

Paul's Example

Text: Acts 20:32-35

Introduction:

We continue to plow through Paul's heartfelt exhortation to the Ephesian elders, as he prepares to head to Jerusalem. This morning, we will set up camp in verses 32-35.

I. Paul's Example

“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (vs. 32).

Question #1: Why does Paul commend them to God? What comfort does this offer to elders? What else does he commend them to?

Question #2: What is the "Word of His grace?" How does this means provide real power to God's people? How is this a critical safeguard, in light of what Paul just said in the previous verses? In what way does this means, "build up God's people?" How does it give them an inheritance among all those who are sanctified? What is this inheritance? What does Paul mean by "sanctified" here?

"I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (vss. 33-35).

Question #3: Why does Paul say what he says in verses 33&34? Is he boasting in some way here? What does this tell us about Paul's thoughts when he ministered among the Thessalonians? How can we apply this to us?

Question #4: Who are the weak? In what way did Paul's actions provide support for the weak? How might we apply this?

Question #5: Who was Paul imitating here? Apply this to us. In what way is our Lord's statement about giving and receiving true? How can we put this principle into action?

Amen!