

Paul's Journey

Scripture: Acts 20:22-24

Introduction:

Paul is on his way to Jerusalem. On the way there, he has stopped at Miletus, where he has called the elders of the church of Ephesus, to meet him. This morning, we continue to examine Paul's exhortation to these men.

I. Paul's Journey

"And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit **testifies** in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me" (vs. 22-23).

Question #1: What is so dangerous about Jerusalem for Paul? What makes this journey even more difficult for Paul? What is Paul certain of about this journey? Does he know the details? Comment on the challenges of the "unknown" factor of Paul's journey. What makes this so difficult?

Question #2: Where does Paul get his assurance of the certainty of these things? Put yourself in Paul's shoes. Discuss these things.

"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (vs. 24).

Question #3: What is Paul's response to the very difficult challenges that he has faced and will continue to face? What does he mean by this? How does he have such an attitude about these things?

Question #4: Comment on Paul's use of the term "race." What does he mean by using this idea? How can we finish our race with joy, and fulfill the ministry, which God has ordained for us to fulfill?

Question #5: Where did Paul receive his ministry? What is the relevance of this, and what motivating factor does this provide, compelling him to fulfill it? Apply this to us.

Question #6: Discuss Paul's ministry here. Why is this so important? In the grand scope of things, is Paul's life sacrifice for this cause, worth it? Why or why not?

Question #7: What ministry has Jesus called you to fulfill? Are you doing this? What prevents us from doing so? How does this all relate to Jesus's call to take up our crosses and follow Him?

Amen!!!