

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 15TH-16TH, 2026 // THE BOOK OF ACTS

GOOD LUCK (ACTS 20:1-12) MOVING FORWARD

In late 56 or early 57 A.D., Paul moved on from his extensive ministry in Greece and Turkey.

- After the Temple of Artemis fiasco, Paul wanted to encourage the Church, leave the trouble in Ephesus behind, meet up with Titus in Troas, and collect money for the church in Jerusalem.

MORE OPPOSITION AND TRAVELING COMPANIONS

As Paul was traveling, he encountered more opposition from hostile Jews and had to change his travel plans.

- Paul traveled with a large group of young guys who provided security for the money he was delivering to Jerusalem. They all became pivotal leaders in the early church.

"ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK"

In Troas, we find Christians worshiping on Sunday, showing that **honoring the Sabbath isn't about a specific day; it is a method by which we live in Christ** (Hebrews 4; Romans 14).

- These Christians met on Sunday night because it was a workday. They would take communion, worship, and hear the Word.

APPARENTLY, ONE SERVICE WENT VERY LONG

At one of the services, Paul was teaching until midnight. A young man named Eutychus fell asleep while sitting in the window on the third floor of the building they worshiped in.

- There were "many lamps," so there could have been a lack of oxygen, and it was very late on a workday.

IRONICALLY, EUTYCHUS MEANS "GOOD LUCK"

Eutychus fell three stories to his death during the service, but Paul went down and said, "Don't be alarmed, because he's alive."

- Obviously, a miracle took place. After the fall, death, and resurrection, they went in and ate some food. Paul taught until morning, and they "were greatly comforted."

THE COURSE (ACTS 20:13-24)

"HURRYING TO BE IN JERUSALEM"

They went to Assos to meet Paul and take him several places on the way to Jerusalem. Paul hoped to arrive before the **Day of Pentecost**.

- Before Christ, Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) celebrated 50 days after the Passover (Exodus 12). To Christians, it is the celebration of the Spirit's descent 50 days after the resurrection.

A FAREWELL ADDRESS

While in Miletus (43 miles away), Paul sent for the elders in Ephesus to give them some final encouragement. Verses 18-35 are theology-heavy and very similar to Paul's epistles.

- Paul humbly spoke of **his life as a model**. He didn't initially talk of his ministry but **the example of how he lived day-to-day**.

IT IS BOTH WORD AND DEED

John (1 Jn. 3:18), James (Js. 2:17), and Paul (Colossians 3:17; Romans 15:18) speak of **honoring Jesus and witnessing to others through what we say and how we live**.

- **We become hypocrites and spiritually powerless if we speak truth without walking it out in our own lives.**

NOT HOLDING BACK ON THE TRUTH

Paul assured them that he "did not hesitate to proclaim anything...that was profitable" and that he "testified...about **repentance** toward God and **faith in our Lord Jesus**."

- To withhold the truth about **sin, repentance, the exclusivity of Jesus, and righteous living** is the greatest disservice to people.

"NOT KNOWING WHAT I WILL ENCOUNTER"

Paul was "compelled by the Spirit" to continue his mission. He didn't know what troubles he'd face, but he **lived in relationship with Jesus and trusted the Spirit would guide him**.

- Life will have many troubles (Jn. 16), but **if we pray, read the Word, and live in obedience to Jesus, we will be okay**.

PAUL MODELS HUMILITY AND CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Paul said, "**I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course ...received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace**."

- **Our comfort, safety, and desires are to come second to Jesus' will. We're to be testimonies of His goodness, not ours.**

ON GUARD (ACTS 20:25-31)

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

Paul told the elders he was "innocent of [their] blood" because he had declared "the whole plan of God" to them. Now, they were to **"be on guard for [them]selves..."**

- Though we are to seek help, **at the end of our lives, we will be held accountable for how we have lived** (Romans 14; Matthew 12).

"...AND FOR ALL THE FLOCK"

Paul was talking to church leaders. He told them that those called to lead will be held to a high level of accountability for those God has entrusted to them (James 3).

- **All Christians hold a certain level of responsibility for how they lead** (parents, bosses, and how we all represent Jesus).

"WOLVES WILL COME IN AMONG YOU"

We must be on guard because people will come to distort the truth and mislead people.

- **This is why reading/teaching the Bible is so vital! If one claims Christianity but teaches things contrary to the Word, they are a "wolf" and must be removed if they refuse correction.**

FAREWELL (ACTS 20:32-38)

UNDER THE WORD, NOT OVER IT

Paul told the elders that if they **place themselves under the authority of God and His Word**, they will experience His grace and gain an eternal inheritance.

- On the contrary, **if we place ourselves over God's Word for personal gain, we lose His favor and our inheritance** (Revelation 22:18-19).

"NECESSARY TO HELP THE WEAK"

Paul also emphasized his **sacrifice for people while not coveting what others had**. He understood that **Christ came to serve, and His followers should as well**.

- There is no direct quote from the Gospels, but Paul tells us that Jesus said, **"It is more blessed to give than to receive."**

NOT UNTIL THE AFTERLIFE

The Christians in Ephesus would never see Paul again. After Paul's instruction and encouragement, he knelt down and prayed for them. They grieved because "they would never see his face again."

- The **love** and **respect** we see here should be a model for how we act in the church.

SEEKING AND TRUSTING GOD'S WILL

- Jesus never promises that life will be easy. He does promise that **if we seek His will** (Matthew 6:33), **trust Him** (Proverbs 3), and **obey His Word, He will walk with us** (Psalm 37).
- This is why taking time to **Sabbath** is so important. We must prioritize time to **pray, read, listen, and meditate** on Jesus.

WORDS AND DEEDS

- We are to be humble and to honor and model Jesus and the Bible through what we say, how we speak, and what we do.
- If we distort the Word or speak of Jesus without living how He commands, we become hypocrites and bad witnesses who will be **held accountable for our actions**.

BEING ON GUARD FOR US AND OTHERS

- There will be people who ignore or distort the Bible for selfish gain. These people are at best ignorant and at worst "wolves." If they are not willing to be corrected, **we must remove their influence**.
- **This is why we must be sober-minded** (1 Peter 5:8) and **objectively rooted in the Bible!**

PLACING OURSELVES UNDER GOD AND THE WORD

- God should be our pursuit. By **placing ourselves under the authority of God and His Word**, we are **saved and changed**, and we come to **know Him**.
- On the contrary, when we try to place ourselves over Him and the Bible, we lose direction and our eternal inheritance.

PAUL UNDERSTOOD IT WAS ALL WORTH IT

- As Christians, we are to **deny ourselves** (Luke 9) and **make sacrifices** for the health of our relationship with Jesus (Romans 12) and the blessing of those around us (Philippians 2).
- The great irony of Christian sacrifice is that **we will be eternally rewarded in a way we cannot comprehend** (Revelation 21:1-5).