



Shepherds of the Church
Acts 20

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What will we learn?

- ❖ God has power over life and death.
- ❖ The Gospel mission > our personal safety.
- ❖ We must care for ourselves in order to care for others.
- ❖ The stakes are high.
 - ❖ Jesus bought the church with his blood.
 - ❖ Overseers are responsible to defend the church.

Acts so far:

- ❖ Obstacles and hardships will come, but they are nothing more than opportunities to seek and follow God. (Acts 13)
- ❖ It's okay to tailor our presentation of the Gospel to your audience, but if it does not include the resurrection of Jesus, it's not the complete gospel. (Acts 14)

Acts so far:

- ❖ There is no “us vs. them” in the Kingdom of God. We are all one body, and our diversity is an asset, not a liability. (Acts 15)
- ❖ We should subjugate our personal rights in favor of our task to further the Gospel mission. (Acts 16)

Acts so far:

- ❖ God will communicate with us and keep His people in His will. (Acts 16)
- ❖ Not everyone will accept the Gospel message, but we, as ambassadors of Christ, need to persevere in proclaiming the truth of Jesus and the resurrection. (Acts 17)



Acts so far:

- ❖ We should offer correction gently. (Acts 18)
- ❖ The early church was progressive in its empowerment of women. (Acts 18)



“the word of the Lord spread”

❖ Acts 2:47

❖ Acts 6:7

❖ Acts 9:31

❖ Acts 12:24

❖ Acts 16:5

❖ Acts 19:20

❖ Acts 28:30-31



Paul's strategy:

- ❖ Focus on the cities.
- ❖ Take the message wherever you can — church, homes, secular locations.
- ❖ Make a reasoned presentation.
- ❖ Spend some time with the people you are trying to reach.

Acts 19

- ❖ God uses governments to maintain order.
- ❖ Beware of the occult.
- ❖ The Gospel will encounter opposition, especially if money is involved.
- ❖ Mob thinking is not very thoughtful.
- ❖ Time will tell.



Acts 20:3

Because some Jews had plotted against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia.

Macedonian churches:

- ❖ Berea
- ❖ Thessalonica
- ❖ Philippi



Paul's entourage:

- ❖ Fruits of mission
- ❖ Agents of mission





Acts 20:7-8

On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting.

John Wesley's quadrilateral:

- ❖ Scripture
- ❖ Reason
- ❖ Experience
- ❖ Tradition

A close-up photograph of hands clasped in prayer over an open book. The hands are positioned in the center-right of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The book is open, showing text on the pages, which are slightly blurred. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color. Overlaid on the image is the name 'Jim Wallis:' in a white, serif font with a black outline, followed by a horizontal yellow line. Below the line is a quote in the same white, serif font with a black outline.

Jim Wallis:

“The greatest need for our time is for *koínonía*, the call simply to be the church, to love one another, and to offer our lives for the sake of the world.”

Acts 20:9

Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead.



Acts 20:10

Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!"



Acts 20:11-12

Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

Acts 20:13-14

We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul aboard. He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot. When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene.

Acts 20:15-16

The next day we set sail from there and arrived off Chios. The day after that we crossed over to Samos, and on the following day arrived at Miletus. Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.



Acts 20:17

**From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus
for the elders of the church.**





A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the book and the person's arms. The text is overlaid on the image.

Acts 20:18

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 20:19-20

“I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. 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 20:21-22

“I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.”



Salvation:

- ❖ Repentance (Romans 3:10-12)
- ❖ Faith (Romans 3:21-26)



Romans 3:10-11

As it is written:

**“There is no one righteous, not even one;
there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.**



Romans 3:12

**“All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.”**



Romans 3:21-22

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

Romans 3:22-24

There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open Bible. The background is softly blurred, focusing attention on the hands and the text. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font with a black outline.

Romans 3:25

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement,
through the shedding of his blood —
to be received by faith.

Romans 3:25-26

He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished — he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Acts 20:23-24

“I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. 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.

Paul's willingness to suffer:

- ❖ 2 Corinthians 4:7-12; 6:4-10; 12:9-10
- ❖ Philippians 1:20-21; 2:17; 3:8
- ❖ Colossians 1:24



Acts 20:25-26

“Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you.



Acts 20:27-28

“For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”



Be shepherds:

- ❖ Pastors
- ❖ Overseers
- ❖ Elders
- ❖ Presbyters
- ❖ Bishops
- ❖ Guardians
- ❖ Protectors



John Stott:

“There is no biblical warrant for the one-man-band (a single pastor playing all the instruments of the orchestra himself) or for a hierarchical or pyramid structure in the local church (a single pastor perched at the apex of the pyramid) ... We need today to recover this concept of a pastoral team in the church.”



Acts 20:29-30

“I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.



Acts 20:31-32

“So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The hands are positioned in the upper right quadrant of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The book is open, showing two pages with text, and is positioned in the lower half of the frame. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with natural light. The overall tone is peaceful and contemplative.

Acts 20:33-34

“I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.



Acts 20:35

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Acts 20:36-38

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



Like Jesus:

- ❖ Paul travelled to Jerusalem with disciples.
- ❖ He was opposed by hostile Jews.
- ❖ He predicted his own suffering.
- ❖ He declared his readiness to die for the cause.
- ❖ He expressed his commitment to the will of God.

What have we learned?

- ❖ God has power over life and death.
- ❖ The Gospel mission > our personal safety.
- ❖ We must care for ourselves in order to care for others.
- ❖ The stakes are high.
 - ❖ Jesus bought the church with his blood.
 - ❖ Overseers are responsible to defend the church.





Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper