



Acts 20:17-18 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. ¹⁸And when they had come to him, he said to them:

1. Following God sometimes takes us places we wouldn't normally go

Acts 20:25-26 “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

“There were still untold millions still untold in far-off places. ... How can we be so careless about the lost, so callous about God's suffering saints, so complacent about the spiritual condition of thousands all about us? How can we eat, drink, and be merry with family and friends, neighbors and workmates, contacts and acquaintances? How can we have such a careless attitude to those still outside of Christ?” John Phillips

2. Our only hope is God's Word and His Grace

20:27-32 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. ³² "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

1 Cor 15:32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"

Rev 2:4-5 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent.

3. Work hard and give much

20:33-35 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. ³⁵ I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"



4. They wept and went as far as they could go

20:36-38 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, ³⁸ sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.



“At last the final farewell was said and Paul climbed the gangplank of the ship. His friends on board crowded around him as he leaned on the bulwark waving to his friends on shore. The gangplank was hauled in, the anchor was weighed, the sails set, and the ship drew away from the shore. We can picture it tacking away and that little group of men watching and watching until, at last, the ship was lost to sight.



Then, saddened and sobered, they headed for home, each one vowing before God, we can have little doubt, that he would be just like Paul in the matter of shepherding the Ephesian flock.”

John Phillips

Jn 21:21-22 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?” ²² Jesus said to him, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.”