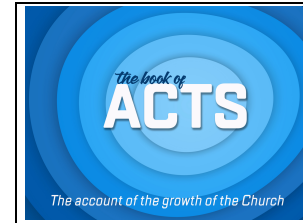


So Paul concludes with these words, in verse 25;

²⁵ Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. ²⁶ Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. ²⁷ For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.

Acts 20:25-27



Joining Paul In His Example

Acts 20:17-27

Acts 20:17-27 ¹⁷ From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. ¹⁸ When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. ¹⁹ I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. ²⁰ You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. ²¹ I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

²² And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³ I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. ²⁶ Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. ²⁷ For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.

Community Group Questions:

1. Of the four ways Paul ministered: To Christ, the Church, the Lost and Himself. Which one are you best at exemplifying?
2. How would you explain the cause of our Christian humility?
3. How would you explain repentance to someone?
4. What are your best examples of living sacrificially?

Paul writing to the church in Philippi:

Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example.

Philippians 3:17

N.T. Wright- Which pastors among us has the courage to say this to those who know us well? Our slight hesitation about the way Paul puts it is a mask for our embarrassment at knowing we couldn't, and wouldn't dare, say anything like that.

Four ways Paul's life calls out to us to follow his example.

1. Paul's life toward God.

...from the first day I came into the province of Asia, I served the Lord vs. 18

In this life there is no secular and sacred division.
Everything is service to Christ.

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

Notice how Paul serves Christ:

¹⁹I served the Lord with great humility and tears – vs. 19

Where Christian humility springs from:

God makes people right with himself through their faith in Jesus Christ. This is true for all who believe in Christ, because all people are the same: ²³Everyone has sinned and fallen short of God's glorious standard, ²⁴and all need to be made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They need to be made free from sin through Jesus Christ. ²⁵God sent him to die in our place to take away our sins. We receive forgiveness through faith in the blood of Jesus' death. Romans 3:22-25

We're saved by admitting we're sinners and believing in the
One who went to the cross, and humbled himself to save us.

Paul's tears were reserved for the lost.	Romans 9:2,3
For the carnal and misled believers.	2 Corinthians 2:4
For the carnage brought on by false teachers.	Acts 20:31

2. Paul's life toward the Church

You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you
Acts 20:20a

- "I have not hesitated" That means, *I didn't shrink back.*
- But do it helpfully. "be helpful to you"

Paul writing to the church at Colossae:

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives.
Colossians 3:16.

How does that happen?

...but have taught you publicly and from house to house. Acts 20:20b

So there is not only the idea that the Christian ministry is a public thing, but that you ought be able to bring that message from a pulpit down to somebody's house and somebody's life.

3. Paul's life toward the lost.

I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. Acts 20:21

What does repentance mean? "*Metanoia*" means to change your mind. It means to be thinking one way and to think the opposite way. It doesn't mean, you went ten degrees. it means you went 180 degrees in your thinking.

Remorse- Sorrow for the consequences of sin.

Remorse- "*I'm sorry I got caught.*"

Repentance- Condemning the sin that brought the consequences

Repentance- "*I'm sorry I did it.*"

4. Paul's life toward himself was sacrifice.

And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. ²⁴However, 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 20:22-24

Paul knows persecution awaits him in Jerusalem. On Paul's list of priorities, self-preservation was the lowest. That's Paul's passion.

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21