



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Paul's Keys to Spiritual Leadership

MAY 29-31, 2019

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Acts 20:18-28 *And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, 19) serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; 20) how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publically and from house to house, 21) solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. 22) And now, behold, bound in the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23) except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. 24) But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. 25) And now, behold, I know that all, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, 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) For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. 28) Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (NASB)*

Were some of these elders from among the first twelve who believed in Ephesus? How often does Paul talk about his humility? Is this discourse to train the pastors, to refute the false accusations or both? Was Paul's ministry public, private or both? What are the two keys to salvation presented here? Did the Holy Spirit both bind Paul to go to Jerusalem and warn him of what would happen to him when he went? What is the best way to declare the whole counsel of God?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JUNE 5-7: ACTS 20:29-38 **PAUL'S TEARS AND TESTIMONY**
- JUNE 12-14: ACTS 21:1-6 **PAUL APPROACHES HIS ARREST IN JERUSALEM**

The most essential component of any organization is good leadership. Paul knew the strategic importance of leadership and he had always ordained elders or pastors to lead the churches he had started. He knew that the life and health of the church would only be as strong as the leaders that he had appointed, so his careful assessment of leadership qualities was one of the most important responsibilities he assumed. Paul had already chosen the leaders of the church at Ephesus when he had departed to go into Macedonia to receive the collection from all his churches for the Jerusalem church. The leaders with Paul were representatives from all the churches who were also being trained by him for future ministry. Since the Ephesian elders and those on his team who were listening were either current pastors or future pastors, Paul is specifically modeling his leadership and sharpening their spiritual leadership for years to come.

"THERE IS IN SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP THE POTENTIAL FOR GREAT BLESSING OR SERIOUS CONDEMNATION."

JOHN MACARTHUR

"FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LEARN GOD'S WAYS, HUMILITY IS THE FIRST THING, HUMILITY IS THE SECOND, HUMILITY IS THE THIRD."

AUGUSTINE

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:00AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – BOB EVANS ON RT. 3 & 10:30AM – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS, 14490 SMOKETOWN RD.

THURSDAY @ 7:00AM – BIBLE STUDY – SHONEY'S AT HULL & COURTHOUSE ALSO NOON- DIV. OF CAPITOL POLICE-TRAINING ROOM

FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – SUFFOLK – VILLAGE INN, 6116 COLLEGE DRIVE, NEAR HAMPTON ROADS CROSSING

Virginia

Paul's Keys to Spiritual Leadership

I. PAUL'S SERVICE

ACTS 20:18-21

Some of these leaders must have been from the twelve who first believed (Acts 19:7), because Paul reminds them of the “*first day*” and following. Paul’s point was that he had been consistent the “*whole time*.” The verb “*servicing*” pictured Paul as a slave in his service to “*the Lord*.” Thus it was natural that “*humility*” described his character. Paul knew that he had been “*bought with a price*” (1 Cor 6:20), and that price was the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The “*tears*” of Paul accompanied his warnings (Acts 20:31). His “*trials*” had been predicted with his strategic commission (Acts 9:15-16). Paul’s service to Christ in preaching was so complete that it had included “*anything that was profitable*” for them both publically and privately. Most importantly, Paul had given them equally the essentials of the Gospel: “*repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ*.” Repentance is turning from our sin to God and faith is trusting in the finished work of Jesus Christ upon the cross and gratefully receiving Him as our Lord and Savior.

“THE POINT IS THAT, IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, THE PURPOSE OF ALL GOD’S TRUTH IS TO BRING US TO REPENTANCE AND FAITH – THAT IS, TO NEW LIFE IN CHRIST. EVERY TRUTH HAS AN EVANGELISTIC, TRANSFORMING IMPACT, WHEN RIGHTLY UNDERSTOOD AND PROPERLY APPLIED.”

GORDON KEDDIE

II. PAUL'S SACRIFICE

ACTS 20:22-25

Paul uses the word “*behold*” twice, and sandwiched between them is his willingness to give his life for Jesus Christ! It is the Holy Spirit that binds Paul to set his face as flint toward Jerusalem and to let nothing deter him from his objective. He has not been told exactly what will happen to him in the capital of Israel but he knows he must go. Yet the same Holy Spirit continually warns him of the “*bonds and afflictions*” that he will endure when he gets there. Paul’s appropriate response in both his

commitment to go to Jerusalem and in weighing all the prophetic warnings is the willing sacrifice of his life for Jesus Christ. Like an athlete straining for the finish line, Paul tells these pastors that this ministry given him by his Master, the Lord Jesus, “*to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God*” is more important than life itself! Because Paul anticipated that he would give his life for Christ in Jerusalem, he thought that this would be the last time that they would have the opportunity to see his face.

“BUT THE LORD SAID TO HIM, ‘GO, FOR HE IS A CHOSEN VESSEL OF MINE TO BEAR MY NAME BEFORE GENTILES, KINGS, AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. FOR I WILL SHOW HIM HOW MANY THINGS HE MUST SUFFER FOR MY NAME’S SAKE.’”

ACTS 9:15-16

III. PAUL'S SHEPHERDING

ACTS 20:26-28

Paul continues his testimony as a man who expects to die and states his case that he is “*innocent of the blood of all men*.” He is referring to the responsibility of the watchman in Ezekiel 33:8, “*When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand*.” God expects those who know the truth to warn the unbeliever of the eternal wrath of God upon his sin (Rev 21:8). To not graciously give warning of such torment in the lake of fire with Satan and his angels forever is to stain the believer’s hands with their blood! But Paul courageously proclaimed the gospel in its fullness, not neglecting those truths that were offensive. Thus, Paul admonished them to “*Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock*.” Their responsibility as “*overseers*” required that they “*shepherd the church of God*,” most precious because it was “*purchased with His own blood*,” just as they were shepherded by Paul.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Is your leadership driven by humility realizing that you were bought with a price and are your words profitable to others?
- 2) Are you caught up in the temporal affairs of life so much that you are not willing to give your life for the eternal?
- 3) Do you care enough to warn the wicked of his way or in eternity will there be blood on your hands?