

Final Words
Acts 20:17-35

Getting Started

- ❖ When you think of some famous “goodbye” scenes from the movies or TV what comes to mind?
- ❖ Describe a time when you said a painful goodbye.

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. A Straightforward Approach (v.17-21)
2. A Somber Warning (v.22-31)
3. A Sacred Commitment (v.32-35)
4. A Sorrowful Goodbye (v.36-38)

Takeaway Truth: The primary means by which God guards and builds up His church is the gospel, the word of His grace.

Digging Deeper

- How would you describe the tone of this passage? Why?
- How did Paul describe himself and his ministry among the Ephesians?
- How was Paul affected by the warnings of future suffering and death (20:22-24)? How does his response stand-out to you and/or impact you?
- What does he instruct the Christian leaders to do (20:28-31)?
- What can it look like to have “wolves” in the flock of God? How should church leaders respond and guard the church in these situations?
- Why was Paul not afraid to leave the leaders and the church in their care? How does this confidence translate to our ministry at Covenant?
- How does God safeguard us with the gospel and His grace?

Apply It!

- ❖ Jerry applied “dangers from without” as more commonly in our lives as worldly philosophies being syncretized and married to biblical truth which then become the basis for our worldview or guiding paradigms in life. What are some areas where this can occur and is this something that has subtly taken root in your life in one area or another?

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- ❖ Is there an area of this world that has an unhealthy hold on you that interferes with your commitment to Christ and God's Kingdom? What is that area? Consider confessing this area to someone in your group and praying together over it.

Think About It!

As we think about Paul's exhortation to the Elders to first "pay attention to yourselves", CS Lewis once said: *The true Christian's nostril is to be continually attentive to the inner cesspool.* Why is this such a healthy perspective?

Note from Pastor Jerry: For this year's CG questions, group resources and Bible studies from John Stott (Acts Seeing the Spirit at Work), John MacArthur (MacArthur Bible Studies: Acts), Jack Hayford (Kingdom Power) and Max Lucado (Life Lessons from the Book of Acts) are used in addition to original material.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

May 15, 2022 | Fifth Sunday of Easter

WORSHIP SONGS

OPEN UP THE HEAVENS

Words & Music by James McDonald, Jason Ingram, Meredith Andrews, Stuart Garrard, Andi Rozier, 2012

We've waited for this day, we're gathered in Your name,
Calling out to You. Your glory like a fire awakening desire,
Will burn our hearts with truth.

You're the reason we're here; You're the reason we're singing.

*Open up the heavens, we want to see You. Open up the floodgates,
a mighty river flowing from Your heart, filling every part of our praise.*

Your presence in this place, Your glory on our face,
We're looking to the sky. Descending like a cloud,
You're standing with us now, Lord unveil our eyes.

Show us, show us Your glory. Show us, who us Your power.
Show us, show us Your glory, Lord.

A THOUSAND HALLELUJAHS

Words and Music by Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood, and Phil Wickham, 2022

Who else would rocks cry to worship?
Whose glory taught the stars to shine?
Perhaps creation longs to have the words to sing, but this joy is mine.

*With a thousand "hallelujahs," we magnify Your name. You alone
deserve the glory, the honor and the praise. Lord Jesus, this song is
forever yours, a thousand "hallelujahs" and a thousand more.*

Who else would die for our redemption? Whose resurrection means
I'll rise? There isn't time enough to sing of all You've done,
but I have eternity to try.

Praise to the Lord, to the Lamb, to the King of heaven.
Praise for He rose; now He reigns. We will sing forever. (2x)

HIS MERCY IS MORE

Words and Music by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell, 2019

What love could remember no wrongs we have done? Omniscient,
all knowing, He counts not their sum. Thrown into a sea without
bottom or shore, our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

*Praise the Lord, His mercy is more. Stronger than darkness, new every
morn. Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam? What Father,
so tender, is calling us home? He welcomes the weakest, the vilest
the poor. Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

What riches of kindness He lavished on us. His blood was the
payment; His life was the cost. We stood 'neath a debt we could
never afford. Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS (BEGINNING TO END)

Words by Thomas Chisholm, Jason Ingram, and Michael Weaver / Music by William Runyan, Jason Ingram, and Michael Weaver, 2018

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father. There is no shadow of
turning with Thee. Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not.
As Thou has been, Thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest; sun, moon and
stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Beginning to end, my life in Your hands.

*Great, great is Your faithfulness. You never let go,
this one thing I know; great, great is Your faithfulness.*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth. Thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide. Strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow; Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.

Great is Thy faithfulness. Great is Thy faithfulness. Morning by
morning new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 93; Leviticus 8:1-36; Hebrews 12:1-14; Luke 4:16-30

MONDAY | Ps. 124; Lev. 16:1-19; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 6:1-18

TUESDAY | Ps. 116; Leviticus 16:20-34; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Matt. 6:7-15

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 118; Lev. 19:1-18; 1 Thess. 5:12-28; Matt. 6:19-24

THURSDAY | Ps. 68; Lev. 19:26-37; 2Thess. 1:1-12; Matt. 6:25-34

FRIDAY | Ps. 49; Leviticus 23:1-22; 2 Thess. 2:1-17; Matt. 7:1-12

SATURDAY | Ps. 92; Leviticus 23:23-44; 2 Thess. 3:1-18; Matt. 7:13-21

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Gracious God, we know that you bring life and salvation to all who call
on your name. We thank you that you do not count anyone greater
than another, for the ground is level at the foot of the cross. We are
all in need of your cleansing blood and forgiving grace. Help us to live
in light of your redemption and to love one another just as you have
loved us. May the world know that we are your disciples by the love
we have for one another. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



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