



Paul's Love for the Church

Acts 20:1-16

Corbett Robertson - Sierra Community Church
November 19th, 2023

Read Acts 20:1-16

Notes:

WHERE DOES PAUL'S LOVE FOR THE CHURCH COME FROM?

But Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

Ephesians 5:25

"Paul had a very complicated church story. He was a religious kid, but rather than growing up into love for God's people he worked against them. He hated the church, celebrated the death of her first martyr, and used all his energies to strike down Christ's beloved people wherever he could find them. Then, on his way to persecute the church, Christ appeared to him, and the direction of his life forever changed. Overnight, the church's enemy became the church's friend."

Megan Hill "A Place to Belong"

"Every man has built a roof over his head to shield himself at the point of tension...The Christian lovingly, must remove the shelter and allow the truth of the external world and of what man is to beat upon him. When the roof is off, each man must stand naked and wounded before the truth of what is...He must come to know that his roof is a false protection from the storm of what is."

Francis Schaeffer "The God Who is There"

PAUL'S LOVE FOR THE CHURCH - ENCOURAGEMENT

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said goodbye and set out for Macedonia. He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people.

Acts 20:1-2

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

PAUL'S LOVE FOR THE CHURCH - SACRIFICE

Even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

Philippians 2:17

PAUL'S LOVE FOR THE CHURCH - PARTICIPATION

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

HOW DO WE LOVE THE CHURCH?

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:34-35

Community Group Questions:

1. What is your most important takeaway from this story?
2. How is God honored by Paul's/our love for the church?
3. How would you explain the purpose of the church to a friend?

