

## A FAREWELL MESSAGE WORTH REMEMBERING (Acts 20:17-38)

- A. The CONTEXT of this Passage. (20:17) From Miletus he {Paul} sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. What was Paul's past relationship with the Ephesian church? (19:8-10)**
1. There was bold \_\_\_\_\_: *And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. (19:8)*  
{Observe also Acts 17:1-4}
  2. There was personal \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel: *But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil {reviling} of the Way {John 14:6} before the multitude, (19:9a)*
  3. There was necessary \_\_\_\_\_: *he {Paul} departed from them and withdrew the disciples, (19:9b)*
  4. There was ongoing biblical \_\_\_\_\_: *reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. (19:9c)*
  5. There was \_\_\_\_\_: *And this continued for two years. (19:10a)*
  6. There was incredible \_\_\_\_\_: *so that all who dwelt in Asia {Minor} heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. What did this result in?*
- B. The CONTENT of PAUL'S FAREWELL MESSAGE to the EPHESIAN ELDERS. (20:18-35)**  
In Paul's message on his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey we observe ...
1. Paul's PURPOSE in ministry. (20:18-19a) *"And when they {the elders} had come to him, he said to them: " \_\_\_\_\_ {firsthand by observation}, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always \_\_\_\_\_ {conducted myself} \_\_\_\_\_ you, \_\_\_\_\_."*
  2. Paul's PERSPECTIVE in ministry. (20:19b) *"with all \_\_\_\_\_" {the opposite of arrogance & self-sufficiency due to his orientation to God's grace - reflected in mental occupation with Jesus Christ, yielding to the Lord, faith-resting in the WOG & the power of the Holy Spirit, reflected in prayer, as well as in taking correction & admission of sin when wrong, being a team-player, etc.}."*
  3. Paul's PRESSURES in ministry. (20:19c) *"with many \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews". What made Paul cry? What can you expect if you faithfully serve the Lord?*
  4. Paul's PREACHING in ministry. (20:20-21) *"how I kept back {held back} \_\_\_\_\_ that was helpful {profitable - 2 Tim. 3:16-17}, but {what did he do?} \_\_\_\_\_ {to declare without apology & compromise} it {the WOG} to you, and \_\_\_\_\_ you {to teach systematically the WOG - where? publicly {School of Tyrannus} and from house to house {either from house church to house church or in private homes}, {And who did he preach to?} 21 "testifying to \_\_\_\_\_, and also to \_\_\_\_\_, {what was his message & the required response?} \_\_\_\_\_ {metanoia - a change of mind or perspective - Acts 17:30-34} toward GOD {this sets the context & content of his message - a change of mind toward the true & living God & His Son, Jesus Christ involving} and \_\_\_\_\_ {pistis - faith or dependence} toward our \_\_\_\_\_ {the only object of faith for eternal salvation & forgiveness as presented in the Gospel of grace - 20:24; 13:38-39; 16:30-31}.*

5. Paul's **PASSION** in ministry. (20:22-23) "And see, now I go \_\_\_\_\_  
 {greatly compelled inwardly - 2 Cor. 5:14-15; 18-21} to Jerusalem, \_\_\_\_\_ the things  
 that will happen to me there, {Hebrews 11:8; 2 Cor. 5:7} 23 "except that the Holy Spirit testifies in  
 every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me."
6. Paul's **PERSEVERANCE** in ministry (20:24) "But \_\_\_\_\_ of these things move me {from my  
 purpose or goal}; **NOR** do I count my life dear to myself, {why?} so that I may \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, and {that I may finish} the \_\_\_\_\_ which I received from the Lord  
 Jesus, to testify to the \_\_\_\_\_."
7. Paul's **PURE CONSCIENCE** in ministry. (20:25-27) "And indeed, now I know that you all, among  
 whom I have gone \_\_\_\_\_ {God's plan of the ages}, will see my  
 face no more. 26 "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am **INNOCENT** of the blood of all men. 27  
 " \_\_\_\_\_ I have not shunned to declare to you the \_\_\_\_\_ {plan & purposes} of God."  
 (Ezek. 33:1-6; 2 Cor. 1:12)
8. Paul's **PRIORITIES** in ministry. (20:28) "Therefore {you elders} \_\_\_\_\_ {imperative;  
 to who?} to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_, among which the Holy Spirit has  
 made you overseers, to \_\_\_\_\_ the church of God which He \_\_\_\_\_ with His  
 own blood."
9. Paul's **PROTECTION** in ministry (20:29-31) "For I know this, that after my departure savage  
 wolves {false teachers} \_\_\_\_\_ among you, not sparing the flock. 30 "Also from  
 among yourselves men \_\_\_\_\_, speaking perverse things {twisted things that are  
 divisive - 1 Tim. 1:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:16-18; Rev. 2:2, 6}, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31  
 "Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ {bc on the alert - imperative} and remember that for three years I did not  
 cease to \_\_\_\_\_ everyone night and day with tears."
10. Paul's **PERSONAL TRUST & INTEGRITY** in ministry. (20:32-35) "So now, brethren, I commend  
 {cntrust} you to \_\_\_\_\_ {who will still be with them} and to the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_  
 {which he had taught them}, which is able to build you up {in the present} and give you an  
 inheritance {in the future} among all those who are sanctified {in the past - 1 Cor. 1:2; Heb. 10:10}.  
 33 "I have \_\_\_\_\_ no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 "Yes, you yourselves know that these  
 hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35 "I have shown you in  
 every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak {the sick or infirmed}. And remember  
 the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more \_\_\_\_\_ than to receive.'"
3. The **CONCLUSION** of Paul's **MEETING** with the **EPHESIAN ELDERS**. (20:36-38)
- 36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and \_\_\_\_\_ with them all.
- 37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him,
- 38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more {in this  
 lifetime}. And they accompanied him to the ship.