

# The Charge

Acts 20: 17 – 38

4 September 2022. A.M.

Series: Farewell

# Acts 20: 17 – 21, 27

<sup>17</sup> From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>27</sup> “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

# The Blessings Past. Vv. 17 – 21, 27.

- Paul's service was characterized by three things.
  - He served with humility. V. 19.
  - He served with many tears. V. 19.
  - He served with many trials. V. 19.
- Summarizing Paul's Ministry.
  - Paul taught the whole gospel, plainly and simply.
  - Paul used every opportunity to teach.
  - Paul taught powerfully to all, without prejudice or favoritism.
  - Paul taught the whole counsel of God.

# Acts 20: 28 - 32

<sup>28</sup> “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. <sup>29</sup> “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup> and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> “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. <sup>32</sup> “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.

# The Charge for the Future, Vv. 28 – 32.

- Be on guard for yourself and the flock
  - This is the church purchased with His own blood.
- Beware of the threats
  - Savage wolves from outside dissension from inside.
  - Be on the alert.
- I commend you to God's grace.
  - The meaning of living in the word of His grace.
  - The reason to admonish and commend you to live in God's grace.

# Acts 20: 33 -35

<sup>33</sup> “I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes. <sup>34</sup> “You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my *own* needs and to the men who were with me. <sup>35</sup> “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.’ ”

# The Charge to Minister. Vv. 33 – 35.

- Paul's ministry was not hampered by covetousness.
  - Silver and gold – money, ornate clothing in that culture indicated luxuries and riches.
  - Paul was satisfied with whatever God provided.
- Paul's ministry was bi-vocational.
  - A great example of ministry even when it cannot be called “full time.”
- Paul's ministry was self-sacrificing.
  - Scripture teaches us to work hard. (Eph 4: 28).
  - A quote from Jesus not recorded in the gospels.
  - Remember we all called to be givers.

# Conclusion

- We have had a great time together and can reflect on God's blessing over the last sixteen years.
- But the focus must be on the present and the future to keep the charge of ministry and mission as God has called the church.
- Minister with honesty and integrity, serving the Lord God Himself with all you have and are, recognizing that this will call for sacrifice.