

ACTS 20 vs 17

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Now Luke lets us know, with all the letters Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, and the Ephesians, and the Romans, and the Corinthians, and the Philippians, and Colossians, and Galatians... and all the others, this chapter contains the last message we know is from Paul to the Church.

17 **And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church** / these leaders in Ephesus who would soon be known to have lost their first love.

18 **And when they came to him, he said to them, you know, that from the first day I set foot in Asia, I had been with you in every situation,**

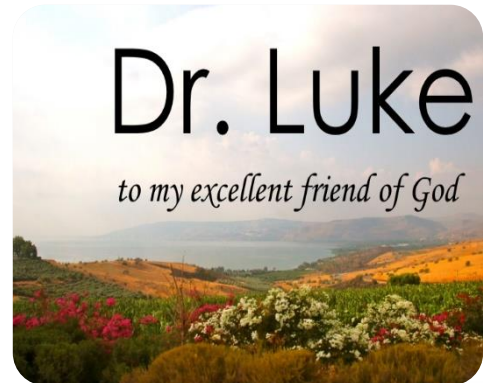
19 **Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, with many tears, and trials that came to me by those lying-in wait** / by the Jewish leaders who sought to ambush him:

20 **And how I kept back nothing that was profitable to you, but publicly proclaimed to you, and taught you, from house to house** / Paul did not hesitate, he deliberately avoided nothing, both in the assemblies – the public gatherings and in homes, if anyone had questions, Paul was available, they knew it from the first day,

21 **testifying** / the word is: **diamartyromai**; it's an intensive Greek word, in the middle voice. At root is: **martyr**, to put one's life on the line; to count everything loss, unimportant **for this proclamation**. How Jesus lived His life to do the Father's will. Nothing was too valuable to stand in the way -- not even life.

to both the Jewish people, and also to the Hellenists / personally willing to die to take this good news to those chosen by God, and to those in Greece. Isn't that what Jesus said? That denying self, and taking up a cross were part of the formula to be a disciple -- which is not something we just check-off on a list of: things to do today. Right? Unless you are a pretender. But Paul was no pretender; he was giving his life for the good news. He wasn't willing just to live for Christ; he was willing to die for Him.

personally willing to forfeit his life in metanoia toward God; meta = change + noia = mind...**change your mind**, Paul was a good teacher; and they both knew: **without a changed mind there will be no changed heart**.



and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ / and change their thinking toward Yeshua the Messiah; trusting Him, hearing His voice; and leaning on His every word.

²² **And now, pay attention, I go captured by the Spirit of the Lord to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there,**

²³ **except that the Holy Spirit diamartyromai** / now what does that mean? This is not a cheap word; it is an intensive word; a life and death word. But as Jesus Christ put His life on the line for the Father; so the Holy Spirit pours out all HE is to proclaim Jesus Christ and the good news of our Father. Whatever the cost, the Holy Spirit is giving His all to this good news proclamation.

saying, that in every city, chains and troubles await me.

²⁴ **But none of these things move me, nor do I count my life of any value to myself** / Paul says hearing this, that does not bother or dissuade him; if you truly live for Christ, you die to self, right? So if you're willing to die for Christ! Paul said, **that I might know Christ, I count my life all skabala**; the KJV says, all **dung** -- I say all **bull crap**.

Now the modern church has a hard time dealing with Paul. He talks normal; not like those now days, seminarians who try to soften and sugar coat the **dung**. I mean I can never figure out why people want to sugar coat **schist**?! Do they eat **schist**? I flush **schist** down the toilet; I don't need to sugar coat it?! It's not part of my diet. Sugar coated schist?! **No!** That's what they spoon-feed seminarians now days.

Let's get back to Paul...

my purpose is that I finish my course with joy / he is running the race of faith; the same race the Lord Jesus first ran -- the pace setter of faith. Paul is not going 80% of the distance and then sit down; tired. Paul knows the joy of the Lord is our strength; and he is excited about the race he is running.

and the ministry, which I received from the Lord Jesus / what the Lord Jesus gave him:

to diamartyromai / to do what the Holy Spirit is willing to do; which is what the Lord Jesus did; to give His all and finish the race of faith.

to give his all whatever the cost for the gospel of the grace of God / the Holy Spirit of God strengthening him every step of the way, in every city -- with joy.

²⁵ **And now, pay attention, I know that you, among whom I went preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face never again.**

²⁶ **For this reason I martyromai this day** / **for my own benefit**, I put my life on the line this day.

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I am clear from the blood of all / I showed you what I received from the Lord; teaching you what He taught me. I proclaimed the great truths to you plainly. No man, woman or child can say, they did not know.

Paul says a second time...

²⁷ **For I kept back nothing to declare to you the whole plan of God** / I did not hesitate; I avoided nothing, no part was excluded, **no** part avoided, no part invented; but only what was revealed by the Lord.

²⁸ **So be on guard for yourselves, and for all the flock which the Holy Spirit made you overseers** / to all those who belong to our Lord Jesus Christ, the good Shepherd. All, no one excluded training up the little ones, strengthening the wobbly and keeping the path clear and straight -- Hebrews 12.

Be on guard to feed the church of God / **poimaino**; to shepherd, which primarily means: nourishing them with good food... although it also means, guarding to protect from wolves and poisonous snakes in the grass; David was a great shepherd; 3,000 years ago, he knew the Lord's words were sweeter than honey; like when Jesus said to Peter, Feed My sheep. And notice, the sheep belong to Jesus, and to nobody else.



which He purchased with His own blood / you know, prophet Jeremiah said, Your words I found, and I did eat them, and Your Word became for me the joy and rejoicing of my heart, for I am called by the name of the Lord God of hosts. Can you feed the church of God without giving His words? God never promised to honor my words; maybe He promised to honor yours. I'm going with Jesus! He said, Keep My words. Guard them with your life; not guard them from the people; but for the people!

²⁹ **For this I know, that after my departure, grievous wolves will enter in among you, not sparing the flock** / savage, monstrous, merciless wolves... that could kill you in less than a minute.

³⁰ **Also among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things** / in essence, twisting and distorting the truth, **to drag away disciples after them** / **mathetes**, those trying to do the math; and you wonder; could Paul discern the wolves, clothed like sheep from who gathered?



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31 So be on guard, and remember, for three years, I did **not stop night or day warning everyone with tears.**

32 And now, I commit you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them who are set apart / Jesus tells us in His prayer to His Father. [Father, sanctify them in Your truth. Your word is truth.](#)

33 I have not coveted anyone's silver, or gold, or clothing.

34 You yourselves know, that I worked with my hands to provide for my needs and for those who were with me / Paul daily labored to produce enough not only for himself, but for others.

35 In every way I showed you how to help the weak by working like this, and to remember the words of our Lord Jesus, how He said,

It is more blessed to give than to receive / Jesus said:

You remind Me more of My Father, when you give... than when you take.

Wow! Just think about it; why are so many... told to stand in line, and try to push to the front, in order that they can take... whatever for themselves. And just an aside – this verse is only recorded here, yet Paul tells us the Lord Jesus Himself said it. Here is a perfect example of why John wrote there wasn't enough time to record all the wonderful things Jesus said and did!

36 And when he had said this, he knelt down, and prayed with them all.

37 And they all deeply wept, and embraced Paul, and kissed him / as Dr. Peter Williams points out, they couldn't change the roman empire by legislation, they were too small; [but they could change the world by following what their Master, Jesus Christ taught them – as each servant loved one another,](#)

38 Grieving most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face never again. And they accompanied him to the ship.



The Problem of Pain – by C.S.Lewis

The Funeral of a Great Myth -- CSLewisDoodle