

Last Words

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Acts 20:2-38.
- B. Luke picks up Paul's ministry in Macedonia after the episode at the Temple of Artemis.
- C. Paul went into these areas to encourage and teach the believers.
- D. Paul had a "traveling seminary," so to speak.

II. The story of Eutychus.

- A. This is the first record of gathering on the first day of the week.
- B. Paul loved teaching the word because he knew that the Word would deliver these people.
- C. Eutychus fell asleep from a window of the third story of a building and died. Paul sought God, and Eutychus rose miraculously from the dead.
- D. Paul stayed up all night in fellowship with the believers.

III. Paul attempts to make it to the Passover as a faithful Jew, so he meets with the elders of Ephesus at Miletus.

- A. Paul approaches ministry with planning all while remembering God's right to interrupt and change plans.
- B. Paul defends his ministry.
 - 1. Paul's ministry was under attack for being prideful, insincere and troublemaking.
 - 2. Paul refutes the claims of his critics.
- C. The manner of Paul's ministry.
 - 1. He sought to teach the full truth of God. It is the knowledge of the Word that sets you free.
 - 2. He was committed to the ministry.
 - 3. It was practical: he preached repentance toward God and faith toward Jesus.
 - 4. It was costly. A Christian is "a dead man on furlough."
- D. The primary responsibility of the pastor is to teach the word—to feed the flock.

1. The leaders are to begin with themselves.
2. It is only as they are obedient to the truth that they teach that they are able to have authority towards others.
3. Responsibility was toward the Holy Spirit.
4. The ministry is precious to God—the Body of Christ is obtained by Jesus' blood.

E. The church is to watch out for false professors from without and dividing leaders from within.

F. Paul exhorts the church to practice these things in the same spirit he exemplified.

1. Speaking the truth in love.
2. Commending the Word of God.
3. Remembering that it is better to give than to receive.

Application questions:

1. When is it proper to defend your ministry? Does Paul show that it can be okay to defend one's humility?

2. Which aspect of Paul's ministry stands out to you? Why?

3. Why is it so important for church leaders to live obediently? How can the church help to maintain their leaders?
