

A Life Committed to The Church *Persevering, Encouraging, and Equipping God's People*

Acts 20:1-17

Paul's love for Christ compelled him to persevere through opposition, advance the Gospel, strengthen the saints, equip fellow servants, and devote his life to the spiritual maturity of the church of Christ.

Steadfast

- ❖ Paul persevered in the calling of God for his life, refusing to allow anything to stop him.

Acts 9:15-16 "But the Lord said to [Ananias], 'Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My name.'"

- ✚ Paul's call originated with God, not with personal ambitions.
- ✚ God called Paul to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to Gentiles.
- ✚ Paul accomplished God's purpose even in suffering.

Acts 20:3 "There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia."

Encouraging

- ❖ Paul's deepest concern was the spiritual condition of others; therefore, he went through the churches encouraging the disciples of Christ.

Acts 20:1-3 "After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. ²When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. ³There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia."

Acts 14:21-22 "When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²²strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

Acts 18:23 "After spending some time there, he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples."

- ✚ Through encouragement, Paul was establishing, strengthening, and equipping the churches.
- ✚ In all his ministry, he never ceased to encourage the disciples!
- ✚ His encouragement came forth even when he was under a lot of opposition.

Visionary

- ❖ Paul's desire to see the kingdom of God established in the nations and in the hearts of believers never came to an end.

Acts 19:21-22 "Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, 'After I have been there, I must also see Rome.' ²²And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while."

- ✚ His mission was to fill every corner of the earth with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:18-19 "For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;"

✚ The call of God in Paul and his vision for the church made him an intentional discipler in the Gentile world, and therefore he addressed them in an intensely personal way.

1 Corinthians 4:14-15 "I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. ¹⁵For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

Partner

❖ Paul understood the importance of involving and serving with others in the establishment of God's kingdom.

Acts 20:4-6 "Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. ⁵These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, ⁶but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days."

✚ Fellow workers from different regions, backgrounds, and churches reflected the unity that mission required.

✚ Paul surrounded himself with brothers who were eager to be equipped for ministry.

Acts 15:40-41 "But Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches."

Acts 16:1-3 "Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ²He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek."

Romans 16:3-4 "Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well."

Devoted

📖 *Acts 20:7-12*

❖ Paul was devoted because of his love for God.

Philippians 3:7-8 "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ."

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

❖ Paul's passion was demonstrated as he equipped others with the truth of God's Word.

Acts 19:21 "Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, 'After I have been there, I must also see Rome'."

Acts 20:7b "...Paul talked with them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight."

Acts 20:9a "And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer."

✚ Paul's life was directed by passion to reach as many people as he could for Christ and to establish them in Christ.

❖ Paul's zeal directed him to genuinely care for his brothers in Christ.

Acts 20:10-12 "But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, 'Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.' ¹¹And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. ¹²And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted."

Endnotes:

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