

This week, as we focus on Paul's final message to his beloved church, we see another three key values we want our church to embody: service, evangelism, and generosity. Calvary Vision 2030 puts it this way: 1) Saved people serve people; 2) Found people find people; and 3) Grateful people are giving people.

# SESSION 7

## Our Next Steps—Part 2

“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”

—PSALM 24:1

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.”

—JOHN 13:14



# ACTS 20:17–38

Read Aloud in Your Group

<sup>17</sup> From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup> When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. <sup>19</sup> I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. <sup>20</sup> You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. <sup>21</sup> *I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.*

<sup>22</sup> “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. <sup>23</sup> I only

know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. <sup>24</sup> However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

<sup>25</sup> “Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. <sup>26</sup> Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. <sup>27</sup> For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. <sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own

blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup> Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

<sup>32</sup> “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. <sup>35</sup> *In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the*

*words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”*

<sup>36</sup> When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. <sup>37</sup> They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. <sup>38</sup> What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.



## FOR DISCUSSION

**INTRODUCTORY QUESTION:** If you had to say goodbye to someone you loved and wouldn't see for a long time, what would you want to make sure they knew before you left?

1. What aspects of his life and ministry does Apostle Paul describe as he says goodbye to these beloved fellow believers for the last time?
2. The metaphor of a race is used several times in the New Testament to refer to the Christian life (Acts 20:24, 2 Timothy 4:7, 1 Corinthians 9:24). In what ways is spiritual life similar to a race?
3. Paul cautions the believers to “keep watch over yourselves.” What is he warning them against? How can we increase our self-awareness and also watch out for each other?
4. In Luke 15, Jesus teaches on God's heart for the lost. Read this chapter and consider how God regards those who are lost. What is your attitude and heart toward those who do not know God and are lost in spiritual darkness?
5. Jesus calls us to be “witnesses” (Acts 1:8) and promises us power through the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to be a witness for Christ?
  - If you were to testify about Jesus as a witness would be testifying in court, what would your testimony be?
  - Who is in your circle of influence at work, neighborhood, school, gym, etc..., where you can be intentional in making time and effort to get to know and share your faith with when prompted by God's Spirit?



# CORE VALUES

Part 2

## Found people find people

We see a church filled with disciples who are energized by the mission of introducing unsaved neighbors, family, colleagues and friends to Jesus.

## Saved people serve people

We see a church filled with disciples who utilize their spiritual gifts, abilities, passions and experience to serve the world and build up the church

## Grateful people are giving people

We see a church filled with people who give regularly, proportionately, generously, and cheerfully to the work of the Lord through our church.

6. 1 Corinthians 3:6–7: *“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”* Share how you have been part of someone else's faith journey. What did “planting” and “watering” look like?
7. Grateful people are giving people because as Jesus demonstrated, it is “more blessed to give than receive.” (Acts 20:35b)
  - How have you been blessed when you give—share an example from your life.
  - What is a new habit or plan you can make to grow your “generosity muscles?”



# TAKE 5

## GIVE YOUR FOCUS TO THE MAIN THING

Troy Thornton, Pastor of Development

### ACTS 20:17-21

**Key Verse:** *I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. —Acts 20:21*

You may have heard people say something like, “keep the main thing the main thing.” This is one of those “captain obvious” type statements that has gravitas when you think about it. It is so easy in life to get distracted, even by good things that take away our focus from the best things.

As our church launches into the next eight years of Vision 2030, we must give our focus to the Gospel. The simple and sweet message of faith in the finished work of Jesus. Since the fall of humankind, this has been the main thing—God’s redeeming, gracious, merciful, and critical plan of redemption. The Gospel is the unique message of the Church for both the collective Body of Christ and each individual person. This is what saves us, binds us together, and gives us hope. We have a responsibility to share this life-changing message with those in our lives. We must give our focus to keep the main thing the main thing!

Pray for an opportunity to begin to share the Gospel with someone in your life.



Scan to view Take5  
daily devotionals