

Sermon Discussion Guide:

How Do You View Yourself and Your Life?

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Scripture: **Acts 20:17-27**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

Paul lamented that the Ephesian elders will likely never see his face again. Paul sensed that the end of his time on earth was near. Paul used this occasion to convey these bold words: "I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." As a faithful servant of Christ, Paul was passing the torch (and his responsibilities) to the elders of Ephesus to go forth and continue proclaiming "the whole counsel of God." This proclamation continues in our day, as believers should seek to imitate Paul, just as Paul sought to imitate Jesus. **The call of the believer is to daily embrace the ministry and the message of the gospel.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Galatians 1:10; Matthew 25:31-40; 2 Corinthians 2:4; Ezekiel 33:1-4; Psalm 51:16-17; Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Hebrews 11:1; Romans 4:3; Hebrews 11:7; John 14:1; John 20:30-31; Galatians 2:16; Galatians 2:20; Hebrews 11:6; James 2:14-20

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Reflect on Paul's bold words in verse 24 and contemplate the following 3 questions: How do you view yourself and your life? What do you live for? Whom do you serve?
2. What is the ministry of the believer? What types of things should this encompass in a believer's life? What are some ways this is being demonstrated in your life? What are some areas that you need to grow in?
3. What is the message of the believer? What are some ways that Paul communicated this message to unbelievers? What are some character qualities that Paul demonstrated when he communicated this message? What can we learn from Paul's example?
4. God has given each believer spiritual gifts to be used to serve the body of Christ and to serve the local church. What are some ways this is being demonstrated in your life? What are some ways that you'd like to further cultivate and practice your gifts?
5. Paul followed God's leading even in times of trouble, and he did not fear man. Moreover, Paul guarded the gospel and never watered it down. When you witness to others, does a fear of man sometimes creep in? In what ways can you be bolder in your witness?
6. What is the difference between worldly repentance and godly repentance? What are the 5 Cs of repentance? [*Conviction, contrition, confession, conversion, commitment.*] Why are faith and repentance inseparable? How can we combat seeking only worldly repentance?