

TOWARDS GOD FOR A CHANGE

Acts 20:7- Acts 21:1

⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. ⁸ There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. ⁹ And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him." ¹¹ When he had gone *back* up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. ¹² They took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted. **Acts 20:7-12 NASB**

- They meet for church on Sunday.
 - Paul was preaching and his message lasted until midnight.
 - Even though the room they met in was very well lit, a young man (Eutychus) sitting on a windowsill fell asleep.
 - Paul continued to speak (longer and longer) and eventually the young man totally gave in to sleepiness and he ended up falling from that third story window and he was picked up dead.
 - Paul went down and grabbed him and embraced him and told the group..."don't worry...he is alive!!"
 - Paul returned upstairs and had something to eat, he engaged them in conversation until day break and then he left for Miletus.
 - The boy's parents were 'not moderately' comforted. Some sermon!

¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was

profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 20:17-21 NASB

- ***Paul sent for the leaders of the church in Ephesus, he didn't stop there because he was aiming at getting to Jerusalem by Pentecost.***
 - ***Paul told the Ephesian Elders that he held back nothing from them in public or private meetings.***
 - ***Two items in Paul's teaching in particular...***
 - ***Repentance towards God.***
 - ***Faith in Jesus***
 - ***Repentance towards God...not just from sin...***
 - ***The change of mind that leads to changes in behavior.***
 - ***A new way of thinking about God and the things of God.***
 - ***New thinking about God will lead you to believing in Jesus for the first time or cause you to grow in your relationship with Him.***

²² And now, you see, I am going to Jerusalem, bound by the [Holy] Spirit and obligated and compelled by the [convictions of my own] spirit, not knowing what will befall me there— ²³ Except that the Holy Spirit clearly and emphatically affirms to me in city after city that imprisonment and suffering await me. ²⁴ But none of these things move me; neither do I esteem my life dear to myself, if only I may finish my course with joy and the ministry which I have obtained from [which was entrusted to me by] the Lord Jesus, faithfully to attest to the good news (Gospel) of God's grace (His unmerited favor, spiritual blessing, and mercy). ²⁵ And now, observe, I perceive that all of you, among whom I have gone in and out proclaiming the kingdom, will see my face no more. ²⁶ Therefore I testify and protest to you on this [our parting] day that I am clean and innocent and not responsible for the blood of any of you. ²⁷ For I never shrank or kept back or fell short from

declaring to you the whole purpose and plan and counsel of God.

²⁸ Take care and be on guard for yourselves and the whole flock over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you bishops and guardians, to shepherd (tend and feed and guide) the church of the Lord or of God which He obtained for Himself [buying it and saving it for Himself] with His own blood. Acts 20:22-28 AMPC

- ***He is making it clear to the church leaders that everything he said and did were Jesus-centered.***
- ***He exhorts the leaders to guard the flock that Jesus has entrusted to them.***

³² And now [brethren], I commit you to God [I deposit you in His charge, entrusting you to His protection and care]. And I commend you to the Word of His grace [to the commands and counsels and promises of His unmerited favor]. It is able to build you up and to give you [your rightful] inheritance among all God's set-apart ones (those consecrated, purified, and transformed of soul). ³³ I coveted no man's silver or gold or [costly] garments. ³⁴ You yourselves know personally that these hands ministered to my own needs and those [of the persons] who were with me. ³⁵ In everything I have pointed out to you [by example] that, by working diligently in this manner, we ought to assist the weak, being mindful of the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, It is more blessed (makes one happier and more to be envied) to give than to receive. ³⁶ Having spoken thus, he knelt down with them all and prayed. ³⁷ And they all wept freely and threw their arms around Paul's neck and kissed him fervently and repeatedly, ³⁸ Being especially distressed and sorrowful because he had stated that they were about to see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship. Acts 20:32-38 AMPC

- ***Paul commends the Ephesian leaders to the grace of God and their inheritance in the saints.***

- ***He reminded them that he made tents and paid 'his own way' while with them...***
- ***He stirs them up by way of reminder where he quotes Jesus..."It is better to give than to receive"...***
- ***They prayed and he hugged and wept and kissed Paul goodbye. They accompanied him to the ship.***

***When we had parted from them and had set sail, we ran a straight course to Cos and the next day to Rhodes and from there to Patara.
Acts 21:1 NASB***

"When at last we had torn ourselves away..." Weymouth NT

"When we had torn ourselves away." Williams

"When the parting was over." Goodspeed

- ***They loved Paul, they cared about him and his ministry...they believed in his call and they went to the boat with him but...Paul got on the boat because of his calling and the elders went back to the church and their calling.***

Sound familiar?