

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson #19 -Ephesus Elders Exhorted

Scripture Reading: Acts 20:26-28

Introduction:

1. If you knew this was the last time you would see someone, what would you say to them?
2. We too should give heed to the exhortation of Paul.
3. We give heed to the exhortation of Paul by looking at...

I. PAUL'S EXAMPLE -20:18-25

A. SPREADING THE GOSPEL -vs. 18-21

1. He taught both in public and from house to house
2. He taught both the Jews and the Greeks
3. He taught repentance and faith in Jesus

B. DETERMINATION TO FINISH THE RACE -vs. 22-24

1. The Holy Spirit testified that chains and tribulation await Paul
2. Paul longed to finish the race set before him with joy
3. We too keep our eyes on the prize that is ahead -1Co 9:24-27; 2Ti 4:6-8

II. PAUL'S PREACHING -20:26, 27

A. THE NEED TO WARN

1. Ezekiel was God's watchman -Ez 3:18-21
2. Likewise, Paul gave warning to all concerning faith, repentance, and obedience
3. Today, we plant the seed without judging the soil -Ref. Mt 13:1-ff

B. PREACHING THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

1. Paul included aspects that people wanted to hear and what they needed to hear
2. This was not always popular -Ga 4:16; 2Ti 4:1-5

III. PAUL'S WARNING -20:28-31

A. THE BLOOD BOUGHT CHURCH

1. The church is not a man made organization; it is of divine origin
2. The church does not belong to man, it belongs to Christ -vs. 28
 - a. Christians are the church, not the building
 - b. We have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus -Ep 1:7
3. All this shows the importance of safeguarding the church from any enemy seeking its harm or destruction.

B. THE SAVAGE WOLVES

1. They come in from outside and from within. It is therefore imperative to be alert.
2. Their nature
 - a. They speak perverse things to draw others away after themselves.
 - b. The genuine Christian seeks not for himself, but rather for Christ. -Ph 3:17-4:1
 - c. Note also the words of Jesus -Mt 7:15-20

Conclusion:

1. Today, we still have wolves in sheep's clothing seeking to devour the saints.
2. However, we also have the word of God that warns us of danger and keeps us on the narrow path that leads us home.