

A TEARFUL FAREWELL IN MILETUS

(Acts 20:17-38)

- I. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (chapters 1-2)
- II. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (chapters 3-7)
- III. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND SYRIA (chapters 8-12)
- IV. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD (chapters 13-28)

- A. Paul's Visit to Macedonia and Achaia (20:1-6)
- B. Paul's Raising of Eutychus in Troas (20:7-12)
- C. The Missionary's Journey from Troas to Miletus (20:13-16)
- D. The Elders of Ephesus Meet Paul in Miletus (20:17-38)

1. This farewell speech to the elders of Ephesus is unique (in Acts), because it is addressed to _____; it reads like one of the Pauline epistles, and reveals the _____ of the apostle.

2. Paul recounts his past ministry in Ephesus (vv. 18-21)

- a. Calling the elders of Ephesus to Miletus, he reminded them of his _____ for ministry was to _____ the Lord. (vv. 18-19a)
- b. His _____ in ministry was in all _____, he didn't act like a celebrity among them. (v. 19b)
- c. While he had _____ to face his trials, it still brought him to _____ at times. (v. 19c)
- d. In his teaching he held back _____, he taught the believers _____ and _____; his messages included the privileges and responsibilities that belonged to the Christian life. (v. 20)
- e. He also faithfully taught the _____ Jews and Greeks the _____ of salvation. (v. 21)

3. The apostle discussed his plans to visit Jerusalem and his present ministry (vv. 22-27)

- a. The phrase "*see now*" shifts the emphasis from the _____ to the _____ as he talked about his _____ in going to Jerusalem. (v. 22)

- b. Notice we are _____ told that the Holy Spirit prohibited him from going, but He _____ him of the things that _____ happen when he arrived. (v. 23)
- c. A lesser man would have _____ from fulfilling his responsibilities, self-preservation was _____ number one on his list, but _____ the ministry that Jesus had given him. (v. 24)
- d. Because of the Spirit's warning, he concluded that he _____ see any of them again (v. 25); regarding his character he was _____ of covetousness (v. 26), in his ministry he had declared the _____ counsel of God (v. 27)

4. Paul gave a stern warning regarding the future of the church of Ephesus (vv. 28-31)

- a. Their responsibilities as elders were extremely important because "*the church of God*" had His _____ on it, and it had been _____ with His Son's "*own blood*". (v. 28)
- b. The spiritual shepherds could expect ravenous wolves - _____ to infiltrate the flock when Paul left. (v. 29)
- c. They could also anticipate and guard against people from _____ the church adopting _____ teachings and seducing the congregation (v. 30); they had a responsibility to heed these warnings and be on the _____ (v. 31).

5. The apostle closed with a blessing and commented on his integrity (vv. 32-35)

- a. Since he was no longer going to be able to build up these men, he _____ them to God, and to the _____ of His _____. (v. 32)
- b. Personally, he _____ coveted anyone's money, but rather, he _____ to support himself in ministry. (vv. 33-35)

6. Paul's tearful parting from the brethren of Ephesus (vv. 36-38)