

PART 27: CARING FOR THE BLOOD-BOUGHT CHURCH OF GOD

ACTS 20:13-38

Mike Taylor

www.TaylorNotes.Info/monday



SUMMARY

I. PAUL MEETS THE EPHESIAN ELDERS IN MILETUS (20:13-27)

A. Paul travels from Troas to Miletus (20:13-17)

- The “we” passages in Acts is a mystery. Luke was probably one of the “we” people but anyone else has been a mystery to scholars. The individuals named in 20:4 may have been those included in 20:13.
- Paul and his companions travel from Troas to Assos (20:13)
- From Assos they sailed to Mitylene, then to Chios, then to Samos, arriving at Miletus (20:14-15).
- Paul was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem so he met the Ephesian elders at Miletus, which was about 40 miles from Ephesus (20:16-17)

B. Paul meets the Ephesian elders in Miletus (20:17)

- When the Ephesian elders arrive in Miletus Paul reminds them that he preached of the gospel openly in spite of plots against him by the Judaizers (20:17-19)
- Paul also reminds them that he humbly and passionately preached the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles (20:20-21)

C. Paul foretells of the dangers with his returning to Jerusalem (20:22-23)

- Paul explains how the Holy Spirit has compelled him to go to Jerusalem (20:22)
- He doesn't know exactly what will happen there but he knows he faces prison and hardships (20:23)

D. Paul's commitment to spread the good news (20:24)

- Paul sees God's call to spread the gospel much more important than his own life (20:24)

E. Paul will never see them again (20:25-27)

- Paul informs these elders that he will never see them again (20:25)
- The expression "*I am innocent of the blood of any of you*" is a quote from Ezekiel 33:7-9, and James 3:1, meaning that because he was faithful in sounding the warning of repentance, God would not hold him accountable for their failure to repent (20:26-27)

II. PAUL'S FINAL WORDS TO THESE ELDERS (20:28-32)

A. As elders watch over your church (20:28)

- As elders watch over your own lives and those in your church (20:28a)
- Be like shepherds caring for those in your church (20:28b)

B. As elders watch out for those who distort the truth (20:29-32)

- Watch out for intruders who will distort the gospel of Jesus (20:29)
- Watch out for those already in your church for they too may distort the truth of the gospel (20:30)
- Be constantly on your guard to protect the truth of the gospel (20:31)
- The word of his grace (Scriptures), is the record of God's gracious dealings with mankind and the source of spiritual growth for all Christians; and since the

church is “the pillar and ground of the truth its leaders must be familiar with that truth (20:32)

C. Paul sets the example for these elders (20:33-38)

- Paul never coveted their money (20:33)
- Paul supplied his own needs and for that of his companions (20:34)
- Paul always gave rather than receive (20:35)
- Paul's emotional farewell to these elders (20:36-37)
- Paul sadly tells them he will never see them again (20:38a)
- Paul is then accompanied to the ship where he will make his way to Jerusalem (20:38b)

III. APPLICATION

A. As members of a local church, we are to protect the preaching and teaching of the _____.

B. As members of a local church, we are to also pray for _____
_____.