

Apostle Paul's Farewell Sermon (Acts 20:17-24)

From Miletus, Paul asked the elders of the church in Ephesus to come - last sermon in his third mission trip.

Apostle Paul's Mission - Testifying the Good News “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. (Acts 20:24) “Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. (Acts 20:26-27) God will hold us accountable for their blood when we keep silent instead speaking out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life (Ezekiel 3:17-19) “For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! (1 Corin 9:16)

Death/ Judgement/ Fear of the Lord Bible says “Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment (Hebrews 9:27) All of us will face death but we should have faith to be saved after judgement and attitudes/thoughts accordingly in our life. “When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. (1 Corin 15:54-56) How we could solve our sins and death? “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? (2 Corin 13:5) Are we assured that we are saved and affirmed when we stand in front of God? “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:7)

Life lived in belief of God's Sovereignty We should keep confirming assurance of salvation in our whole life. Paul relied on only Jesus to testify Gospel. “I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. (Acts 20:19) “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace (Acts 20:24)

How about our life? We should live by God’s hands. There is no place without God’s touch. “though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand. (Psalms 37:24) “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10) We could be bold to live in this world because of God’s promise.

Obedience in God's Time. “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. (Acts 20:22) Paul aware of warns of Holy Spirit to go to Jerusalem and prison and hardship are facing him. “After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, “The Holy Spirit says, ‘In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’” “When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. (Acts 21:10-12) We should obey God when He ask even though suffering will face us. “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot (Eccles 3:1-2)

Believing in Jesus means controlling time: anointing Holy Spirit on our time. Make time from Chronos (clock time) to Kairos (Critical moment in God) “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. (2 Timothy 4:2)

Examine ourselves (Words and Deeds) “Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (Acts 20:28) We should be careful of our words and deeds as believers. “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:6) We should train/ prohibit saying if it is unnecessary. “Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a ruling rightly given (Proverbs 25:11) Word has power because it is our prayer

Clean Appearance “Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil. (Eccles 9:8) “For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. (2 Corin 2:15)

Giving Life “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35) Giving, helping weak people instead of receiving. True joy will be returned to us when we serve, help others in needs.

Rule of Wealth “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!(Matthew 7:9-11) God wants us live in abundant blessing - special meaning to certain one. God wants us live well as spirit is get along well. “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. (2 Corin 8:9)

1. Giving life “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (Luke 6:38) God’s wealth works through rule of kingdom of heaven: giving instead of receiving “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed (Prov 11:25)
2. Treating others first. “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:12)
3. Having a conscience of wealth not poverty “A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. (Luke 6:38) “Open wide your mouth and I will fill it. (Psalms 81:10) “your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:9-11) We could overcome any adversity in Jesus with consciousness of wealth.
4. Sowing life “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corin 9:6-7) God’s rule is reaping what you sow.