

44-Acts-Pt20-Transcript

I ain't spending discipline in our nation's capital I've had planned to protect small business owners and employees I actually did vote for the 87 billion with all your heart a house members all the local officials worried about the quality education

Stan

we receive federal support
this will not happen on my watch

[Applause]

well certainly the Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak and the experience that that young man had while the President Bush was just talking and seems like he wouldn't stop is very similar to an experience we're gonna see in Acts chapter 20 with a young man named Eutychus but that event that we're going to read up about Eutychus is actually not the highlight of the chapter although it's really significant because Eutychus actually loses his life and Paul brings him back to life but there's something else that happens in chapter 20 of Acts which is far more significant let's get into the study thank you for joining us and we'll just open with prayer our Heavenly Father we praise you and thank you so much for your scriptures we thank you so much father for the faithful men that followed Jesus Christ men like the Apostle Paul that we have their writings and that we can learn from their examples and their teachings and we ask father you would bless us this evening as we study now Acts chapter 20 thank you so much father we ask your blessing in Jesus Holy Name Amen
so let's let's begin with the study in Acts chapter 20 and you remember last

week when we did Acts chapter 19 that Paul was in Ephesus and he was there for two years and we also came across the the exorcism or the Exorcist the son seven sons of sceva and then that caused a big commotion and we see at the end of chapter 19 that demetrius one of the people who worked with the idols making temples for diana was losing money because of Paul's effective preaching and remember as we finished up in chapter 19 it he was told then by the governor where forth Demetrius and the craftsmen that are with him have a matter against any man the law is open and and there are deputies so let them come and accuse one another you use the legal process but if you inquire anything concerning other matters it shall be determined and a lawful assembly not an lawful assembly for we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar so there was a real up for all over the city remember everybody was crying greatest Diana and there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this confusion this this riot and when he had thus spoken he dismissed the assembly everybody then went home that the right was now over and now that's how we come into Acts chapter 20 so after the uproar had ceased Paul called unto him the disciples so he's now about to leave and he embraced them and departed to go into Macedonia and when he had gone over those parts and had given them much exhortation he came into Greece so he really as he was leaving them he really absorbed them directing them to the Word of God encouraging them to be faithful to God not to not to let down nothing it lacked the gift that's in them so a lot of exhortation and a

lot of comfort through the power of the Holy Spirit and there when he came to Greece he stayed there three months and so just to look at the map here he's leaving Greece where it says like aquella there on the left and he's gone back up into Macedonia and he's actually heading back to Asia he wants to get to Jerusalem so you can just see there where he is situated going back up into Macedonia and then he came into Greece it says and they're about three months and when the Jews laid wait for him so he was a real problem for them so they're now waiting for him they wanna capture him and kill him and he was about to sail into Syria he purposed to return through Macedonia and they're accompanied him so instead of sailing across he's gonna go he's going to go through Macedonia and they're accompanied him into Asia somebody called so Peter of Berea and of the Thessalonians Aristarchus and secundus so remember he was infested like Thessalonica as well and Timothy and of Asia tikka cos and trophimus these going before him waited for us with Luke including himself with Paul a waited for us at Troas and again you can see trow ass in the top corner there as he as he's coming as you can just see Asia of the province of Asia just as he comes into Asia that's where Troy says and so that's where they're waiting for him and we sailed away from Philip I that's in Macedonia after the days of unleavened bread so it's very clear that Luke is including himself Luke as a Gentile Lucas and Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles and and the whole company is keeping the days of unleavened bread and so this is very

clear evidence that the early church kept these holy days of course they did and so after they kept the days of unleavened bread that's when they sailed away from Philip I and then they came unto them to trow us in five days so it took five days to get to trois and when they got to throw ass they stayed there for seven days so they were in trust for a week but it took them five days to get there so they kept the days of unleavened bread in Philip I then they left Philip I took them five days to get to Troy ass and when they got to trust they were there for a week now let's back up that that there for a week is sort of parenthetical the fact is it took them five days to get there so they left after the days of unleavened bread they took five days to get to Troas and upon the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread Paul preached unto them now this translation is a poor translation so people say you know Sunday a first day of the week that's Sunday so clearly the disciples were where some day keepers say they kept Sunday that's not what it's saying at all in fact if we look at the Greek of verse seven we'll just look at the Greek here of verse seven and what it says here and there Ted Mia tone Sabaton and so when I see that so it's basically and on the first mia tone Sabbat on the Sabbath on the first of Sabbath's the first of the Sabbath's so when I see tone Sabbath on that tells me it's plural so it's the first of the Sabbath's it's it's genitive plural us and so this is the count what's happening here and that's why Luke is so clear that they kept the days of unleavened bread and he's given us timing here they stayed in Philip I

for the whole days of unleavened bread
then after the days of unleavened bread
they got to Troas and on the first of
the Sabbath's so what they're doing now
is they're counting seven Sabbath's to
get to Pentecost and this is the first
of those seven Sabbath's so there's
going to be six more Sabbath's to go
after this one and that harkens back to
Leviticus 23 where it says here you
shall count unto you from the morrow
after the Sabbath so that's the Sabbath
that happened during the days of
unleavened bread you find that Sabbath
and then from that Sunday you start
counting seven Sabbath's from the day
that you brought the sheaf of the wave
offering seven Sabbath's shall be
complete so this is the first of those
seven Sabbath's even unto the morrow
after the seventh Sabbath shall you
number fifty days and you shall offer a
new meat offering unto the Lord so
that's what's happening here in verse
seven and upon the first of the
Sabbath's so this is now the first of
the seven Sabbath's when the disciples
came together to break bread Paul
preached unto them ready to depart on
the next day so he's going to depart on
the Sunday and so he's preaching to them
now on this first of these Sabbath's and
he continued his speech until midnight
so he had a lot to say to them and
so he just was giving it all to them and
this you can see very clearly there is
no biblical restriction on how long
messages need to be here the Apostle
Paul is leaving these breath
and he's got to give them the whole
counsel of God he's got to give them
everything that he thinks is gonna be
beneficial to them before he goes and so
he's speaking to them right up until

midnight and then something happens it says here Luke says that there were many lights in the upper chamber so for some reason he feels it necessary to tell us this that there was a lot of light up in the upper chamber and these are probably candles or lamps the kerosene type of lamps so it's probably very hot up in the upper chamber there may even be it might be even a little bit nauseous because of the gases smell but nevertheless Paul Luke is telling us that there was a lot of light in the upper chamber where they were gathered together and there sat in a window a certain young man named eutychus so this young man and you can actually imagine sometimes you lay in congregation certainly in our congregation I can think of a young man that very eager even though he's young he's plugged in and he wants to hear what what's being taught out of the Bible and so eutychus would be like this i man but very engaged and wanting to listen to what paul is teaching but because of being up in the upper chamber and is probably very hot there and it's getting late he falls asleep so being fallen into a deep sleep and as Paul was long preaching so he didn't have any time limit he wasn't looking at his watch thing oh I gotta stop no he's preaching the Word of God and and he's got a lot to say and he was going on for a bit this young man Eutychus as a result sunk down with a deep with sleep and he fell from the third floor basically from the third loft and was taken up dead and paul went down and fell on him so so this young man he falls from the the third loft and maybe he broke his neck something happened but clearly he's dead they take him up dead so paul went down

and fell on him and embracing him said
trouble not yourselves for his life is
in him so clearly paul had this
spiritual power through the holy spirit
to resurrect Eutychus from the dead and
very similar to jesus christ who when
when Lazarus was dead
and he just told everyone he'll told his
disciples he sleeps and they basically
laughed and said he does well if he
sleeps and then Christ brought him back
to life and so here we see the Apostle
Paul bringing Eutychus back to life and
when he therefore was come up again
basically he was resurrected and had
broken bread and eaten and talked a long
while even till break of day so he
departed so first he was talking up
until midnight then this accident
happened with eutychus he brings him
back to life they eat some more and Paul
just basically talks all through the
night he's leaving he's got so much to
say to them he's taken them through the
scriptures and giving them everything he
can before he leaves and so he departed
and they brought the young man alive and
they were not a little comforted and
that word comforted is very interesting
it is the the Greek word para Kaleo and
that would remind us this basically the
verb form of Parakletos so Christ said
that he would if he goes he'll send the
Holy Spirit and it would be our
percolates it would be our comforter and
here through again through the Holy
Spirit
Paul is able to comfort the disciples
and so that comfort comes in many forms
in this form it was resurrecting
Eutychus from the dead and restoring him
to his family and to the congregation
you know in the other case we saw much
exhortation he gave them a lot of

exhortation and that's a form of comfort as well so the Holy Spirit is certainly fulfilling what Christ said it would do and here now in verse 13 and we went that's again Luke including himself in the company we went before to ship so they're now going to sail and sail unto us they're intending to take in Paul for so had he appointed minding himself to go afoot so so they were sailing into Asia and you can see underneath the tro sa now coming to us but they sailed there and Paul went there by foot and so they're meeting up now in us we took him in and then came to mytilene and so they're going again further down now into mytilene and and you're gonna see them next go to my lettuce and you'll see that my lettuce is a stone's throw from Ephesus and that's going to be significant as we continue the narrative here and we sail from there and came the next day over against Chios and so again Luke is counting days here they were five days to get to trois they were there for a week and now they've sailed to us us and they brought in Paul and then you know he met them there and they sailed from there the next day to Chios and then the next day we arrived at Samus and tarried at Troy Gilliam and then the next day he came to Meletis so you can see here I think four days have now passed so Luke is being very cognizant of these seven weeks how much time is passing and how much time Paul has left if he's gonna reach Jerusalem by Pentecost it's only seven Sabbath's and he wants to be there for Pentecost so he says for Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus because he would not spend time in Ephesus so he's come to my Letus and he's refusing to go to Ephesus because he doesn't want to spend time in

Asia because he's in a hurry if it were possible for him to be at Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost so he's got basically six or five more weeks five more Sabbath's to get to Jerusalem so he doesn't want to go into Ephesus so he's down there in where it says Korea just above there there's my Letus and then you can see where Ephesus is so it's not really a big journey he could have gone to Ephesus but I believe what's happening here is he knows that if he goes into Ephesus there are so many brethren that are going to urge him to stay with them and there's so many relationships there so he doesn't want to get bogged down he's got to get to Jerusalem for a Pentecost so instead what he does in verse 17 from my Letus he basically sends a summons to Ephesus and he summons the elders of the church so so there's many brethren there in Ephesus and they all longed to see Paul he doesn't go to Ephesus he goes to my Letus and he sends a summons to all the elders to come and meet him in my leads us and when they came to him he said unto them so so now he's going to have a very serious discussion with every single elder from my from from Ephesus and and that's another point as well Ephesus there is one city there's a church there and there are multiple elders and again it makes it very clear of this concept of plurality of eldership it's not one minister over all of Ephesus telling it all the Ephesians what to do there's plurality so that Jesus Christ is the over Shepherd and all of the elders are under shepherds and this combination different elders have different strengths they have different

weaknesses but the combination when one elder is weak in an area another elder steps forward with their gift and when they're weak that another elder comes forward with their gift and in this way the Brethren are always led by the Holy Spirit so Jesus Christ is the Shepherd and the Brethren learned to look to Christ and not to any single man and so here he sends for all of the Ephesian elders and they basically a summons very important you guys come to me so they all make an effort and come to him and he says to them look you know from the first day that I came into Asia so so the very first time when I came into Asia after what manner I have been with you at all seasons so Paul has always been consistent and he's basically calling them to account him saying you know exactly how I conducted myself all the time from the very first moment that I came into Asia which is what we would call Turkey today after what manner I have been with you at all seasons serving the Lord with all humility of mind so it wasn't about me it was about Jesus and it's all about the Lord and I could committed myself to serving the Lord not only that I did it with many tears there was a lot of heartache being the pastor and being the Evangelist and setting up these these churches in these different areas and and so he did it with many tears and temptations which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews so not only is he struggling with the congregations themselves internal problems he's also got this persecution coming on him from the outside so there was a lot of sorrow in the work that that Paul was doing and he's calling them to account

and saying remember this is how I worked among you and every single one of you know that this is true and how and this is a very important verse verse 20 and how I kept nothing back that was profitable unto you but have showed you and have taught you publicly and from house to house so what Paul is saying here is that sometimes the messages were not smooth sometimes he had to cover cover difficult territory and he did it he wasn't running a popularity contest he wasn't hoping that everything he says every single week everybody's going to be happy he just looked at the Word of God looked at the counsel of God and gave that to them and probably got him into a lot of trouble probably got a lot of flack for it but he's saying to them look you guys know this for the whole time I was with you I always gave you what was profitable from the Word of God even if it cost me personally and and and I did it publicly and I did it from house to house so it's not like I just did it privately I did it publicly in my sermons I just spoke very plainly and so he's now testifying to them so he says in verse 21 testifying both to the Jews and also to the Greeks that's that's these Christian Jewish Christians and Greek Christians repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ so again sometimes the messages were difficult but he was constantly driving them to repent toward God and to believe in Jesus Christ regardless of the personal cost to him and now so now here's where we are so this so that was the past so the past is now over I'm leaving but this is how I conducted myself the whole time I was among you now here's where we are and now behold I go bound

in the spirit unto Jerusalem
not knowing the things that shall befall
me there so so what he's basically
saying to the Brethren here is I don't
know if I'll see you again I'm I have to
go to Jerusalem and I have to go I want
to get there by Pentecost but when I get
there I you know I guess what he's
saying is I want to be with the Brethren
on Pentecost and then after Pentecost I
don't know what's gonna happen to me so
you're probably not gonna see me again
so he doesn't know what's gonna happen
so that's where we are now he's leaving
and notice now why he's so concerned
about Jerusalem and again if Theophilus
is reading this and he's read Volume one
of Luke's work he's gonna remember what
Jerusalem meant to Jesus Christ so Jesus
answering said a certain man went down
from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among
thieves which stripped him of his
raiment and wounded him and departed
leaving him half dead
so again just the danger there of
Jerusalem but in verse chapter 13 he
says o Jerusalem Jerusalem you which
killed the prophets that's what
Jerusalem does these the the religious
leadership they killed the prophets and
they stoned them that are sent unto you
how often would I have gathered your
children together as a hen does gather
her brood under her wings but you
wouldn't have it and so this is this is
what Jerusalem is like this is the
character of Jerusalem that Paul is
going into and then in Matthew 20 verse
18 he says behold we go up to Jerusalem
and the Son of man shall be betrayed
unto the chief priests and unto the
scribes the religious leaders in
Jerusalem and they shall condemn him to
death so so you know Jesus was quite

popular in the northern parts of Israel and he had big following where he was crucified was in Jerusalem and Paul knows this and so now the Spirit is driving him to go to Jerusalem and he's saying he doesn't know what's gonna happen to him when he gets there and in fact if we know next week when we do chapter 21 we'll just skip ahead here he says when we heard these things both we and they of that place begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem please don't go there this the religious leaders there are gonna kill you then Paul answered what do you do you mean to weep and break my heart like stop doing that stop being so emotional I've got to go for I'm ready not to be bound only but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus Christ like that's that's where Paul's head is I I have to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and if that means I'm gonna be persecuted and arrested and bound so be it because I'm actually prepared to die for Christ and I realized that the conflict is gonna come from Jerusalem and so he says stop breaking my heart this is this is a mission that I have to do and when he would not be persuaded they did their best to persuade him not to go to Jerusalem and they just realized he is bound and determined to go and when he would not be persuaded we ceased saying the will of the Lord be done and so if the awfulest obviously is gonna see that Paul doesn't make it to Jerusalem and beyond and this whole marches toward Rome and Rome is where Paul gets into trouble but Theophilus can see through this exchange how sincere and how dedicated Paul is if Paul was a hypocrite if Paul was just you know playing ego there is no way he

would put his life on the line like this and so he's making it Luke is making it very clear to Theophilus that the character of Paul is just like his master Jesus Christ and so coming back now to acts 20 where he says again and now behold I go bound in the spirit in other words the Holy Spirit has this imperative on him that he must go to Jerusalem and so I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem not knowing the things that shall be follow me there save that the Holy Spirit witnesses in every city saying that bonds and afflictions abide me so wherever he goes there are prophets that he meets and they tell him you know you're gonna be in trouble in Jerusalem you're gonna be afflicted in Jerusalem and so the Holy Spirit is witnessing to him all the things that are gonna be follow him in Jerusalem and he's good with it he's got to go there to wit

for Jesus Christ and in fact the very beginning of his ministry from Jesus Christ himself in acts 9 the Lord said unto him go your way for he's a chosen vessel unto me to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings so he's the apostle to the Gentiles but also to the children of Israel for I will show him how great things he must suffer from my namesake

so Paul understood what he was getting into that this wasn't a popularity contest this wasn't for his ego this wasn't gonna make him rich this in fact was going to cause a lot of suffering and pain and anguish in his life and he signed up for it because the the glory of Christ is all he was just completely obsessed with like this this Lord Jesus he is the Messiah and he just wanted to preach that and glorify God and look to

the crown the same way that Christ came and was willing to be crucified for the joy that was set before him Paul has a joy that's set before him and he's willing to go through anything to declare the glory of Christ and to obtain that crown so coming back to acts 20 the Holy Spirit has been warning him every city that he goes to the Holy Spirit has been warning him that bonds and afflictions are waiting for him in Jerusalem but notice verse 24 none of these things move me they don't affect me so everybody's telling me what's gonna happen to me in Jerusalem it doesn't bother me I have set my mind I might focus on the first resurrection death doesn't scare me I'm looking to the first resurrection in the better resurrection and by all means I'm gonna be in that resurrection and so whatever happens in this life that that's like that I'm in God's hands and so he's very clear that this is this these threats and these concerns they don't affect him neither does he count his life dear to himself so he his life is for Christ so I don't count my life dear to myself why so that I might finish my course with a joy not everyone is gonna finish this course with joy and that's a very very unpleasant truth you know we we seem to think that you know everybody who comes into this truth we're all just gonna stick it out to the end and there's just gonna be joy for everyone and Paul knows better and so that's why he has so committed himself not to in any way show any type of weakness toward this goal he must be in that first resurrection he's seen so clearly this joy that's set before him and so he must finish his course with joy not only that he also

has said that his life means nothing to him why so that he can fulfill the ministry which he has received from the Lord Jesus and what is that ministry to testify to the good news of the grace of God so this is what he's all about he's all about the first resurrection and completing this ministry of preaching this good news of the grace of God and so that's where he is and now so now we're again we're so he talked about the past now he's in the present and now behold I know that you all among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God shall see my face no more so Paul is very very clear he didn't go into Ephesus you know this is the last time he's gonna be there the Brethren would have restrained him he knows he's not gonna see them again he summons the elders to my Letus where he can now give them this counsel to say you're not gonna see me again so he's basically expecting to die in Jerusalem or if he makes it beyond Jerusalem he's expectancy perhaps dying wrong but he knows he's not coming back to Ephesus and so he says okay here's where we are you're not gonna see me again and know that the whole time I was with you I preached the kingdom of God that's what I did and now you're not gonna see me again so it's over so this this chapter is now over the chapter of Paul preaching the kingdom of God faithfully is now over it's a new day it's new chapter so now he says this because you're not gonna see me again therefore I take you to record this day so this is a this is a pivotal day and as much as the the resurrection of you to Custis is such a profound happening in this chapter it pales into insignificance compared to what's happening now when he

calls all of these elders and says
basically let's let the record show that
I am pure from the blood of all men okay
so what Paul is saying here is I am pure
from the blood of all men I can't speak
for you
so you elders that are Shepherds over
the congregation's you elders I can't
speak for you I can only speak for
myself I am innocent when we stand
before the Lord Jesus Christ and
brethren have been spiritually murdered
they've been spiritually slaughtered
you're gonna find yourself on death row
you're gonna find yourself condemned and
that death for you is the lake of fire
some view elders are heading into the
lake of fire that's what Paul is saying
here you're not gonna see me again I did
my best to preach to you the kingdom of
God and now I'm leaving and I'm leaving
this flock in your hands
and you're going to some of you are
going to fail and because you're going
to fail the sheep are going to fail and
when those sheep fail Jesus is going to
require their blood at your hands and
that is curtains for you that is
condemnation for you that means you're
going into the lake of fire these are
tough words and that's why Paul summons
these elders to come to my leeches so he
could have this very frank conversation
with them
and it's difficult it is a very
difficult conversation so I am pure from
the blood of all man I can't speak for
you because I have not shunned to
declare unto all of you that's all of
the Brethren as including the elders the
counsel of God so so what Paul is saying
here is I never shrunk back I didn't
come to run a popularity contest I
didn't come to preach smooth things I

came to give you the counsel of God and sometimes it was difficult and sometimes it meant that I wasn't popular sometimes it meant people were talking behind my back and criticizing me and complaining about me but I had I had to just really give you the counsel about because we are dealing with eternal life we're dealing with eternal life here and were either in that first resurrection or were not and so I'm pure from the blood of all men you need to figure out for yourselves but I'm testifying against you this day this that this is I call I call you together and this is an official record that I'm pure from the blood of all men now this counsel of God is tough but Paul is very gentle he says here in 1st Thessalonians 2 that we were gentle among you even as a nurse that cherishes her children and that's something certainly you see when you study the Apostle Paul and it's interaction with the Brethren he is so patient he is so nurturing he's so gentle he's like a mother but not all the time not all the time there are two conditions that bring out the mother bear and Paul when when these two conditions emerge Paul is all over them immediately like really relentlessly but if it's if it's personal weaknesses or struggles people don't fully understand he's patient and he's gentle but when there's sexual immorality and we see that in 1st Corinthians 5 when he says look you've got this person committing sexual immorality in the congregation I'm absent in body but I'm present in spirit and I've already judged this situation as though I were present concerning him that's done this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ the next

time you come together with my spirit and with the power of the Lord Jesus Christ deliver this person to Satan for the destruction of the flesh that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus so Paul doesn't mess with sexual immorality so act quickly and get this person out of the congregation otherwise it will spread and it will destroy the congregation so even though he's normally gentle in moments of sexual immorality he's decisive another condition where you see the decisiveness of Paul and that sort of lack of gentleness is false doctrine when false doctrine creeps into the congregation Paul acts very quickly and very decisively he says here in Galatians 3 oh you foolish Galatians because that is a terrible insult and it is a public insult you foolish Galatians who who's bewitched you that you should not obey the truth before whose eyes Jesus Christ has been evidently set forth crucified among you so here when he's dealing with the collision Galatians he is rough and and very pretty I'm very decisive with them calling them fools and again here in 1st Corinthians 15 when there was somebody mocking the truth in the truth of the Resurrection he calls him a fool you fool and then explains goes through to explain the resurrection and just causes this person an idiot for in any way denying or diminishing the Word of God and now in in Corinthians he says to them that I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters for his letters of his people are complaining about him saying his letters are very strong but when he's with us he's weak and his speech is contemptible and he's telling them look the next time I come you're

gonna see that I'm just as strong in person as in my letters whenever he's dealing with false doctrine or sexual immorality other than that he's like a mother and he's very gentle and very very approachable but he's got to protect the congregation here now when we look at Jesus and look how Jesus addresses the devil this is in the temptation after 40 days and 40 nights of fasting the Jesus says Jesus says to the devil get behind me Satan because it's written you shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve so that's how Jesus addressed Satan look how he addresses his disciple Peter publicly Matthew 16 from that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples how he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes and to be killed and to be raised again the third day then Peter took him and began to rebuke him saying be it far from you lord this shall not be unto you but he turned again he's with the disciples this is not private he turned and said to Peter in front of the disciples get you behind me Satan you are an offence unto me for you savour not the things that be of God but those that be of men and again Jesus was very gentle very nurturing with his disciples but there were times when he was very very decisive and in a way very harsh and maybe if Jesus was with us we would think you know we love Jesus we love Paul we love Moses but if we were actually with these individuals there are times when they would be harsh and we might not understand them but we have to make sure that the harshness is not ego driven if they're harsh because they were they feel they were insulted or

their ego was somehow diminished and they're trying to restore their ego that's a false teacher but if they're harsh because they love God's truth and they love God's people and they want to ensure that God's people are successful then this is showing us the character that Jesus had the character that Paul had the character that Moses had this is God's character to protect the flock and so here going back to acts 20 he says take heed to yourselves and to all the flock this is Paul's whole focus to key to yourself and to the flock over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers to feed the Church of God which he has purchased with his own blood so he's really bringing these elders to task saying the church the flock was purchased with Christ's blood you better not mess with this church because it's expensive it was purchased at a very high cost the blood of Jesus so you better take heed to yourself and to the flock and to feed them and and it's the Holy Spirit that has made you overseers and so Christ is the shepherd and you are under shepherds make sure you're guided by the Holy Spirit to look after the flock and then you know that should put us in mind of John 21 when when Jesus was speaking to Peter and he says you know to Simon Peter Simon son of Jonah do you love me more than these and he says unto him yes Lord you know that I love you he says feed my lambs and he said to him again the second time Simon son of Jonah do you love me he says yes Lord you know that I love you feed my sheep he says and from the third time Simon son of Jonah do you love me Peter was grieved because he said unto Him the third time do you love me and he said unto Him Lord

you know all things you know that I love
you Jesus said to him feed my sheep so
this is how we can know the love of God
in the elders that they feed the sheep
and Paul I mean look at the letters that
he wrote look at all the congregation's
that he looked after look at all the
elders that he supported look at all the
sermons that he gave and all of this he
did in his spare time because he had a
full-time job he also had to support
himself as a tentmaker
so so this clearly shows you we just saw
an emphasis how he spoke with the
Brethren up until midnight and then even
after
erecting Eutychus he then speaks to them
all the rest of the night and then heads
out the next day this man was very very
serious about his commitment to the
flock and by feeding the flock
he's nourishing up the body so that it
can withstand sickness it can withstand
poison it can be strong and robust and
do the work of God and so the key to the
church is being fed and the key to being
fed is having elders who love God and
who love his people and who will
sacrifice themselves and sacrifice their
reputations and do everything they can
to make the flock successful and that's
the example that the Apostle Paul is
setting for us here and so he said to
them look this is the example I've set
for you so now I'm I'm pure from the
blood of all men but you're not you need
to prove yourself so take heed to
yourselves and to all the flock over
which the Holy Spirit has made you
overseers to feed the Church of God
which he has purchased with his own
blood now why is he telling them this he
says because I know this this is what I
know I'm leaving I'm not coming back and

I know that after I leave Grievous wolves are going to enter in among you not sparing the flock so there are going to be casualties Paul is leaving he's not coming back and he's able to see the future and he's realizing this church is going to be destroyed there are going to be casualties and Grievous wolves are going to enter in and the eldership are not going to have the discernment to see that this is a wolf in sheep's clothing and they're not going to rebuke the wolf instead they're going to allow the the Lambs allow the Sheep to be devastated by these wolves and so he says then like this I'm I know this that after I leave of your own so he says Grievous wolves are going to come in from the outside not sparing the flock they're gonna be vicious but they're gonna come in secretly but that's not all you elders that are in front of me right now of your own selves among among the people that are in front of me shall men arise speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them so it's like Paul could already see it and we saw earlier I believe it was in chapter 16 where these Greek philosophers were coming into the church and in Ephesus there was a lot of divination and a lot of false doctrine in Ephesus and so now these people who have repented and they've come into the church they haven't fully repented they haven't fully let go of this false doctrine and maybe you know some of the way they speak Paul could actually see well when I'm gone and I can't constantly be correcting this it's gonna get out of hand and so he says of your own selves and men are going to arise speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them therefore watch you really have to be vigilant

it's gonna come in kind of small doses
you've got to be vigilant for the sake
of the flock and remember that by the
space of three years
Paul Paul without this for three years
warning them he says here watch
therefore watch be vigilant and remember
that by the space of three years he says
he was with tears warning them that this
would this Paul had such a love for the
flock of God and yet he could see the
destruction of it and so for three could
see him well ahead of time and so for
three years he was constantly warning
them certainly for three years he was
constantly warning them and and he
didn't cease to warn them nights they
warn everyone
night and day with tears so this is like
Oh Paul are you at it again ago I mean
we've heard this already Paul come on
but he sees it so clearly it's like
twenty twenty-two him it's as if it's
already happened nobody else sees it and
so he's trying to warn them he's trying
to bring it to their attention look the
future is coming and it's not pleasant
and I need to bring this to your
attention oh there goes Paul again
for three years night and day everybody
with tears and now brethren I commend
you to God and to the word of His grace
so he's done everything he can and now
he's saying to these elders you've got
to stick to the Word of God because this
this this is what's going to nourish you
and as it nourishes you you'll be able
to nourish the flock but if you if you
if you don't take the Word of God
seriously if you don't take your study
seriously if you're not into the Word of
God every single day you're gonna drift
from it if you neglect this word you're
gonna drift and as you drift as as study

these philosophies start coming into the church you're not gonna spot it and these these intellects are very powerful and they're gonna take over the church and they're gonna devastate the church and so he commends them to God and to the word of His grace that I I've done everything I can

now I'm commending you to God and to his word which is able to build you up so there there is the opportunity for success here you can be successful I've done everything I can I want everybody here to know I am NOT GUILTY I gave you the whole counsel of God and now you have to decide what you're going to do are you gonna give the Brethren smooth things are you going to back down when you start seeing false doctrine or sexual immorality are you going to really commit yourself to your studies so that you can bring the Word of God and feed the flock or are you gonna give up are you gonna let down and so the Word of God God and His Word are able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified so there really is good news here you can be in the first resurrection but if you're not in the first resurrection

that's why Paul was crying crying every day and night he was it was a very very sad thing for him but these people have received the Holy Spirit and yet he could see the future and not everybody's gonna be successful and so he summons them he does his best to tell them everything and he's telling them look you can be successful commit yourself to God commit yourself to his word commit yourself to feeding the flock and you can be in the first resurrection and I hope to see you there because I'm not

gonna see you again but I hope to see
you in the first resurrection now he
says I've coveted no man
silver or gold or apparel I conducted
myself properly among you yes you
yourselves know that these hands have
ministered unto my necessities and to
them which that were with me
so not I think Paul is just incredible
not only did he counsel all these
brethren not only did he prepare these
profound sermons not only did he write
all of these profound epistles you know
not only was he there praying for all
these brethren all the time in a
full-time job and he made sure he was no
burden to them he looked after his own
needs and everything else he did
basically in his spare time I don't know
when this man slept but he was certainly
prolific and then that productivity came
not from his ego he wasn't trying to be
Paul the mighty man it came from the
profound love that he had for Jesus
Christ for God the Father and for the
flock
deep profound love for the flock and I
think many times Paul was understood he
was certainly you know just we have some
insight into his relationship with the
Corinthians he's accused of being a
false apostle people were trying to
compete with him trying to denigrate him
but his love he's hoping that his
example over time not just one incident
but over time that the Brethren would
come to see that yes he truly loved us
he truly loved God so you know how I
conducted myself and I looked after my
own necessities I was no burden to you I
even looked after the necessities of my
my party and I've showed you all things
how that's so laboring you off to
support the weak so follow my example

and to remember the words of the Lord
Jesus how he said it's more blessed to
give than to receive
so Paul came among these brethren and he
just gave everything just gave gave gave
and didn't look to them to give him
anything because he understood this that
it's more blessed to give them to
receive so he was sowing into the
kingdom and his whole mind was on the
first resurrection and did everything he
could just to bless the Brethren a wants
these elders to follow his example
because it's possible and see that in
fact he's telling us it's it's probable
it's highly likely that some of these
men are going to see the ministry as an
opportunity for either physical wealth
or psychic wealth that some men are very
insecure and they need to be propped up
they need people to be looking at them
and elevating them and so there's sort
of a psychic benefit to being an elder
and and then you have we see today with
the gospel of prosperity some elders
using their positions actually benefit
financially if you can believe that so
so Paul is making it very clear to them
don't have that mindset just be a giver
be a giver and focus on helping the
flock and when he had thus spoken so
these are very very very harsh words
it's it's kind of easy to read over this
and not realize the severity of Paul's
words he's basically telling them some
of you elders
heading for the lake of fire and there's
nothing I can do but but I wash my hands
of it I've done everything I can you
guys need to develop your relationship
with God and you need to be committed to
the Word of God and if you do that and
you truly have a love for the flock
you'll be successful in my absence cuz

it's not about me it's about God but
he's telling them I I know that this
this congregation is gonna be destroyed
it's gonna be destroyed
I know that I see it I can see the
future wolves are gonna come in and even
on the inside perverse perversity is
going to arise and the flock is gonna be
destroyed and scattered that's what's
gonna happen but you as a personal elder
you can resist this and you can help
some of the brethren and so when he had
thus spoken when he gave these very
severe very harsh warnings he kneeled
down and he prayed with them all so he's
basically now committing them to God so
very very harsh words and so hot
everybody wept so so Paul the burden on
Paul's heart of what is gonna happen to
the Ephesian Church it just caused him
deep sorrow and so he's in deep sorrow
and now everybody's in deep sorrow
everybody's crying and they fell on
Paul's neck and kissed him so they
really loved him now verse 38 blows me
away it blows me away in verse 36 he
says when he had thus spoken he kneeled
down and prayed with them all and then
they all wept and they kissed him and
they fell on his neck and in verse 38
says sorrowing most of all for the words
which he spoke again these were very
harsh words he's basically warning them
that they're heading to some of them are
heading into the lake of fire and so
they were soaring most of all for the
words which he spoke which words that
they should see his face no more like
Wow so everything that Paul just said
went straight over their head all they
know is this wonderful man of God is
leaving them and they're not gonna see
him again
they'll probably just hear some report

that he has been martyred and that's it
and so as he's getting ready to leave
Paul is crying because of the severity
of the situation and they're crying
because they're emotional and they're
not gonna see him again
and they completely missed what he just
if they understood what he just said
they would be crying over the the
severity of the warning that he just
gave them but they didn't hear it they
just know that Paul's just a wonderful
man and we've enjoyed his company so
much and now he's leaving he's probably
gonna be martyred we're not gonna see
him again and so lots of Tears
and they completely missed the warning
sorry most of all for the words which he
spoke that they should see his face no
more and they accompanied him unto the
ship so very very sad occasion he's now
leaving and the fact that they're
sorrowing most of all and Luke could
actually see it Luke is observing all of
this and the fact that they are soaring
most of all for the fact that they won't
see him again I think this must have
been extremely discouraging for Paul it
must have really just reinforced to him
that what he prophesied absolutely was
gonna come to pass it probably meant to
him that's gonna come to pass much
quicker than he thought but you know
it's not carte blanche there are elders
in this group that are going to be
faithful that are gonna I think that did
here and that are going to reinforce
their study and their commitment to God
and their commitment to the flock but
wow what a chapter and again for
Theophilus to be reading this he's gonna
see the character of Paul and although
Paul does make it out of Jerusalem and
he's gonna make it into Rome Theophilus

can see that he if he was in smus here
if he was hypocritical if he was in this
for self-aggrandizement or personal
benefit his character would have come
out but he's seeing a concealed look is
making it very clear Paul's modus
operandi so pretty heavy pretty heavy
chapter but a very very important
chapter and I think all of us have work
to do it's not just the elders but the
Brethren as well have to commit we have
to all commit our lives to God and to
the word of God so certainly hope that
even though this is a tough chapter that
you've benefited from it as I have and
look forward to life if those of you who
are on the chat look forward to talking
to you on the chat and for those of you
are not able to make the chat looking
forward to covering Acts chapter 21 God
willing next week good night god bless
and remember Jesus Christ is Lord