

The Testimony of a Life Lived for Christ

1. Who is Paul speaking to in this passage (v. 17)?

 2. What do you remember about Paul's time at Ephesus?
 - a. Acts 19:1-7
 - b. Acts 19:8-9a (Acts 20:19)
 - c. Acts 19:9b-10
 - d. Acts 19:11
 - e. Acts 19:23-4

 3. List some of the things that characterized Paul's ministry in Ephesus.
 - a. v. 18 —
 - b. v. 19 —
 - c. v. 20, 27 —
 - d. v. 21 —
 - e. v. 22-24 —
 - f. v. 33 —
 - g. v. 35 —

 4. Read I Thessalonians 2:1-12. What does Paul have to say about the motives and practices of his ministry?

 5. Paul challenged the Ephesian elders (pastors) to guard the church from spiritual harm. He said, "After my departure, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock" (v.29).
 - a. Who do you think he meant by "savage wolves" (II Cor. 11:12-15)?
 - b. What other danger did he warn them about (v. 30)?
 - c. What did Paul say to the Ephesian elders to assure them that they could effectively ward off the spiritual attacks (v. 32)?

 6. How did these Christian leaders respond to Paul's words (v. 36-38)?
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Read: Acts 21:1-40

Monday

v. 1-7 — *The fellowship of the Spirit*: Verse 4 says they found some “disciples” at Tyre. Why do you think these disciples told Paul not to go to Jerusalem? Read verse 5; why do you think these people would go to such lengths for someone they had only known seven days? Paul says in Ephesians 4:4, “There is one body and one Spirit.” All Christians everywhere share a common bond: Salvation in Christ and fellowship of the Holy Spirit. It is amazing how easy it is to share sweet fellowship with another Christian whom you just met. Endeavor to remember that you also share that same Spirit with your brothers and sisters here.

Tuesday

v. 8-14 — *Doing the will of God*: Paul and his companions came to Caesarea and stayed with Philip the evangelist and his family. Again Paul is asked not to go up to Jerusalem. A prophet named Agabas clearly showed Paul the fate that awaited him at Jerusalem; what was his response (v. 13)? Paul would be bound and turned over to the Gentiles; what did the group say about this (v. 14)? Sometimes it is the will of God for His children to suffer for His sake (Phil. 1:29). Paul teaches us that regardless of the circumstances of life our responsibility is obedience.

Wednesday

v. 15-20a — *Missionary report*: Whenever Paul returned to Jerusalem or Antioch the first thing he did was report “the things which God had done.” We still practice this today when missionaries return from the field they report to their sending churches. What was the response of the elders (v. 20)? Missionary reports are a good time for us to hear what God is doing, and a good time for us to be informed about what is going on around the world. It is also a time for us to glorify the Lord; it is a time for home Christians to be encouraged and to get excited about being a part of God's larger plan of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

Thursday

v. 20b-26 — *Preferring others*: Many Jews had believed on Jesus Christ as Savior. These same Jews were also “zealous for the law.” Do you think it is possible to be saved by grace and zealous for the law at the same time? If so, in what ways? Paul did not want to be a stumbling block to anyone, including the Jewish believers at Jerusalem, so he consented to James' plan, which involved a Jewish ritual (a Nazirite vow). What was James' motivation for this plan (v. 24)? Do you think Paul was wise in going along with it?

Friday

v. 27-36 — *God's minister*: This account reminds me of Acts 19:23-41 and the confusion caused by Demetrius the silversmith. Other riots can be found in Acts 7 and 16. This mob was bent on killing Paul (v. 31); who saved him? God again used civil governing authorities to deliver His servant from death. It is interesting to note that the Jews (who considered themselves the people of God) hated the Roman government and wanted them out of Israel, yet God used the Romans to save his true servant from the blood-thirsty Jews!

Saturday

v. 37-40 — *The heart of the Apostle*: One of the reasons that Paul was such an effective servant was his Roman citizenship. That citizenship afforded him many rights that most people did not have. It also afforded him free passage throughout the empire. Paul was also a well-educated man and he could speak Greek quite well. In this passage Paul has just been torn from the clutches of a murderous mob and barely saved from being beaten to death; what was on his mind (21:40-22:1-22)? Why do you think Paul wanted to preach the gospel even during such a violent uproar? Ask God to grant you a burden for His glory and a burden to see lost souls saved.
