

III. Conclusion

- A. Paul not only left Ephesus and Asia, Philippi and Macedonia, Troas; Paul has left us.

- B. Paul's farewell message was not just to the Ephesian elders, but it is to your own elders, and therefore has something to say to you as well.
 - i. You need elders who work hard day and night to serve you. Imitate them.
 - ii. You need elders who are diligent in the Scriptures in order to protect you and guard you from false doctrine. Honor them with your attention and by provision.
 - a) Expository listening
 - b) 1 Timothy 5:17

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Why do you think so much emphasis is put on Paul's departure from Ephesus?
- In light of the fact that the church will not see Paul again, how important do you think Paul's message is for these elders? For us? How might it apply to us in much the same way it applied to the Ephesian elders?
- Is there anything about this message from Paul, in light of the fact that it is his parting message, that surprises you? What are the things emphasized in this message?
- In what ways do Paul's actions in the farewell tour of Macedonia, Greece, and Troas reinforce the message in Miletus?
- What does this chapter teach us about what we need in our churches and in our leaders in churches today?
- How might the account of Eutychus falling asleep speak to us today about our own need to stay awake?

Parting Words: *What Shall We Do Without Paul?*

Jerry Cisar — January 4, 2015

Text: Acts 20

Introduction

- A. So Long, Farewell
 - i. Acts 20:1

 - ii. Acts 20:37-38

- B. Paul's departure is as momentous as his arrival.

I. Paul is confident in the power of the spoken word. (20:1-12)

- A. Paul and His Many Words of Encouragement

- B. Ministry in Troas
 - i. 20:7

 - ii. 20:11

- C. The Relevance of Eutychus
 - i. There are many lamps in the room.
 - a) Luke 12:35, 37

 - b) Luke 21:34-36

c) Luke 8:15

ii. Paul tells the Ephesians elders to “stay awake” (20:31) and refers to preaching day and night.

iii. Paul knows we must persevere in the Word and stay awake if we are going to make it through the darkness of night to the dawn!

II. Paul exhorts them to follow his example in preaching and humble service. (20:13-38)

A. Paul's message to the Ephesian elders exhorts them:

i. ...to follow His example in preaching.

ii. ...to follow His example in humble service.

iii. ...to trust God will provide for them as they do this.

B. Paul reminds them of his example in humble service and persistent preaching in 18-21.

C. What motivates Paul to live this way? Why this sense of urgency in Paul's words? (22-27)

i. Paul's attitude toward what lays ahead explains his past life among them.

ii. Paul's urgency is explained by the fact that they won't see his face again! This is his last message to them.

D. *Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock (28-31)*

i. What is the Holy Spirit's solution for Paul's absence?

ii. *Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (20:28)*

a) Why must they oversee and shepherd?

➤ Because of Who owns the flock, and how valuable they are to Him.

➤ Because of Danger

b) Elders/overseers are for the flock's protection.

E. Be humble re: your provision and confident in the power of the Word (32-35)

i. Acts is about how, not when, the reigning Lord, Messiah Jesus is restoring the Kingdom to Israel.

ii. In vs 35, Paul calls them to get their attention off of *receiving* (35) and onto serving (hard work, helping the weak) as a means of giving.

a) These instructions are for the elders/pastors.

b) Numbers 18:20-23

c) Acts 26:18

d) 1 Corinthians 9:13-14