

Acts of the Apostles
Miletus (Acts 20:17-38)

Introduction

I. Paul's Summons of the Ephesian Elders (v. 17)

-Plurality of elders (vs. 18, 28, 34; see also Acts 14:23; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:5)

-Elders (v. 17) = Overseers (v. 28) = Pastors (v. 28) All three titles refer to one and the same office.

II. Paul's Address to the Ephesian Elders (vs. 18-35)

-Theme: Faithfulness in the Ministry

-Paul's Past Ministry (vs. 18-21): consistency, humility, tears, trials, faithful preaching; central message: repentance toward God / faith in Christ

-Paul's Future Plans (vs. 22-27): Journey to Jerusalem / Finish his Ministry

-Paul's Present Charge (vs. 28-35): take heed to themselves; take heed to the flock purchased by Christ

III. Paul's Departure from the Ephesian Elders (vs. 36-38)

Practical Lessons

- 1) Why is Paul's address important?
- 2) The Importance and Necessity of Pastoral Exhortation
- 3) The Problem of Prejudice
- 4) The Value of Pastoral Example
- 5) The Threat of False Teachers
- 6) The Value of Christ's Sheep
- 7) The Centrality of the Biblical Gospel