

## Acts of Jesus, Lesson 43: A Final Farewell, Part 2

### Acts 20:21-30.

- ❖ **Acts 20:20-21** – We saw last time that Paul started and ended there with an emphasis on the sufficiency of the Word of God and that we don't really need anything more than the Word of God in the presence of the Holy Spirit.
  - ❖ He sums up the message that he preached continually for those 2 ½ years he was among them: Repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus.
  - ❖ Sounds like a message only towards the lost, but in fact it is a message for both the lost and the saved.
1. There is a repentance towards God and faith towards Jesus that saves.
    - Repent means to turn – turn from whatever you think that will get you into heaven.
    - “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”
    - Faith towards Jesus alone saves: **John 3:16, John 3:36.**
    - You need to do this, or you will not see Heaven.

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  2. There is a repentance towards God and faith towards Jesus that should be a regular part of the life of a growing Christian.
    - Represents the step that saves, but it also the steps *of the saved*.
    - Repentance is spoken much more in the New Testament to the saved, than it is to the lost.
    - We fall into sin: start thinking, acting, believing wrong – we need to repent, that is, turn from whatever it is.
    - Next we refocus our faith in Jesus and His plan for our life.
    - This process is repeated many times over in the growing believer's life.
    - These become steps in the Christian walk.

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**Acts 20:22-25** – We are told in **Acts 19:21** that Paul determined by the leadership of the Holy Spirit that he should return to Jerusalem.

- ✓ When was the last time you were bound in the Spirit?
  - ✓ The church today is desperate for believers who will follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit no matter what he asks them to do.
  - ✓ Look how effective Paul's life was – it was because he was willing and obedient no matter what the cost.
  - ✓ In Christian circles there is a preponderance of “the Lord is calling me to the easy life” and a very small percentage if not entirely absent are the voices that say He's calling them to a life of self-sacrifice.
  - ✓ It's hard to be in the will of God – many trials and testings and temptations from the enemy.
  - ✓ It's harder to be out of the will of God.
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**Acts 20:26-27** – This is concept from the Old Testament book of **Ezekiel 33:8** – this is what shaped Paul's thinking.

- ✓ Are you innocent of people's blood?
  - ✓ Have you told them what you should have told them?
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### **Acts 20:28** –

1. Notice first of all he instructs these elders to watch themselves.
    - ✓ It is only as they obey the truth themselves that they will be able to instruct and lead others.
    - ✓ Jesus operated on this same basis: **John 10:37**
    - ✓ Can you say that as a church leader?
    - ✓ Could you say that to your children?
    - ✓ Sunday School class?
    - ✓ To others who know you to be a Christian.
  - ❖ **The first and most important thing that you as a leader can offer a would-be follower is your own personal holiness!!**
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2. The second thing that he tells the elders to do is watch the church.
    - ✓ Several things that we must understand from this verse.
    - a. The church is like a flock of sheep that need a shepherd.
      - ✓ Going as alone, as a Christian is not smart at all.
      - ✓ Not any smarter for a sheep to go it alone in world of wolves.
    - b. The elders are the shepherds.
      - ✓ Remember this word elder is interpreted pastor, bishop, overseer, and elder.
  3. Who makes them overseers? The Holy Spirit.
    - ✓ One should be very careful before saying anything against an elder.
    - ✓ **I Timothy 5:19** – many need only suspicion to speak against an elder...Not smart!!
  4. What do they oversee? The Church.
    - ✓ Do not speak lightly of this entity...she is very precious to God.
    - ✓ What is the most valuable thing on the planet earth? The Church.
    - ✓ It is the most important thing on God's schedule.
- **What concerns the Church is the most important thing in the world.**
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