

“Paul’s Farewell to the Ephesian Elders”

Text: Acts 20:17-38

Wednesday, July 29, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Charlie Scott

Introduction: While the Apostle Paul’s ministry team sailed by boat from Troas to Assos, he walked the 20 miles. Why? Did he do so for the physical exercise? Or was it that he did not desire the fellowship of others? Or did he need time alone with God to seek His mind concerning Paul’s plans for the coming days? What we know about the Apostle would lead us to believe it was the later.

At Assos Paul joined the team and sailed to Miletus passing the port city of Ephesus. Yet, he desired to see and speak to the elders of the church that he had given more time to than any other. This address reveals the heart of Paul concerning the local church.

I. Paul’s _____ and _____ (Vss. 18-21, 24).

A. His methods were _____ ways (vss. 18-21).

B. His message was the _____ for all (vss. 22, 24b).

II. Paul’s _____ and _____ (Vss. 22-25).

III. Paul’s _____ and _____ (Vss. 26-35).

Conclusion: The closing verses of this chapter (vss. 36-38) are a very emotional and touching scene. As Paul, his team, and the Ephesian elders kneel down, Paul prays with them and for them. There are tears because this was a final parting of this group. When there is a special bond that exists between God’s minister and God’s people, God will send special blessings.

The Apostle boards a ship headed for Jerusalem bearing gifts for the poor Jews and in his heart an overbearing desire to testify once more to his own people, the Jews. This ought to be the heart’s desire of every Christian, to testify to their own people.