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the book of **ACTS**

The account of the growth of the Church



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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. **Acts 20:17,18**

ACTS 20:17-27

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.

Acts 20:19,20

ACTS 20:17-27

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.

Acts 20:21,22

ACTS 20:17–27

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.

Acts 20:23,24

ACTS 20:17-27

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**

Paul's Third Missionary Journey





ACTS 20:17-27

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. **Acts 20:18**

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

Philippians 3:17



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.

1 PAUL'S LIFE TOWARD GOD

19 I served the Lord...

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

1 PAUL'S LIFE TOWARD GOD

19 I served the Lord
with great **humility** and tears



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: ²³ Everyone has sinned and fallen short of God's glorious standard, ²⁴ and 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. ²⁵ God 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](#)

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. ⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. [Philippians 3:4-7](#)



1 PAUL'S LIFE TOWARD GOD

19 | served the Lord
with great humility and **tears**

THINGS THAT MADE PAUL CRY-THE LOST

With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. ² My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief ³ for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ! —if that would save them.

Romans 9:1–3

THINGS THAT MADE PAUL CRY-THE CARNAL

I wrote that letter in great anguish, with a troubled heart and many tears. I didn't want to grieve you, but I wanted to let you know how much love I have for you.

2 Corinthians 2:4

THINGS THAT MADE PAUL CRY-FALSE TEACHERS

Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. ³¹ Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you.

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 but have **taught** you publicly and from house to house.

Acts 20:20

2

PAUL'S LIFE TOWARD THE CHURCH

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.

Acts 20:20

2

PAUL'S LIFE TOWARD THE CHURCH

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.

Acts 20:20

PAUL LETTER TO COLASSAE

Colossians 3:16

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

“I realized that when I worry, its like me saying to God, *‘I know how history has to go. I know how my life has to go, and I’m afraid you don’t, and you’re not going to get it right. I’m afraid I’m smarter than you, God. That’s why I’m worried. I mean, I think there’s a real chance I’m smarter than you.’* Then I began to realize I’m forgetting who God is, and that’s why I worry.”

2

PAUL'S LIFE TOWARD THE CHURCH

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.**

Acts 20:20



3

PAULS 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

3

PAULS 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

4 PAUL'S LIFE TOWARD HIMSELF

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.

Acts 20:22–24

PAUL LETTER TO PHILIPPI

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21

If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. [Matthew 5:46](#)

4 PAUL'S LIFE TOWARD HIMSELF

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

4 PAUL'S LIFE TOWARD HIMSELF

When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. ³⁷ They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. ³⁸ What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship. Acts 20:36-38

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