

A background image of a mosaic floor with various colored tiles (blue, red, yellow, grey) arranged in patterns. A dark grey rounded rectangle is overlaid on the center, containing white text.

Paul's Message to the Ephesian Elders

-Acts 20:17-35-



Farewell to Ephesus

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.

22 And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. 24 But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

25 "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. 26 Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

28 Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

33 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. 35 In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

36 When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, 38 grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

1 Corinthians 11:1

*Be imitators of me,
just as I also am of Christ.*

Philippians 3:17

*Brethren, join in following my example,
and observe those who walk
according to the pattern you have in us.*

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Looking Back: Paul in Ephesus

The Present Situation

Looking Forward: The Charge

Commendation

& Blessing

18 *“You yourselves know,
from the first day that I set foot in Asia,
how I was with you the whole time,
serving the Lord with all humility and
with tears and with trials...”*

24 But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

Maslow's Hierarchy

**Self-
Actualization**
You are living to
your highest potential

Esteem
You've acquired the skills
that lead to honor and recognition

Love & Belonging
Achieving deeper, more meaningful relationships

SAFETY
Home, sweet home

Physiological Needs
Food, water, sleep

Paul's Hierarchy



**THE
MISSION**





28 *Be on guard for yourselves
and for all the flock,
among which the Holy Spirit has
made you overseers,
to shepherd the church of God which
He purchased with His own blood.*

32 *“And now I entrust you
to God
and the message of his grace
that is able to build you up
and give you an inheritance
with all those
he has set apart for himself.*