

Sermon Date: February 9, 2014
Paul in Ephesus – Acts 20:1-38
Doug McBride

Read Acts 20:1-38

1. What appeared to be Paul's goal during this period of his journey (v. 1-6)?

2. Notice Luke's transition to the first person "us" and "we" (v. 5-6) as he relates the following events. What does that say about Luke as the author of this book?

3. *See Acts 20:8-12.* What happens to the Eutychus (v. 7-9)? Why do you think Luke, the writer of the text makes it a point to describe Paul's reaction to the tragedy of Eutychus?

4. Paul summons the elders of the Ephesus church to meet him at Miletus (v. 17). Speak to what Paul reflects on in the following breakdown of verses from v. 18-35? What was his mood like? What do you hear in his voice? In what ways does he strongly exhort them?
 - a. Verses 18-21:
 - b. Verses 22-23:
 - c. Verse 24 (See also Philippians 3:7-8)
 - d. Verse 25-27
 - e. Verse 28-31: (See also 2 Timothy 3:1-7; 13, 4:1-5)
 - f. Verse 32 (See also Ephesians 1:13-15)
 - g. Verse 33-35

5. Doug pointed out that Paul gives us two distinct images in v. 24. He sees his life as both a race that needs to be finished well and a service that needs to be completed. See Paul's letter to Timothy as he faced the end of his life, 2 Timothy 4:7. What does this stir in you?
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6. According to Paul, what are the dangers would threaten the church at Ephesus and what would protect them (v. 28-32)?

7. Doug made some interesting comments about gifting and calling. As an analogy he uses a profound statement made by Michael J. Fox who is suffering from Parkinson's disease: "Parkinson's is the gift that keeps taking." What do you think is meant by that statement?
 - a. We sometimes get the idea that our calling should be easy and free of pain. Paul is an example that our gifting and calling often comes with a great price. Do you or have you had a "gift that keeps taking?" In other words, something you would not have wanted to go through or deal with, that keeps taking, however that God has used and continues to use?

8. Doug taught us that Paul teaches his fellow sojourners as well as us that "each of you is gifted uniquely by God and each of you will be tormented at some point by the enemy and the darkness of life on this earth will confuse and weigh us down. Be sure to look out for each other" (v. 28-31). In what ways does Paul admonish us to look out for each other?

9. The response by the Ephesian elders is a very moving scene (v. 36-38). Why were they grieved?

****Paul to Timothy knowing his life would soon be over:*

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. (2 Timothy 4:7-8)