived. They accompanied Paul to help in whatever role was needed, but they also put their own necks on the line and were personally brought into perils and severe persecution for the cause of Christ (Acts 19:29). Oh that God would raise up men and women who will "*fight the good fight of faith*" (1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 4:7) and labourers that would be willing to go into the plentiful harvest and preach the gospel to every creature! (Lk 10:2; Mk 16:15)

2. Paul spent seven days with **the church in Troas**, and was **LONG** in his **preaching**. 20:7-12

- ✓ Paul and his team were in **Troas for 7 days** (it was the place he got the "**Macedonian Call**")... Acts 16:8-11; 2 Corinthians 2:12; 2 Timothy 4:11-13
- ✓ The church (disciples) in Troas **came together on the first day of the week**... Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:12, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Hebrews 10:25



- ✓ Paul **continued his speech** until **midnight**...  
Acts 28:23; Nehemiah 8:3; 2 Timothy 4:2; Exodus 11:4; 12:29; Judges 16:3; Ruth 3:8; Job 34:20; Psalm 119:62; Matthew 25:6; Mark 13:35; Luke 11:5; Acts 16:25; 27:27
- ✓ A young man named Eutychus **fell asleep during the long preaching** and died from the fall...  
Jonah 1:5-6; Matt 13:25; 25:5; 26:40,41; Mark 13:36; 14:37; Luke 9:32; 22:46; Prov 19:15; Isaiah 56:10; Judges 5:12; Psalm 57:8; 108:2; Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 15:34; Ephesians 5:14; 1 Thess 5:6

**NOTE** Say what you want, but God has a legacy of long-winded preachers who He has used to build His church so that the gates of hell would not prevail against it! (Mt 16:18) Eutychus goes down in church history (and has his name written in the preserved Book of God forever) as the one who fell asleep and died under Paul's long preaching!! What a night of preaching it must have been since the Apostle to the Gentiles was leaving the next day (Acts 20:7) possibly never to be seen in person again. The Bible says, "*And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*" (Rom 13:11-12) What are we doing at ease in this God forsaken world?!? It is time for God to get the glory He deserves and for us to wake up, to watch, and to be sober and earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints as we join in the battle for the souls of people before it is too late!!

### 3. Paul went to Assos **by himself** on **FOOT** while the others went by ship, and then they sailed together down the western coast of Asia Minor before **coming to Miletus**. 20:13-16

- ✓ Paul **chose to go by himself by foot** to Assos (which was a very **difficult** journey)...  
Matthew 14:22-23; Mark 6:45, 46; 2 Corinthians 11:24-28; 1 Samuel 30:6; Psalm 27:13, 14; 34:15; 37:5; 55:22; 56:3, 4; 142:4, 5; Matthew 6:25, 34; Luke 12:22-34; Philippians 4:6; Hebrews 13:5, 6
- ✓ Paul and his team **stopped at several cities** while making their way to Miletus...  
Mark 16:15; Acts 8:4, 40; 14:22
- ✓ Paul **had determined** if it were possible **to be at Jerusalem for Pentecost**...  
Acts 2:1; Romans 10:1; 11:1, 11; 1:16

**NOTE** Oh that the Holy Spirit would speak to us today about the times we must go alone through this life. How Paul must have been burdened with the desire to preach the gospel and to warn every man, with the perils that were coming from without, and with the care of the churches and disciples in every city. He followed the pattern of his Lord Jesus Christ in sending the others ahead by ship (Mt 14:22-23) while he chose to go a time alone by foot even though it meant that it would be a difficult journey. For many, this decision did not make any sense. Why would he do that?? Although we do not know the reasons, we know that Jesus made similar decisions in order to spend time alone with God in prayer (Mk 6:45, 46). We all need to take time to cast all our cares upon Him (1 Pet 5:7) and get our thoughts renewed by the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is imperative that we take time out of our busy lives, to be quiet (1 Thess 4:11) and to be alone with God. We are not bullet proof! We are not as strong as we think we are! We cannot possibly meet the expectations of everyone around us! We need God and His help every day. Are you burdened with many responsibilities and cares? Do you feel overwhelmed in the midst of life's trials? Cast all of your cares on the Lord Jesus today, and let Him carry you through this week. The Bible says, "*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*" (Prov 3:5-6) Let others run ahead this week while you get alone with God. He will be your Hope and Help in time of need.

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**.  
✓ Have you **believed God's words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?  
✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?



*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

## Quotes from Church History:

*"Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is the first duty and the highest virtue of the creature, and the root of every virtue. And so pride, or the loss of this humility, is the root of every sin and evil."*

*"Humility is nothing but that simple consent of the creature to let God be all, in virtue of which it surrenders itself to His working alone."*

— Andrew Murray (1828-1917; South African pastor, teacher and authored over 240 books)

**Scriptures for Today: Acts 20:17-21** – Last words to Ephesian elders (part 1): *Serve the Lord with all humility, and preach repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ!*

## NOTES

## PREACHING NOTES

1. Paul's **last words** to the Ephesian **PASTORS** included a **reminder** of how **they knew** from the first day of his arrival his **manner of life** – an **example for all to follow**. 20:17-19

- ✓ Paul called the **Ephesian** elders (**pastors**) to come to Miletus for **final words** of exhortation... "Bishop" 1 Timothy 3:1-2; "Elder/Bishop" Titus 1:5-7; "Overseer" Acts 20:28; "Pastors" Ephesians 4:11; Jeremiah 23:1-4; "Shepherd/Hireling" John 10:1-19
- ✓ Paul told them **they knew** from the first day **his manner of life** – that was an **example**... Acts 10:1, 10; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6; 2:1-10; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9; 2 Timothy 3:10
- ✓ Paul said he **served the Lord with all humility of mind**, and with **tears**, and **temptations**... "Serve" John 12:26; Rom 1:1, 9; 12:11; Gal 1:10; Eph 6:7; Col 3:24; 1 Thess 1:9; 2 Pet 1:1; "Humility" 1 Cor 15:9, 10; 2 Cor 3:5; 7:5; 12:7-10; Prov 15:33; 18:12; 22:4; 1 Pet 5:5-6; James 4:6, 10; Col 2:18, 23; "Humble" Exodus 10:3; Deut 8:2, 16; 2 Chr 7:14; 34:27; Job 22:29; Psalm 9:12; 10:12; 10:17; 34:2; 69:32; Proverbs 16:19; 29:23; Isaiah 57:15; Matthew 18:4; 20:26; 23:12; "Tears" Ps 126:5; 2 Cor 11:26

**NOTE** O how we need these words from the Holy Bible today!! The key to the salvation of a soul is HUMILITY! The key to the Christian life is HUMILITY! The key to giving God the most glory possible as a church is the HUMILITY of His people! The Bible says in James 4:6, *"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."* Again in 1 Peter 5:5-7, *"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."* We must consider our Lord Jesus Christ as the CHIEF example of humility. The Bible says in Philippians 2:5-8, *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Paul was so careful to have a good testimony before all of Ephesus and ESPECIALLY those of God's church (Gal 6:10). He knew that he was planting God's church and making disciples with the goal that the day would soon come when those that he had led to Christ and disciplined would have to lead God's church into the future and for the next generation. Do you do all that you do to the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31)? Do you do all work – both in the secular world and especially in God's church – AS unto the Lord (Eph 6:5) with all humility of mind? When you have the privilege of serving the Lord in the children's ministry, do you love on them in such

a way that the children learn humility by the way you show them with your words and actions? Would those closest to you in your family, in the church, and in the world consider you to be a humble person who is more often than not "clothed with humility" (1 Pet 5:5-6)? The Bible says in Ephesians 4:30-32, "*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*" It is high time that we start living our lives in such a way that the world around us sees more of Christ and less of us (Jn 3:30)!!

2. Paul's **last words** included a **reminder** of how **they knew** he **kept nothing back** that was **PROFITABLE** unto them, but **shewed them**, and **taught them** (privately and publicly), and **how he preached repentance and faith in Christ alone to all the world**. 20:20-21

- ✓ Paul was **faithful to feed God's flock** all that was **profitable** – all the words of God...  
John 21:15-17; John 10:1-19; 1 Timothy 4:1-8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:11; Titus 3:8; Philemon 1:11
- ✓ Paul **preached** to the world **repentance toward God** and **faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ**...  
Acts 9:15; 26:20; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15

**NOTE** Paul preached the plain truths of the Gospel and the holy Bible with no sugar coating and never, never, never taught using profane and old wives' fables (1 Tim 4:7)!! And, he PREACHED them (2 Tim 4:1)!! He testified as one who was under oath before the great Judge of the universe!! He preached the gospel as a testimony to them if they received it, but as a testimony against them if they rejected it!! The Bible says in John 21:15-17, "*So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*" Jesus also said in John 10:11-13, "*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.*" There are times in our church that it might seem that the preaching is a little too intense and not as loving as you might expect. Know this, it is my God-given responsibility to ensure that God's flock is fed – as often as we meet – the words of God from the holy Bible. Paul is an example to me as the pastor and to all of us as the church that God has purchased with His own blood! We must SHOW and TEACH all the Bible to everyone that God has placed in our life. And, we must set our lives to preach the gospel to every creature (Mk 16:15) and to warn every man and teach every man (Col 1:28) that 10 out of 10 people die, and that after death is judgment (Heb 9:27). The Bible says **very plainly** Jesus Christ is **coming back** "*in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power*" (2 Thess 1:7-9). It would seem that the most profitable truth for the world to hear is the Law and the Gospel. As Mark Cahill says, there is only ONE thing you cannot do in heaven. And that is be a **faithful witness** for our Lord Jesus Christ to all those for whom He died!! Open your mouth for Him today and this week while you still have your health and your breath and your life...and before it is too late!!

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**.  
✓ Have you **believed God's words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?  
✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?



*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Quotes from Church History:** *"One of these days some simple soul will pick up the book of God, read it, and believe it. Then the rest of us will be embarrassed. We have adopted the convenient theory that the Bible is a Book to be explained, whereas first and foremost it is a Book to be believed (and after that obeyed.)"*

*"Just three words – IT IS FINISHED. The greatest words ever uttered by the greatest Man that ever lived."*

*"The surest thing in the world is not death and taxes, but death and eternity. Yet, we're so unconcerned."*

– Leonard Ravenhill (1907-1994; English Christian Evangelist, pastor, preacher, and author)

**Scriptures for Today: Acts 20:20-21** – Last words to pastors (part 2): Do not hold back what is profitable – *Preach repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ!*

**NOTES****PREACHING NOTES**

1. Paul's **last words** included a **reminder** of how **they knew** he **kept nothing back** that was **PROFITABLE** unto them, but **shewed them**, and **taught them** (privately and publicly). 20:20

✓ Paul was **faithful to feed God's flock** all that was **profitable** – all the words of God...  
John 21:15-17; John 10:1-19; 1 Timothy 4:1-8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:11; Titus 3:8; Philemon 1:11

**NOTE** Paul preached the plain truths of the Gospel and the holy Bible with no sugar coating and never, never, never taught using profane and old wives' fables (1 Tim 4:7)! And, he PREACHED them (2 Tim 4:1)! He testified as one who was under oath before the great Judge!! He preached the gospel as a testimony to them if they received it, but as a testimony **against** them if they rejected it! The Bible says in John 21:15-17, *"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep."* Jesus also said in John 10:11-13, *"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep."* There are times in our church that it might seem that the preaching is a little intense and not as loving as you might expect. Know this; it is my God-given responsibility to ensure that God's flock is fed – as often as we meet – the words of God from the holy Bible. Paul is an example to me as the pastor and to all of us as the church that God has purchased with His own blood! We must **SHOW** and **TEACH** all the Bible to everyone that God has placed in our life.



2. Paul's *last words* included a *reminder* of how *they knew* he TESTIFIED *both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.* 20:21

- ✓ Paul was *a faithful witness* who *testified* the *truth to the world*...  
 "true", "faithful witness" Psalm 89:37; Proverbs 14:5, 25; John 5:31, 32; Titus 1:13; Revelation 1:5; 3:14;  
 "false witness" Exodus 20:16; 23:1; Deut 19:16, 18; Proverbs 6:19; 12:17; 14:5; 19:5, 9; 21:28; 25:18;  
 Malachi 3:5; Matt 15:19; 19:18; 26:59; Mark 14:56, 57; Luke 18:20; Romans 13:9; "liars" Deut 33:29;  
 Isaiah 44:25; Jeremiah 50:36; 1 Timothy 1:10; Titus 1:12; Revelation 2:2; 21:8; "liar" Prov 30:5-6; John  
 8:44; Rom 3:4; 1 John 1:10; 2:4, 22; 4:20; 5:10; "six things doth the LORD hate" Prov 6:16-19; 1 Tim 2:7
- ✓ Paul *testified* of God's *command* to all *because* of Judgment Day – *repentance toward God*...  
 Acts 17:30-31; 26:20; Matthew 3:1 (1<sup>st</sup> recorded words of John the Baptist); 4:17 (1<sup>st</sup> recorded words of  
 Jesus in ministry); Luke 13:1-5; repentance and believing are two-sides of the same coin; to believe is to  
 turn to God from your way, your thinking; your false religion...and all trusting in you...toward God alone
- ✓ Paul *testified* of *God's only means* by which mankind can have *peace with Him*, escape His  
*wrath* and *the only Door* of hope for all to enter heaven – *faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ*...  
 Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 26:20; Romans 3:22; **all of chapter 4**; 5:1; 10:4-17; Galatians 2:16, 20;  
 3:14, 22, 24; Ephesians 2:6-7; 3:17; Philippians 3:9; Colossians 1:4; 2:5; 1 Thess 1:3-10; 2 Tim 3:15; Titus 3:5-7

**NOTE** We must set our lives to be a true and faithful witness for our Lord Jesus Christ. It is our chief responsibility as ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor 5:20) to warn every man and teach every man (Col 1:28) that death and eternity are sure, to testify the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24), and to preach the gospel to every creature (Mk 16:15). Everyone knows that 10 out of 10 people die, and everyone in their right mind has a fear of death (Heb 2:15). We must testify to the world that after death is judgment (Heb 9:27). In Acts 10:42, Peter testified to the Gentiles in Cornelius' house that Jesus "commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead." The Bible says **very plainly** Jesus Christ is **coming back** "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2 Thess 1:7-9). It would seem that the most profitable truth for the world to hear is the Law and the Gospel. As Mark Cahill says, there is only ONE thing you cannot do in heaven. And that is be a **faithful witness** for our Lord Jesus Christ to all those for whom He died!! Open your mouth for Him today and this week while you still have your health and your breath and your life...and before it is too late!! In 1 Cor 9:16, Paul said, "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" That is God's exclamation point, not mine. ☺

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience *right now*.

- ✓ Have you *believed God's words* and *by faith trusted* in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

2. **Believer**, what did the *Holy Spirit of God* speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?

- ✓ What *one thing* does God want you to *do* or *repent of* right now?

*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Quotes from Church History:** *"It has always been difficult to understand those evangelical Christians who...say they serve the Lord, but they divide their days so as to leave plenty of time to play and loaf and enjoy the pleasures of the world as well. They are at ease while the world burns."*

– A.W. Tozer (1897-1963; American Christian pastor, preacher and author; got saved in Akron, Ohio)

*"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."*

– Paul (2 Cor 5:14, approx. 60 AD; Apostle to the Gentiles, considered himself "the least of the apostles")

**Scriptures for Today: Acts 20:22-24** – Last words to pastors (part 3): *Be moved by the Saviour's love and not by life's trials* – *Finish your course with joy, and the ministry, which you have received from the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God!*

**NOTES****PREACHING NOTES**

1. After **reminding of the past**, Paul's focus was the **now**, and **the reality** that **he must GO** – even though it was **clearly understood** that bonds and afflictions **will surely come**. 20:22-23

✓ Paul was **compelled to go to Jerusalem**, even though **the Jews had been trying to kill him...**  
Acts 19:21; 20:3, 19; Luke 9:51; 2 Corinthians 5:11-15; 8:8, 9; Song of Solomon 8:6, 7

✓ The **Holy Ghost witnessed to him** in **every city** through people that **trouble was coming...**  
Acts 9:15-16; 14:22; 21:4, 11-14; John 16:33; 1 Thessalonians 3:3; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 John 3:16

**NOTE** Oh how different this message is from the wives' fables being spoken in "churches" (so-called) today!! In John 16:33, Jesus said, *"In the world, ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* Paul told Timothy the same in his last words of 2 Tim 3:12, *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."* Paul **KNEW** that trouble was coming and yet he was still *"fully persuaded"* (as Abraham in Rom 4:19-21) that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. Paul was compelled by the love of Christ and constrained through the Holy Spirit to **GO!!** In 2 Cor 5:14-15, he said, *"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."* In Rom 1:14-15, he said, *"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."* In 1 Cor 9:16, he said, *"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"* (God's exclamation point!) If the Bible is true (and it most assuredly is), then the Holy Spirit ought to be constraining us to do the same work as Paul. Will you let the Holy Spirit do His work in you and yield your members (your mouth, your feet, your hands, your eyes, your ears, etc.) to Him as He constrains you to take hold of the blessed Gospel of our glorious and blessed Saviour and preach the gospel to every creature for His glory and for His kingdom?!?



2. Paul was **not moved by life's trials and afflictions** because his desire was to **FINISH** his **course** with **joy**, and **the ministry**, which he **received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel**. 20:24

- ✓ Paul had **God-given peace** and was **not moved by fear of the unknown, bonds or afflictions...**  
John 14:27; Job 19:23-27; Psalm 85:8-13; Isaiah 9:6, 7; Romans 5:1, 2; 8:35-39; 2 Cor 12:10; Ephesians 2:14-17; Philippians 4:7; Col 1:20; 1 Thess 3:3; 2 Thess 3:16; 2 Tim 2:8-13; 3:10-11; 4:17; Heb 12:1-3
- ✓ Paul **did not count his life dear** unto himself because **he was bought with a price...**  
Rom 6:5-8; 1 Cor 6:19,20;15:58; Gal 2:19,20; Php 3:1-11; Col 3:3-4; 2 Tim 2:1-13; Heb 11:1-40; Rev 12:11
- ✓ Paul's life passion and purpose was to **finish his God-given course with joy...**  
2 Timothy 4:7; John 4:34; 17:4; 19:30; Philippians 3:12-17; Jerem 8:6; 23:10; Acts 13:22-37; Heb 13:17
- ✓ Paul's life passion and purpose was to **finish his God-given ministry** which he **received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God...**  
Acts 9:15-16; 22:21; 26:17, 18; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Romans 3:24-26; 10:1-17; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 2 Corinthians 4:1-10; 5:11-21; 6:3-13; Ephesians 2:4-10; Titus 2:11; 3:4-7; 1 Peter 5:12

**NOTE** In the midst of life's trials, can you say as Job did in Job 19:25-27, "*For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me*"? Paul was not moved by his surroundings. He could not control the things that were out of his control. He could only control his obedience to his Lord and Saviour. He **KNEW** that trouble and death were coming his way. He did not know what the future held, but he **KNEW** who held the future in His hands!! The very **PEACE** of God was real to Paul. It was not just a Bible truth. It was **his** personal and experiential truth!! The Lord never left him or forsook him. Men forsook him. The Lord stood by him. The Lord was his strength, his Rock, and his fortress. The Lord was his Peace and his blessed Hope. He did not count his life dear unto himself because his life was not his own to count dear (1 Cor 6:19,20; Col 3:3-4)!! He was **fully persuaded** that if God had a **course** and a **ministry** for him to fulfill and finish on this planet, then He would surely give Paul the strength and the ability to perform it until He took his last breath. God has a **course** for **your life** that He wants you to **finish** – it is **to serve this generation by the will of God!** God has a **ministry** for **your life** that He wants you to **finish** – it is **the ministry of reconciliation** as you **testify** all the days of your life the gospel of the grace of God and warn every person as you lead them to the cross of our Lord.

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**.  
✓ Have you **believed God's words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?  
✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

## REMEMBERING OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN COMMUNION – THE LORD'S SUPPER

### 1 Corinthians 13:23-26

23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.



Pastor Doug Kilchenman

June 29, 2014  
7/6*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Quotes from Church History:** "Oh, if some of you were like your fathers you would not have tolerated in this age the wagon loads of trash under which the gospel has been of late buried by ministers of your own choosing."

– Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892; British Baptist preacher and pastor)

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.."

– Paul (2 Cor 11:13-15, approx. 60 AD; Apostle to the Gentiles; warning against false preaching)

**Scriptures for Today: Acts 20:25-31** – Last words to pastors (part 4): *Be a watchman and blow the trumpet – Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock of God!*

**NOTES****PREACHING NOTES**

1. Paul took them to **RECORD** that he was *pure from the blood of all men*, and he *had not shunned* to declare unto them *all the counsel of God*. 20:25-27

- ✓ Paul was a *faithful witness* who would see their faces no more...  
John 12:17; 19:35; Romans 10:2; 2 Corinthians 1:23; 8:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12; Gal 1:22; Col 2:1
- ✓ Paul was a *faithful watchman* who was pure from the blood of all men...  
Acts 18:6; Ezekiel 3:18-21; 33:2-9; 2 Corinthians 7:2; 1 Timothy 5:22
- ✓ Paul was a *faithful preacher, teacher, and discipler* who preached all the counsel of God...  
Acts 20:20, 35; 26:22-23; 2 Corinthians 4:2; Galatians 1:7-10; 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; Jeremiah 23:22; Matthew 28:20; Luke 7:30; John 15:15; 1 Corinthians 11:23; 1 Timothy 2:2

**NOTE** Paul knew that this day would surely come. He was a faithful witness and watchmen for the Lord Jesus Christ. He could say boldly that he had done the work that God had given him to do. He had served his own generation by the will of God (Acts 13:36). He had fought a good fight and finished his course (2 Tim 4:7) with these men. Paul had taken every opportunity that was presented to him and warned every man of judgment to come and the soon literal and physical return of the Lord Jesus Christ. He blew the trumpet of truth and the gospel for the glory of his great God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Paul invested his life into these men so that they could then do what he did in the lives of others and the church of God (2 Tim 2:2). He kept nothing back that was profitable (Acts 20:20). Because of what Paul did, God would be able to advance His work to another generation. Can God say that about your life? What about your work for His glory? Are you a faithful *witness*? Are you a faithful *watchman*? Are you a faithful *teacher* and *discipler*?

2. Paul said to **take heed** therefore unto **YOURSELVES**, and to **all the flock** entrusted to them by God which **He purchased with His own blood**. 20:28-31

- ✓ Take heed unto **yourselves** lest you fall and give occasion to God's enemies to blaspheme...  
2 Chr 19:6,7; Mark 13:9; Luke 21:34; 1 Corinth 9:26,27; Col 4:17; 1 Tim 4:16; Heb 12:15; 2 Sam 12:14
- ✓ Take heed unto **the flock of God** and **feed them**...  
"flock" Isaiah 40:11; 63:11; Jeremiah 3:15; 13:17,20; chapter 23; 31:10; Ezekiel 34:31; Micah 7:14; Luke 12:32; 1 Pet 2:25; "feed" Psalm 78:70-72; Prov 10:21; John 10:1-21; 21:15-17; 1 Peter 5:2,3; "purchased with his own blood" Psalm 74:2; Isa 53:10-12; Eph 1:7,14; Col 1:14; Heb 9:12-14; 1 Pet 1:18,19; Rev 5:9
- ✓ Watch, remember and **warn of grievous wolves** that try to enter in among you...  
Zeph 3:3; Mt 7:15; 10:16; Lk 10:3; Jn 10:12; 2 Pet 2:1; Jer 13:20; 23:1; Ezek 34:2,3; Zech 11:17; 1 Jn 4:1
- ✓ Watch, remember and **warn of others (including you)** that arise, speak perverse things and attempt to draw away disciples after them...  
"you" Mt 26:21-25; 1 Tim 1:19,20; 2 Tim 2:17,18; 4:3,4; 2 Pet 2:1-3; 1 Jn 2:19; 2 Jn 1:7; Jude 1:4; Rev 2:6; "speaking" Prov 19:1; Isa 59:3; 1 Tim 5:13; 6:5; 2 Pet 2:18; Jude 15,16; "draw away" Acts 5:36,37; 21:38; Mt 23:15; 1 Cor 1:12-15; Gal 6:12,13

**NOTE** Oh how we need to see ourselves today in truth through the holy Bible and the Holy Spirit speaking to us through it! Take heed unto your own self. Danger! Danger! You are not what you think you are! You are not as **good** as you think! You are not as **faithful** as you think! You are not as **pure** as you think! You are not as **holy** as you think! You are not as **humble** as you think! We have found the enemy and he is US!! Beware and take heed of you. You are your first priority. You are God's first priority. Forget about others first this week and start to examine your own life (2 Cor 13:5). Take heed unto God's flock. It is time for you to start looking at yourself as a watchman of God's church for the glory of God. You are a watchman to warn the lost of judgment to come (Col 1:28). You are a watchman to warn the saved of the truth of God's word (2 Tim 4). Feed God's flock. If you love the Lord Jesus Christ, then feed everyone that God entrusts you with (Jn 21:15-17). Do not hold back anything that is profitable (Acts 20:20). Preach the word (2 Tim 4:2). You are a watchman to protect the church of God from grievous wolves. **Watch! Remember! Warn!** This is not about the glory of some man or some group of people (Mt 7:15). This is about the glory of our great God and the Saviour of the world (Titus 2:13)!! Be conservative. Be aware. Be careful. Be faithful. Be humble. Seek the glory of God always. Seek to protect God's church as if it was your own family. Seek to protect God's church as if the future of the church depended on you and your faithfulness to stand and earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints (2 Sam 23:11; Jude 3) – because it does!!

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.
  - ✓ Have you **believed God's words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?
  - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?



*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Quotes from Church History:** *"We cannot be fishers of men if we remain among the men in the same element with them. Fish will not be fishers. The sinner will not convert the sinner. The ungodly man will not convert the ungodly man. What is more to the point, the worldly Christian will not convert the world. If you are of the world, no doubt the world will love its own, but you cannot save the world. If you are dark and belong to the kingdom of darkness, you cannot remove the darkness. If you march with the armies of the wicked one, you cannot defeat them. I believe that one reason why the Church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church."*

– Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892; British Baptist preacher and pastor)

*"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."*

– Paul (2 Cor 11:13-15, approx. 60 AD; Apostle to the Gentiles; warning against false preaching)

**Scriptures for Today: Acts 20:28-31** – Last words to pastors (part 5): *Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock of God – Watch, Remember, and Warn!*

**NOTES****PREACHING NOTES**

1. Paul said to **take heed** therefore unto **YOURSELVES**, and to **all the flock** entrusted to them by God which **He purchased with His own blood**. 20:28-30

- ✓ **Take heed** unto **yourselves** lest **YOU** fall and give occasion to God's enemies to blaspheme...  
2 Chron 19:6, 7; Mk 13:9; Lk 21:34; 1 Cor 9:26, 27; Coloss 4:17; 1 Tim 4:16; Heb 12:15; 2 Samuel 12:14
- ✓ **Take heed** unto **the flock of God** and **feed them**...  
"Flock" Isa 40:11; 63:11; Jer 3:15; 13:17,20; chap23; 31:10; Ezek 34:31; Micah 7:14; Lk 12:32; 1 Pet 2:25  
"Feed" Psalm 78:70-72; Proverbs 10:21; John 10:1-21; 21:15-17; 1 Peter 5:2, 3; "Purchased with his own blood" Ps 74:2; Isa 53:10-12; Eph 1:7, 14; Col 1:14; Heb 9:12-14; 1 Pet 1:18, 19; Rev 5:9
- ✓ **Take heed** because **grievous wolves calling themselves your brethren and friends OUTSIDE** the church **WILL SURELY** try to enter in among you and destroy God's church and flock...  
Zephaniah 3:3; Matthew 7:15; 10:16; Luke 10:3; John 10:12; 2 Peter 2:1; Jeremiah 13:20; 23:1; Ezekiel 34:2, 3; Zechariah 11:17; 1 John 4:1
- ✓ **Take heed** because **others calling themselves your brethren and friends WITHIN** the church **(maybe you) WILL SURELY** arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them...  
"Your own selves" Mt 26:21-25; 1 Tim 1:19, 20; 2 Tim 2:17, 18; 4:3, 4; 2 Pet 2:1-3; 1 Jn 2:19; 2 Jn 1:7; Jude 1:4; Rev 2:6; "Speaking" Proverbs 19:1; Isaiah 59:3; 1 Timothy 5:13; 6:5; 2 Peter 2:18; Jude 15, 16  
"Draw away" Acts 5:36, 37; 21:38; Matthew 23:15; 1 Corinthians 1:12-15; Galatians 6:12, 13



**NOTE** Oh how we need to see ourselves today in truth through the holy Bible and the Holy Spirit speaking to us through it! **Take heed unto your own self.** *Danger! Danger!* You are not what you think you are! You are not as **good** as you think! You are not as **faithful** as you think! You are not as **pure** as you think! You are not as **holy** as you think! You are not as **humble** as you think! **We have found the enemy and he is US!!** Beware and take heed of you. You are your first priority. Forget about others first this week and start to examine your own life (2 Cor 13:5). Be conservative. Be aware. Be careful. Be faithful. Be humble. **Take heed unto God's flock. It is time for you to start looking at yourself as a watchman of God's church for the glory of God.** You are a watchman to warn the lost of judgment to come (Col 1:28). You are a watchman to warn the saved of the truth of God's word (2 Tim 4). Feed God's flock. If you love the Lord Jesus Christ, then feed everyone that God entrusts you with (Jn 21:15-17). Do not hold back anything that is profitable (Acts 20:20). Preach the word (2 Tim 4:2). **You are a watchman to protect the church of God from grievous wolves and from unfaithful brethren.** It is time to take your responsibility for the church of God to the next level.

2. Paul said to **WATCH, REMEMBER, and WARN without ceasing, every day, with tears.** 20:31

- ✓ **Therefore...WATCH and do not fall asleep and do not get entangled in this world...**  
 "Watch" 57 times in AV; 1<sup>st</sup> mention Gen 31:49; Ezra 8:29; Neh 4:9; 7:3; Hab 2:1; Mt 24:42, 43; 25:13; 26:38, 40, 27:65, 66; Mk 13:37; Lk 2:8; 1 Cor 16:13; Col 4:2; 1 Thes 5:6; 2 Tim 2:4; 4:5; 1 Pet 4:7; Rev 3:3
- ✓ **Therefore...REMEMBER and do not forget and do not ever stop doing the first works...**  
 "Remember" 144 times in AV; Ex 13:3; 20:8; Num 15:40; Deut 4:9, 23; 5:15; 6:12; 7:18; 8:2, 11, 14, 18, 19; 9:7; 15:15; 16:3, 12; 24:9, 18, 22; 25:17, 19; 32:7; Joshua 1:13; 2 Kings 17:38; Job 8:13; Psalm 9:17; 20:7; 50:22; 63:6; 77:10, 11; 78:7; 103:2; 119:16, 83, 109, 141, 153, 176; 137:5; Proverbs 3:1; 4:5; 31:5; Isa 54:4; Jer 2:32; 23:27; Hosea 4:6; Malachi 4:4; Mt 16:9; Mk 8:18; Lk 17:32; 24:6; Jn 15:20; 16:4; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor 11:2; Gal 2:10; Eph 2:11; Col 4:18; 1 Thess 2:9; 2 Thess 2:5; 2 Tim 2:8; Jude 17; Rev 2:5; 3:3
- ✓ **Therefore...WARN of these truths every day, no matter the cost, no matter the sacrifice...**  
 "Warn" 11 times in AV; 1<sup>st</sup> mention 2 Chron 19:10; Ezek 3:18, 19, 21; 33:3, 7-9; 1 Corinth 4:14; 1 Thess 5:14; "Warning" 7 times AV; 1<sup>st</sup> in Jer 6:10; Ezek 3:17, 18, 20; 33:4, 5; Coloss 1:28; "Warned" 10 times AV; 1<sup>st</sup> in 2 Kings 6:10; Psalm 19:11; Ezek 3:21; 33:6; Matt 2:12, 22; 3:7; Lk 3:7; Acts 10:22; Heb 11:7

**NOTE** **Watch! Remember! Warn!** What has your mind and eyes been focused on in this world?? Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation (Mt 26:41). **It is your time in church history.** God is expecting you to be faithful even when others may not be. You are not accountable for others. You are accountable for you! **Remember and do not forget the Lord your God who purchased you with His own blood.** Wicked people have short memories. The children of Israel were quick to forget God and His great mercy and grace and love and faithfulness. We often times turn our nose at the thought of basic reminders from the holy Bible. We say, *"These are truths that I have long been taught and established in."* **Beware!** Repent of that thinking immediately lest some root of bitterness take hold and you end up in the ditch. **Warn the lost. Warn the saved. Warn your spouse. Warn your children. Warn your brethren. Warn all that you can every day without ceasing.** Some may be offended by your approach. Others will not understand you and may even forsake you. However, this is not about the glory of some man or some group of people (Mt 7:15). This is about the glory of our great God and the Saviour of the world (Tit 2:13)!! Seek the glory of God always. Seek to protect God's church as if it was your own family. Seek to protect God's church as if the future depended on you and your faithfulness to **earnestly contend for the faith** that was once delivered to the saints (2 Sam 23:11; Jude 3) – it does!! **Stand in the gap** (Ez 22:30) for your Saviour until He comes for you in the clouds!!!

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now.**
  - ✓ Have you **believed God's words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
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  - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Quotes from Church History:** *"A person repents when he comes to the place where he discovers that the will of God is the government of his life and the glory of God is the reason for his life. He only has repented who has changed his mind about his reason for being."*

*"Christianity is not what you are going to get out of God. It is what He is going to get out of you."*

– **Paris Reidhead** (1919-1992; American missionary, preacher, writer; *"Ten Shekels and a Shirt"*; born in a Minnesota farming community and committed himself to a life of Christian service as a late teenager)

**Scriptures for Today: Acts 20:31** – Last words to pastors (part 6): *Therefore... Watch, Remember, and Warn!*

**NOTES****PREACHING NOTES**

1. Paul said to **take heed** therefore unto **YOURSELVES**, and to **all the flock** entrusted to them by God which **He purchased with His own blood**. 20:28-30

- ✓ Take heed unto **yourselves** lest **YOU** fall and give occasion to God's enemies to blaspheme...
- ✓ Take heed unto **the flock of God** and **feed them**...
- ✓ Take heed because **grievous wolves calling themselves your brethren and friends OUTSIDE** the church **WILL SURELY** try to enter in among you and destroy God's church and flock...
- ✓ Take heed because **others calling themselves your brethren and friends WITHIN** the church (**maybe you**) **WILL SURELY** arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them...

2. Paul said to **WATCH, REMEMBER, and WARN** *without ceasing, every day, with tears*. 20:31

- ✓ Therefore...WATCH and **do not fall asleep** and **do not get entangled in this world**...  
*"Watch"* **57** times in AV; 1<sup>st</sup> mention is Gen 31:49 – the LORD is doing the watching  
 Ezra 8:29; Nehemiah 4:9; 7:3; Habakkuk 2:1; Matthew 24:42, 43; 25:13; 26:38, 40, 27:65, 66; Mark 13:37; Luke 2:8; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; 2 Timothy 2:4; 4:5; 1 Peter 4:7; Revelation 3:3  
*"Watching"* **6** times in AV; 1<sup>st</sup> mention is 1 Sam 4:13 – Eli is watching; his heart trembled for God's ark  
 1 Samuel 4:13; Proverbs 8:34; Lamentation 4:17; Matthew 27:54; Luke 12:37; Ephesians 6:18
- ✓ Therefore...REMEMBER and **do not forget** and **do not ever stop doing the first works**...  
*"Remember"* **144** times in AV; 1<sup>st</sup> mention is Gen 9:15, 16 – the LORD is doing the remembering  
 Exodus 13:3; 20:8; Numbers 15:40; Deuteronomy 4:9, 23; 5:15; 6:12; 7:18; 8:2, 11, 14, 18, 19; 9:7; 15:15; 16:3, 12; 24:9, 18, 22; 25:17, 19; 32:7; Joshua 1:13; 2 Kings 17:38; Job 8:13; Psalm 9:17; 20:7; 50:22; 63:6; 77:10, 11; 78:7; 103:2; 119:16, 83, 109, 141, 153, 176; 137:5; Proverbs 3:1; 4:5; 31:5; Jeremiah 2:32; 23:27; Hosea 4:6; Malachi 4:4; Matthew 16:9; Mark 8:18; Luke 17:32; 24:6; John 15:20;



16:4; Acts 20:35; 1 Corinthians 11:2; Galatians 2:10; Ephesians 2:11; Colossians 4:18; 1 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:5; 2 Timothy 2:8; Jude 17; Revelation 2:5; 3:3

*"Remembered"* **57** times in AV; 1<sup>st</sup> mention in Gen 8:1 – God remembered Noah

Genesis 8:1; 19:29; 30:22; 42:9; Exodus 2:24; 6:5; Numbers 10:9; Judges 8:34; 1 Samuel 1:19; Psalm 45:17; 77:3; 78:35, 39, 42; 98:3; 105:8, 42; 106:7, 45; 109:16; 119:52; 136:23; 137:1; Jonah 2:7; Matthew 26:75; Luke 22:61; 24:8; John 2:17, 22; 12:16; Acts 11:16; Revelation 18:5

✓ **Therefore...*WARN* of these truths *every day, no matter the cost, no matter the sacrifice...***

*"Warn"* **11** times in AV; 1<sup>st</sup> mention is 2 Chron 19:10 – warn men not to trespass against the LORD  
Ezekiel 3:18, 19, 21; 33:3, 7-9; 1 Corinthians 4:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:14

*"Warning"* **7** times AV; 1<sup>st</sup> mention is Jer 6:10 – who will hear God's warning and take heed and fear?  
Ezekiel 3:17, 18, 20; 33:4, 5; Colossians 1:28

*"Warned"* **10** times AV; 1<sup>st</sup> mention is 2 Kings 6:10 – king takes heed to man of God's warning; is saved  
Psalm 19:11; Ezekiel 3:21; 33:6; Matthew 2:12, 22; 3:7; Luke 3:7; Acts 10:22; Hebrews 11:7

**NOTE** *Watch! Remember! Warn!* What has your mind and eyes been focused on in this world this week?? Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation (Mt 26:41). **It is your time in church history.** God is expecting you to be faithful even when others may not be. You are not accountable for others. You are accountable for you! **Remember and do not forget the Lord your God who purchased you with His own blood.** Wicked people have short memories (Ps 9:17). The children of Israel were quick to forget God and His great mercy and grace and love and faithfulness (Ps 106:13). We often times turn our nose (in pride) at the thought of basic reminders from the holy Bible (Rom 2:17-24). We say, *"These are truths that I have long been taught and established in."* **Beware!** Repent of that thinking immediately lest some root of bitterness take hold and you end up in the ditch (Heb 12:15). **Warn the lost. Warn the saved. Warn your spouse. Warn your children. Warn your brethren. Warn all that you can every day without ceasing.** Some may laugh you to scorn. Some may be offended by your approach. Others will not understand you and may even forsake you. However, this is not about the glory of some man or some group of people (Mt 7:15). **This is about the glory of our great God and the Saviour of the world (Tit 2:13)!!** Seek the glory of God always. Seek to protect God's church as if it was your own family. Seek to protect God's church as if the future of God's church depended on you and your faithfulness to **earnestly contend for the faith** that was once delivered to the saints (2 Sam 23:11; Jude 3) – because it does!! **Stand in the gap** (Ez 22:30) for your Saviour until He comes for you in the clouds or until He takes your last breath!!!

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

### 1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.

✓ Have you **believed God's words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

### 2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?

✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?



*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Quotes from Church History:** *"Do you realize this? That if you were to somehow purpose to, from this day on, perfectly please God and succeed in doing it, that the perfect obedience, from this moment, would not acquire in the remainder of your life, enough merit to atone for one past sin, because God exacts and God demands perfect obedience and there is no merit for giving him the minimal requirement."*  
 – Paris Reidhead (1919-1992; American missionary, preacher, writer; *"Ten Shekels and a Shirt"*; born in a Minnesota farming community and committed himself to a life of Christian service as a late teenager)

**Scriptures for Today: Acts 20:32** – Last words to pastors (part 7): *Commended to God, and to His word!*

**NOTES****PREACHING NOTES**

1. After 3 years of labor and love, ***all that Paul could do now*** was ***commend them*** to **GOD**.

- ✓ Paul was ***faithful to do his part*** – Paul gave his all, taught them, warned them, loved them...  
 "Commended" 6 times in KJV – 1<sup>st</sup> mention in Genesis 12:15 – Sarah was brought to Pharaoh as a gift  
 Acts 14:23, 26; 20:24; 2 Corinthians 12:11-15; 1 Thessalonians 2:8; Romans 1:11, 12; 9:1-3; 10:1; 2  
 Corinthians 6:1, 11-13; Galatians 4:19; Philippians 1:8; 2:25, 26; Colossians 1:28; 4:12; Hebrews 13:17
- ✓ It was ***time for God*** to now do His part – ***which is everything else...***  
 "Commend" 7 times in KJV – 1<sup>st</sup> mention in Luke 23:46 – Jesus gave His spirit to His Father – then died  
 Acts 20:32; Romans 16:1; Genesis 50:24; Acts 8:26-40  
 "Faithful" Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 119:75; 146:6; Isaiah 49:7; Lamentations 3:23; 1 Corinthians 1:9;  
 10:13; 2 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; 2 Timothy 2:13; 4:18; Titus 1:2;  
 Hebrews 6:18; 10:23; 11:11; 1 John 1:9; Jude 24, 25

**NOTE** Oh that we would hear the Spirit speaking to us through the holy Bible today! Paul was faithful to do his part. He labored in love, he labored in humility, and he was NOT selfish for their sake and for the sake of the gospel (2 Cor 12:15)! Paul was willing to impart his own soul (1 Thess 2:8). Paul was willing to trade places, if it were possible, with the Jews so that they would be able to go to heaven (Rom 9:1-3; 10:1). Can you comprehend that?!? Paul was pure from the blood of all men. He preached and taught them all the counsel of God. He was faithful to warn them day and night for three years with tears. He could truly say, *"And now, brethren, I commend you to God."* After Paul was faithful to do his part, it was now time for God to do what God does. We often take matters into our own hands as if God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are not able to do what the Bible says. What are we thinking?? We clearly are NOT thinking! Consider Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. After Philip led him to the Lord Jesus Christ and he got saved and then baptized after, Philip commended him to God. All he had was God and the Scriptures!! Think about that for a minute. That is all that was needed for God to go to work now and use the Ethiopian man for His glory and to build His church in Ethiopia that the gates of hell would not prevail against it!!

2. After 3 years of labor/love, **all that Paul could do now** was **commend them** to God's **WORD**.

- ✓ The **WORD** of God's grace – **is able to build you up...**  
Acts 9:31; John 15:3; 17:17; 1 Corinth 1:17-2:16; 3:9, 10; Eph 2:20-22; 4:12-16; Coloss 2:7; Jude 20; Ps 1:1-6; 33:6-9; 119:9-11; Josh 1:1-9; Job 23:12; Luke 4:4; Matt 24:35; John 11:43-44; 1 Pet 1:22, 23
- ✓ The **WORD** of God's grace – **is able to give you an inheritance among all that are sanctified...**  
Acts 26:18; Deuteronomy 10:9; 12:12; Psalm 33:12; Jeremiah 3:19; Ephesians 1-3; Colossians 1:12; 3:24; Hebrews 9:15; 1 Peter 1:4, 5; "Sanctified" 1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:11; Hebrews 2:11; 10:14; Jude 1

**NOTE** This past week in our Vacation Bible School, we taught the kids that the last piece of armor was the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. The Bible says in Heb 4:12, *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword."* Paul commended these men to God and to God's holy Book!! The word of God is more powerful than you think!! Think about it. God spoke, and **creation was made out of nothing** (Ps 33:12)!! God spoke, and **a dead man came out of a grave** (Jn 11:43, 44)!! God speaks through His word and the preaching and teaching of it and **souls are saved from God's wrath and eternity in hell** (1 Pet 1:22, 23)!! Listen, the holy Bible has everything we need that pertains to life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3). Paul commended these men to God and to God's holy words because he knew the **POWER OF THE SCRIPTURES!!** In 2 Tim 2:9, Paul said, *"but the word of God is not bound."* We must stop thinking that the wisdom of men (and more likely OUR WISDOM) is more valuable than God's wisdom. In 1 Cor 1:20, Paul said, *"hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"* It is time for us to repent of this bad thinking, this worldly thinking, and get back to THE BIBLE SAYS!! Let's get out into the world and start talking about what the Bible says. Let's go to our homes and start talking about what the Bible says. Let's start talking to strangers about what the Bible says. In 1 Cor 2:4-5, Paul said, *"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."* Those words are so very powerful. May we remember this week that the faith of all that we speak to **MUST** stand in the power of God and His powerful Word!! After all, **IT IS ABLE TO BUILD YOU UP AND GIVE YOU AN ETERNAL INHERITANCE AND ETERNAL LIFE!!**

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**.

- ✓ Have you **believed God's words** and **by faith trusted** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible**?

- ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?





*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: "Most Christians do not have fellowship with God; they have fellowship with each other about God."  
 – Paris Reidhead (1919-1992; American missionary, preacher, writer; "Ten Shekels and a Shirt")

Scriptures for Today: Acts 20:33-35 – Last words to pastors (part 8): *It is more blessed to give than receive!*

## PREACHING NOTES

1. Paul's **final words** were to **remind them of the words of our Lord Jesus**, how He said, "**It is more blessed to GIVE than to receive.**" vs 33-35

- ✓ Paul said he had **coveted** no man's **silver, or gold, or apparel...**  
 "Covet" 7 times in KJV – 1<sup>st</sup> mention in Exodus 20:17 – Commandment #10  
 Deuteronomy 5:21; Micah 2:2; Romans 7:7; 13:9; 1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:39  
 "Coveted" 3 times in KJV – 1<sup>st</sup> mention in Joshua 7:21 – Achan's sin against the LORD  
 Acts 20:33; 1 Timothy 6:10  
 "Covetousness" 19 times in KJV – 1<sup>st</sup> mention in Exodus 18:21 – Something hated by God-fearing men  
 Psalm 119:36; Prov 28:16; Isaiah 57:17; Jeremiah 6:13; 8:10; 22:17; 51:13; Ezek 33:31; Habakkuk 2:9;  
 Mark 7:22; Luke 12:15; Rom 1:29; 2 Corinth 9:5; Eph 5:3; Coloss 3:5; 1 Thess 2:5; Heb 13:5; 2 Pet 2:3
- ✓ Paul said that he **personally worked and sacrificed** to care for his own **needs...**  
 Acts 18:3; 1 Corinth 4:12; 2 Corinth 11:9, 12; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Thess 2:9; 4:11; 2 Thess 3:8, 9
- ✓ Paul reminded them that so labouring **they ought to support the weak...**  
 Acts 11:29, 30; 24:17; Isa 35:3; Rom 15:1, 25-27; 1 Cor 9:12; Gal 2:10; 1 Thess 5:14; Heb 13:3; 2 Cor 8:9
- ✓ Paul reminded them that **Jesus said it was more blessed to give than to receive...**  
 "Give" 811 times in KJV – 1<sup>st</sup> mention in Genesis 1:15 – God is doing the giving; light to the world  
 Ps 41:1-3; 112:5-9; Prov 19:17; Isa 58:7-12; Mt 10:8; 25:34-40; Lk 14:12-14; 2 Cor 8:9; 9:6-12; Phil 4:17-20; Heb 13:16

**NOTE** Oh that we would get the simplicity of the message from the Holy Spirit today through the holy Bible. To be a Christian is to be a "little Christ." Someone who has repented and trusted the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation has rejected the world and all it has to offer and has humbly and contritely bowed the knee to Him. To be a Christian is to no longer care for one's own life – but to give up their life (as property of the Lord Jesus Christ) for the use and glory of his great God and Saviour Jesus Christ. To be a Christian then is to be like Christ – to surrender all to Him, to follow Him, to act like Him, to walk like Him, to talk like Him, and to set your life to be like Him (2 Cor 3:18). To be like Christ is to be a giver. Jesus was the opposite of a **TAKER!** The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 8:9, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." Do we really comprehend what our Lord gave up that we might have eternal life in Him? The Bible says in Philippians 2:5-8, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." God hates covetousness because it is the **OPPOSITE** of WHO HE IS!! The Bible says that we are to be content with the things that God has given (Phil 4:11; 1 Tim 6:8; Heb 13:5). We need to remember that God calls covetousness **idolatry** – that is, in your mind, you have rejected God and His provision and are now lusting after things of the world (Rom 7:7). It is time for us to **REPENT** and be like our Lord who purchased us!

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ✓ What did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **holy Bible** today?



*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Quotes from Church History:** *"If one evil thought, if one evil word, if one evil action, deserves eternal damnation, how many hells, my friends, do every one of us deserve, whose whole lives have been one continued rebellion against God!"*

*"People want to recommend themselves to God by their sincerity; they think, 'If we do all we can, if we are but sincere, Jesus Christ will have mercy on us.' But pray what is there in our sincerity to recommend us to God? ... therefore, if you depend on your sincerity for your salvation, your sincerity will damn you."*

– **George Whitefield** (1714-1770; English open-air preacher and evangelist; a catalyst with John Wesley in the Great Awakening in England and greatly used by God in the American colonies; he was one of the most widely recognized public figures in colonial America)

**Scriptures for Today: Acts 20:36-38** – Last words to pastors (part 9): *Final prayer and much sorrow!*

**PREACHING NOTES**

1. After Paul had spoken his last words, he **kneeled** down, and **PRAYED with them all**. vs 36

✓ Paul **kneeled down**...

Acts 7:60; 21:5; 2 Chronicles 6:13; Daniel 6:10; Luke 22:41; Ephesians 3:14

✓ Paul **prayed with them all**...

"Prayed" 65 times in KJV; **1<sup>st</sup> mention in Gen 20:17** – Abraham (**faith**) prayed to God and He answered Numbers 11:2; 21:7; Deuteronomy 9:20, 26; 1 Samuel 1:10, 27; 2 Kings 4:33; 6:17, 18; 19:15, 20; 20:2; Ezra 8:21-23; 9:1-10:1; Nehemiah 1:4; 2:4; Job 42:10; Psalm 51:1-19; Daniel 6:10; 9:4; Jonah 2:1; Philippians 4:1-9;

**NOTE** Paul had no doubt seen this time coming and experienced "last prayers" many times with all the churches and people that he had invested his life into for God's glory. We have so many examples in the holy Bible of men and women who prayed to God and how He heard their prayers and answered them. Of all the things we should be known for as believers and disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, let us be known for prayer. Prayer gives glory to God as we set aside our emotions and our anxieties and problems, and focus on the One who is able to solve our problems, to save us from hell (Heb 7:25), to keep what we have committed unto Him (2 Tim 1:12), to be our present Help in time of trouble (Ps 46:1), and to go before us and behind us and intercede on our behalf as He promised us He would do. We must start prioritizing time to pray. O what little faith we have when we squeeze all the time out of the day and do not pray to our great God and Father (Lk 18:18). Have you been trying to do things on your own in your own strength? It is time to repent of your bad thinking today and pray to the God of heaven for help. He is faithful and hears the cry of the humble.

2. The leaders of God's church in Ephesus **sorrored MOST of all** that they would see Paul's face no more. vs 37-38

✓ These men had been given **many reminders** and **serious warnings** pertaining to **themselves** and to **God's flock**...

Deuteronomy 6:12; 8:11; 15:9; Matthew 7:15; 10:17; 16:6, 11-12; Luke 12:1; 12:15; 20:46; Acts 13:40; Philippians 3:2; Colossians 2:8; 2 Peter 3:17

✓ There are times when **departing friends** and **faithful brethren** cause great **sorrow**...

John 14-17

**NOTE** No matter how much resolve you muster up not to get emotional in times like these, it seems to always overtake you – especially when it comes to God’s work and missions. We see the same anxiety and emotion with the disciples in John 14-17 as Jesus was giving His last words to them and prayed to His Father. Jesus had prayed drops of blood previously, and had commended Himself to His Father’s will, but in His final prayer, He was focused on His Father, His mission, His disciples, and the lost world. Paul was following the pattern of His Lord Jesus by praying with these men before he departed – commending them to God and to His most important work. It is important to see in this passage that although Paul had given these men many reminders of his time with them and many warnings related to taking heed to themselves and watching for the grievous wolves coming to destroy God’s flock, they were a bit overtaken in the moment. It is hard for us to fault them as we have surely been in the same position when loved ones depart and faithful believers that God has used in our lives are departing for a long time. That being said, we must beware. Oh how careful we must be when it comes to our emotions!! Absent the word of God and left to our emotions, our feelings will surely seduce our faith!! When we are full of sorrow and feel cast down and depressed, the Bible says in Psalm 42:5 and 6 that we must put our hope in God and in His words, *“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance ... Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.”* We must put our complete trust in the words and promises of God – even when we do not feel like it. The Bible says in Rom 10:17, *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

#### PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ✓ What did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **holy Bible** today?



*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Quotes from Church History:** *"If your souls were not immortal, and you in danger of losing them, I would not thus speak unto you; but the love of your souls constrains me to speak: methinks this would constrain me to speak unto you forever."*

– George Whitefield (1714-1770; English open-air preacher/evangelist; widely known in colonial America)

**Scriptures for Today:** Acts 21:1-9 – Paul's straight course to Jerusalem: *In search of faithful disciples with whom we might abide and fight the good fight of faith for our Lord's glory!*

**PREACHING NOTES**

1. While headed on a **straight course for Jerusalem**, Paul and his company **FOUND** many **disciples** and **tarried with them** as long as possible. vs 1-9

- ✓ While in **Tyre**, they **tarried there seven days** – and the men brought their **wives and children** to see them off and to **pray** with them on the shore...

"gotten from them" 1 Sam 20:41, 42; 1 Thess 2:17; "straight course" Acts 4:36; 11:19; 13:4; 15:39; 18:18; Judges 10:6; Mt 4:24; 10:13; 11:21; "finding disciples" Acts 19:1; 20:6, 7, 22; Mt 10:11; 2 Tim 1:17; "wives and children" Deut 29:11-12; Josh 24:15; 2 Chron 20:13; Neh 12:43; Mt 14:21; "kneeled down and prayed" Acts 9:40; 20:36; Ps 95:6; Mk 1:40

- ✓ While in Ptolemais, they **saluted the brethren** and **abode with them one day**...

Acts 18:22; 21:19; 1 Sam 13:10; Mt 5:47; Heb 13:24

- ✓ While in Caesarea, they **entered into the house of Philip the evangelist** and **abode** with him and **tarried many days**...

"Caesarea" Acts 8:40; 9:30; 10:1; 18:22; 23:23; "Philip" Acts 6:5; 8:5-13, 26-40; Eph 4:11; 2 Tim 4:5; "virgins" 1 Cor 7:25-24, 38; "prophesy" 1 Cor 14:3-4; Rev 2:20

**NOTE** Oh that we would not miss the simplicity of what was happening in this passage today. While heading on a straight course for Jerusalem, the Apostle Paul took every opportunity during his journey to find disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ with whom he might encourage and he might be encouraged himself and his team for the glory of God. Paul was constantly looking for disciples to encourage and build up. He provides a great pattern for our lives. While on your Christian journey, never lose sight of the fact that the Christian life is all about OTHERS. However, it is also important to remember that we ALL need Biblical fellowship and help from other Christians. Paul said in Rom 1:11-12 to the believers in Rome, *"For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me."* The Bible says in Prov 11:25, *"The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."* If we would only set our lives to encourage other believers in their walk with Christ, we would find the blessing from God in the process and be encouraged ourselves. It is also important to note in this passage the connection between Philip the evangelist and his four daughters which did prophesy – or preach and teach – the holy scriptures. Although it is not likely that any of us are an "evangelist" by the Bible's definition (Eph 4:11), we are all called to do the "work of an evangelist" in our everyday lives. God is faithful. If we will set our lives to trumpet the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and live for Him and His glory, our children and those within our sphere of influence will no doubt benefit from *"the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus"* (2 Tim 3:15).

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

What did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **holy Bible** today?





*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: "Lord, help me to begin to begin."

*"You may have orthodox heads, and yet you may have the devil in your hearts."*

– George Whitefield (1714-1770; English open-air preacher/evangelist; widely known in colonial America)

**Scriptures for Today: Acts 21:10-16** – The Holy Ghost and the disciples warn Paul of trouble at Jerusalem:  
*Nevertheless, the will of the Lord be done!*

**NOTES****PREACHING NOTES**

1. While Paul and his company **tarried at Caesarea many days** with the disciples, **the Holy Ghost** witnessed through Agabus of **trouble coming** for Paul at **JERUSALEM**. vs 10-11

✓ **Agabus, a certain prophet, came from Jerusalem...**

Acts 11:28; name means "Locust" Exodus 10:4, 12-14

✓ Agabus had a **message of warning** from **the Holy Ghost...**

Acts 8:26-40; 13:2; 16:6-10; 20:23

✓ The **disciples at Tyre** had said to Paul **through the Spirit** that he should **not go** to Jerusalem...  
Acts 21:4

**NOTE** Agabus was clearly a prophet that was established in the book of Acts as speaking truth from the Holy Ghost which caused the apostles, disciples and the church of God to take heed and respond. In Acts 11:27-30, Agabus came from Jerusalem to Antioch and stood up, "*and signified by the Spirit of a great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.*" Clearly, the church took the words of Agabus as from God Himself and responded accordingly. Paul himself was actually entrusted with the "missions giving" that was collected as a result. The simple truth in this passage is that Paul disregarded (disobeyed) the clear warning of the Holy Ghost through Agabus.

2. After hearing the words of Agabus and **the Holy Ghost**, Paul's company and the disciples at Caesarea **besought him NOT** to go up to **Jerusalem**. vs 12-14

✓ Paul's heart was broken – his **emotions were stirred** by their concern and **beseeching...**  
Acts 20:37; 2 Timothy 1:4

✓ Paul's motives were right – he was zealous for **the Jews to be saved – his fleshly kinsmen...**  
Romans 9:1-5; 10:1-3; chapter 11

- ✓ Paul's motives were right – he was **ready to die** for **the name of the Lord Jesus Christ...**  
Acts 20:24; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Corinthians 15:31; 2 Corinthians 4:8-18; 11:16-33; Philippians 1:20-23;  
Colossians 1:21-29; 2 Timothy 2:4-6; 4:6-8; 2 Peter 1:14; Revelation 12:11

**NOTE** Although it is not comfortable to think about as it relates to the Apostle Paul, we find in this passage a clear disregard by Paul of the words and warnings from the Holy Ghost through other disciples and through the prophet of God. Many scholars and preachers seem afraid to speak of what would otherwise be very clear for Bible believers like us. If we simply read and believe every word of the holy Bible, we must conclude that Paul was being disobedient to the Holy Ghost's warnings. That being said, what is also very clear in this passage is that Paul's motives were right. He was willing to die for the cause of Christ and to get the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Jews at Jerusalem. What is so amazing about our God is that He allows this to happen and will ultimately give Paul very significant **open doors** to preach the gospel as he was so passionate to do for God's glory!! That is an incredible thought! It is important for us to learn from this that IF (and this is a big IF) our motives are right – seeking the glory of God and the salvation of souls – God may change His plans for us and still get the glory He deserves from our lives by going before us and behind us as He promised. What is most important for us is to be IN THE CENTER of the will of God. When we are, God will direct our steps and even make course corrections before us and behind us so that His will can be accomplished through us. Wow.

### 3. When Paul **would not be persuaded**, they **CEASED**, saying, "The will of the Lord be done." vs 14-16

- ✓ There is a time to **provide your input** to those who God has placed over you for His glory...  
Ecclesiastes 3:1; Judges 1:12-15; Ruth 3:8-13; 1 Samuel 1:19; Esther 4:13-17; chapter 5; Proverbs 31:10-31; Ephesians 5:22, 24; Colossians 3:18; 1 Peter 3:1-6
- ✓ There is a time to **cease your input** to those who God has placed over you for His glory...  
Romans 13:1-7; Hebrews 13:7, 17; Genesis 12:13-16; 1 Samuel 8:19; Proverbs 5:12-13; Philippians 2:12, 29; 1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13; 1 Timothy 5:17; Ephesians 6:5; Colossians 3:22, 23
- ✓ The **right response** in this situation was, "The will of the Lord be done." ...  
1 Samuel 15:25-26; 2 Kings 20:19; Matthew 6:10; 26:39, 42; Luke 11:2; 22:42
- ✓ The **right response** in this situation was to **trust the Lord and Paul** and **move forward**...  
Psalm 7:1; 16:1; 31:1; 56:4, 11; 71:1; 143:8; Proverbs 3:5-10; 21:31
- ✓ In times like these, it is good to bring an "**old disciple**" with you **for fellowship and counsel**...  
Psalm 71:17, 18; 92:14; Proverbs 16:31; Romans 16:7; Philemon 1:9; 1 John 2:13, 14

**NOTE** Oh that we would grasp the simplicity of these words from the holy Bible. This was in reality the Apostle Paul! Paul's company including Luke and the disciples of Caesarea besought Paul to a point, and then were willing to trust the Lord for the outcomes. And not only in word, the Bible says, "And after those days we took up our carriages, and went up to Jerusalem." It is so important for us to know our Abba, Father. Through the holy Bible, we get to know Him and how He thinks. His thoughts and His ways are so much higher than ours!! All who hold a position of authority or leadership over others in this world have a grave responsibility. It is imperative that we seek the input and counsel of those that are following us. It should be clear in the Bible, that women and wives have the ear of God when they follow the men in their life given by God. It should also be clear that children and youth are valuable to God – especially as His desire is that ALL generations will know Him and follow Him!! False religions and cults are infamous for putting down women and children and having men who lord over the people as lustful, adulterous, pigs. All that said, it is CRITICALLY important to note that at some point, we must submit and obey to those that God has put as authorities in our life for His glory. We must cease our input and declare, "The will of the Lord be done." We must put our trust in our Heavenly Father who holds all possible outcomes, the world, and the heavens in His hands (2 Pet 3:7).

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

What did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **holy Bible** today?



*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Quotes from Church History:** *"Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them together stronger than God? O be not weary of well doing!"*

— John Wesley (1703-1791; English open-air preacher/evangelist; founder of the Methodist church)

**Scriptures for Today: Acts 21:17-26** – Paul's arrival at Jerusalem: *What it takes to get an open door (Part 1)*  
– *Use your liberty for the gospel's sake and not your flesh!*

**PREACHING NOTES**

1. Paul and his company **came to Jerusalem** and were **received GLADLY** by the **brethren there and the church** – including James (the Lord's brother) and the elders. vs 17-26

- ✓ The brethren **received them gladly** and the next day he went to see **James and the elders...**  
Acts 15:4; Romans 15:7; Hebrews 13:1, 2; 3 John 1:7, 8; Acts 15:13; Galatians 1:19; 2:9
- ✓ The church leaders **praised the ministry to the Gentiles**, but **had concerns** related to **what the Jews were saying** of Paul...  
Acts 11:4; 14:27; 15:4, 12; Romans 15:18, 19; 1 Corinth 3:5-9; 15:10; 2 Corinth 12:12; Colossians 1:29; Rom 11:13; 1 Tim 2:7; 2 Tim 1:11; Acts 4:21; 11:18; Ps 22:23, 27; 72:17-19; 98:1-3; Acts 6:13, 14
- ✓ After hearing from the church leaders, **Paul responded by doing something that he did not have to do...for the sake of the gospel, God's church and for his own personal testimony...**  
Acts 16:3, 13, 14; 1 Corinthians 9:19-21; Galatians 5:1-6; 6:12-15

**NOTE** After being received gladly and providing an update related to the Gentiles which resulted in glory and praise to God, Paul was confronted with concerns from James and the elders at Jerusalem related to the Jews. It is very important for us to see and understand how Paul responded in this example. Remember, he was the Apostle to the Gentiles. He had received direct revelation from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He was being led by the Holy Spirit to lead people to Christ and to plant churches all over Asia and Europe. If anyone had the right to take a stand and not yield to the request and opinions of God's apostles and leaders in the Jerusalem church, it was Paul. However, we see something unexpected being done by him. He follows their request and purified himself as was customary for the Jews according to the law with the four men that had vowed and shaved their heads. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, *"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you."* Paul had Timothy circumcised in Acts 16:3 for the gospel's sake. In Galatians 5:1, Paul said, *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."* So many people in the church today, have taken LIBERTY as an opportunity to satisfy the flesh which goes contrary to the holy scriptures in the same chapter (5:13) which says, *"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."* Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about liberties you might take in your life right now that would **not be for an occasion to the flesh**, but rather for the gospel's sake, or the glory of God, or maybe just for your testimony that someone might see something **OUT OF THE ORDINARY** and listen to you speak?!?

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

What did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **holy Bible** today?





*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quotes from Church History: "What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace."

*"God grant that I may never live to be useless!"*

– John Wesley (1703-1791; English open-air preacher/evangelist; founder of the Methodist church)

**Scriptures for Today: Acts 21:27-40** – Paul's arrival at Jerusalem: *What it takes to get an open door (Part 2)*  
 – Be willing to die for the gospel's sake and ASK A QUESTION!

## NOTES

## PREACHING NOTES

1. When **the Jews of Asia** came to Jerusalem, they went about to kill Paul and **stir up** all the people **against** Paul and the gospel. vs 27-31

- ✓ The **Jews stirred up the city against Paul** by making **accusations about his teachings** that they said were **coming against the people, the law, and the temple...**

Acts 6:12-14; 13:50; 14:2, 5, 19; 17:5, 6, 13; 18:12-13; 21:21; 24:5-6, 17-21; 26:20-21; 1 Kings 21:25;  
 Rev 2:20; 17:1-6, 18

- ✓ They **drew him out of the temple** and were in the process of **beating him to death...**

Acts 4:3; 5:18; 9:16; 26:21; Luke 21:12; 1 Timothy 3:12

**NOTE** Although we knew this was coming based on the repeated warnings from the Holy Ghost, it is amazing to see the opposition and hatred toward God's man and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ when it comes. Paul was willing to die for the Lord Jesus Christ, and that is just about what happened! In spite of the fact that James and the elders in Jerusalem had a "plan" to keep the Jewish opposition from getting out of control, the Jews which were of Asia overran the city against him and caused great havoc on the Apostle to the Gentiles. Do not miss that fact that they were "**crying out**" to the other Jews in the city for "**help**" (Acts 21:28) as they spoke openly against Paul and what they **THOUGHT** he was preaching and teaching. As we have seen before, the "**stirring up**" causes people to lose their minds and get caught up in their emotions to the point of being "**moved**" (Acts 21:30). As was the case with our Lord Jesus Christ and as we have seen all through Church History, Satan will use religious people as his tool against the gospel and the church of God to the point that men will have murderous hatred toward the work of God to try to keep people from getting saved by believing and trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ by faith alone for salvation. Beware and do not be fooled. When the devil is able to get away with it, he does not waste any time to bring God's people to their knees and to their deaths! The days are coming when believers in America will no doubt see this time return...

2. Upon being **rescued** by the **chief** captain, soldiers and centurions, **Paul asked to speak** to the chief captain and then to the Jews **who had just tried to kill him!** vs 32-40

- ✓ Paul was **bound by two chains** and had to be carried into the castle – **borne by soldiers...**

Acts 21:11; 12:6; 19:32; 20:23; 22:24-25, 29-30; 25:16, 26; 28:20; John 18:28-30

- ✓ Paul asked a very simple question, "**May I speak unto thee?**" ...  
Matt 10:18-20; Luke 21:14-15; John 3:3, 10; 4:7, 48; 5:6; 6:5, 61; 7:19, 45-46; Acts 4:18-20; 5:20; 8:30
- ✓ The chief captain was **surprised to find out Paul spoke Greek** and realized that he did not even have the man he thought he had...  
Matthew 5:11; 1 Corinthians 4:13; Acts 16:37; 22:3, 25-29; 23:27, 34
- ✓ The chief captain **gave his approval for Paul to speak** to the Jews from the raised platform of the castle stairs – which he did **in the Hebrew tongue**...  
1 Peter 3:14-16; 4:12-19; Nehemiah 8:4; 2 Kings 9:13; Psalm 119:46; Jerem 26:12; Daniel 3:16-18; Amos 7:14-17; Acts 12:17; 13:16; 19:33; **22:2; 26:14**; Luke 23:38; John 5:2; 19:13, 17, 20-22; Rev 9:11; 16:16

**NOTE** Imagine the thought of God using lost Gentile soldiers to protect His man and His cause! Well, that is exactly what He has done all through Church History – especially with England and the United States of America. The chief captain took IMMEDIATE action and ran with soldiers and centurions to stop the "*beating of Paul*". When he could not gather who he was or what he had done from the people (as in Acts 19:32), "*he commanded him to be carried into the castle.*" And, there was so much "*violence of the people*" that Paul had to be "*borne*" on the shoulders and arms of the soldiers – what an escort!! What is even more amazing is that after being nearly beat to death and then being borne of soldiers up the stairs of the castle, the Apostle Paul actually had the mental capacity and strength to ask the chief captain a QUESTION!! Now, there is doubt about that fact that what Paul said was simple enough for even us to use as a pattern, "**May I speak unto thee?**" **WOW!** What eloquent words! What strategic insight! What application of scholarship! Paul simply asked the man if he could speak. When he did, he spoke in **Greek** which caused the chief captain to realize that he had been rescuing someone completely different than what he thought. After a brief introduction and disclosure of his citizenship, Paul asked to speak unto the very people that had tried to kill him just moments before. Can you imagine?!? Through divine providence, we see God giving Paul an open door that few could ever have wanted or asked for. On top of that, God delivered a "*great*" **silence** as Paul opened his mouth unto them in the Hebrew tongue (Acts 22:2)!! O that we would be willing to die to ourselves and open our mouths for the gospel's sake. O that God would grant us boldness in this Laodicean time in history. O that God would make us such valiant watchmen for Him as Paul was! **O for grace to trust Him more!!**

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your conscience **right now**.
  - ✓ Have you **repented** of your way and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **holy Bible** today?
  - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?