

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 3rd missionary journey we observe ...
1. Paul's PURPOSE in ministry. (2:18-19a) "*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 _____ {be 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
 {entrust} 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.