



Paul's Faithful Testimony of the Past Acts 20:13-21

I. Investing in the Elders (vv. 13-18a)

- A. _____ to Miletus (vv. 13-16) [1 Thes. 2:7-12]
- B. _____ to the Ephesian elders (vv. 17-18a)
[Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5]
1. _____ (*presbuteros*) - spiritual maturity (1 Tim. 3:1-7)
 2. _____ (*episkopos*) - practical responsibility
(Acts 20:28)
 3. _____ (*poimen*) - know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep (1 Pet. 5:1-3)

II. Living by Example (v. 18b)

- A. Paul was a _____ (Acts 18:3)
- B. Paul was a hard _____ (2 Thes. 3:7-8)
- C. Paul was a personable _____ (1 Thes. 1:5-8)

III. Serving the Lord (v. 19)

- A. With an attitude of _____ (v. 19a)
[1 Tim. 1:12-16; Phl. 2:3-4]

- B. With a heart of _____ (v. 19b)
1. Because of those who did not _____ Christ (Rom. 9:2-3)
 2. Because of struggling and _____ believers (2 Cor. 2:4)
 3. Because of the threat of _____ teachers (Acts 20:29-31)
- C. With continual _____ at hand (v. 19c)
[Acts 9:23-24; 13:6-12, 45; 20:3]

IV. Declaring the Truth (v. 20)

- A. Preaching _____ (v. 20a) [2 Tim. 3:16]
- B. Preaching _____ (v. 20b) [1 Cor. 1:17; 2 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:3]
- C. Preaching _____ (v. 20c) [Acts 20:31]

V. Testifying the Gospel (v. 21)

- A. Testifying to _____ people (v. 21a) [Rom. 11:13-14]
- B. Testifying of _____ (v. 21b) [Matt. 4:17; Acts 2:38; 17:30]
- C. Testifying of _____ (v. 21c)
[Acts 16:31; Eph. 1:15; Col. 1:4; 1 Tim. 3:13]

TAKE HOME

- How can we be an **example** to others in how we live with our time, our resources, and our ministry opportunities?
- Are you **servng** the Lord with an attitude of humility, a heart of compassion, even if continual trials are at hand?
- How are you **testifying** to the truth of the gospel both publicly and privately?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placiritachurch.com.

1. Read Acts 20:13-18a. What can we learn about Paul’s traveling from Troas to Miletus? Why did the Ephesian elders come and meet him there? What does Acts 14:23 and Titus 1:5 teach us about the mantle of leadership and authority being passed from apostles to elders?

2. Read 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Acts 20:28; and 1 Pet. 5:1-3. What do these three passages teach us about elders? What is the job of an elder and have you ever considered being one?

3. Read Acts 20:18b. How did Paul live as an example? (Acts 18:3; 1 Thes. 2:9; 2 Thes. 3:7-8; 1 Thes. 1:5-8) What can we learn from this?

4. Read Acts 20:19. How does this verse demonstrate that Paul had an attitude of humility and a heart of compassion even in ongoing trials? (1 Tim. 1:12-16; Phl. 2:3-4; Acts 9:23-24; 13:6-12, 45; 20:3)

5. Read Acts 20:20. How was Paul’s preaching described here? How does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 fit in? What’s the significance of Paul preaching both privately and publicly? (1 Cor. 1:17; 2 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:3; Acts 20:31)

6. Read Acts 20:21. In what way was Paul testifying the gospel? What’s more important—repentance or faith? How do these two work together? (Matt. 4:17; Acts 2:38; 17:30; Acts 16:31; Eph. 1:15; Col. 1:4; 1 Tim. 3:13)

7. Read the take home questions. Which one encouraged you or challenged you the most? Why? How will you live your life differently this week based on what you learned from this passage?

“Yes, repentance and faith are two essential elements in conversion. They constitute twin graces that can never be separated. As John Calvin well reminds us, this is true not only of the beginning but of the whole of our Christian lives. We are believing penitents and penitent believers all the way to glory.”

- Sinclair Ferguson