

SERMON DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Farewell: I Commend You to God and His Word - David Lane

WARM-UP

1. Pastor Dave opened by saying that in today's sermon, if we've been a part of EAC for a while, we likely won't hear much that is new...and that's intentional. As you think back over the past several years, what are your favorite or fondest memories of Pastor Dave? Maybe in his preaching? Maybe in his teaching? Maybe in his leading? Maybe in his serving? Why do you remember these things? How impactful on your life has he been? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER

With this message, Pastor Dave shares his final sermon with EAC. This week, he returns to Paul's journey in Acts and reflects on Paul's final time with the leaders from the ekklesia at Ephesus. Read Acts 20:25-38

RECEIVE the Whole Plan of God – READ: Acts 20:27

2. At the end of verse 27, the Greek word boule' (boo-lay') can be translated several ways – as 'purpose, plan, or counsel.' Paul spent three years with the new church in Ephesus sharing with them 'the whole plan' of God. At its core, Pastor Dave says that it involves 'being and doing' – a movement of God – not 'consuming and spectating in isolation', but rather 'serving and equipping in fellowship.' What does Pastor Dave mean by this? Why is this significant? As EAC, how do we do this?
3. Read Acts 2:42-47. Here Luke captures the essence of the earliest gathering (ekklesia – the church) in Jerusalem. How does he describe what they did? Can you see 'serving and equipping in fellowship' in this passage? Where and how?
4. Read John 17:20-23. This is Jesus speaking. When is this happening? What is Jesus doing? What is He praying to the Father for? How is this related to 'serving and equipping in fellowship'? Would you say that Jesus is speaking of 'the whole plan of God'? How?

REMEMBER who you are to be – READ: Acts 20:28

5. In this verse, Paul continues his final address to the leaders of the Ephesus gathering. (1) For whom are they to be 'on guard'? Is the order listed important? Why? (2) Who made them 'overseers'? (3) Whose gathering is it? Why is this important? (4) How did this gathering come about? (5) Does this verse speak only to leaders of the church? Why or why not?

RELEASE assets given to you (including yourself) – READ: Acts 20:35-38

6. In verse 35, how does Paul describe the notion of ‘releasing assets’? Jesus’ words say that ‘to give’ is a blessing. In your life today, what is God calling you to release and to give? Are you able to obey His calling? Is it easy or challenging? Why?
7. Read Acts 13:1-3. Who was being ‘released’? Who was doing the releasing? What does this tell you about what you are or may be called to do or to release? Is this part of ‘the whole plan of God’? How?
8. Close by reading verse 32. In these words, what is Paul saying to you today? Has Pastor Dave been saying this to us over the years?

PRAYER

Today, this week, and continuing, pray Pastor Dave’s exhortation to us: “Go be the church!” Ask God to show you, remind you, nudge you, teach you, how to be His ambassadors for the Good News – His plan – His Whole Plan and Purpose. Pray that the Holy Spirit would give you ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to respond to His calling of ‘releasing’ you, so that you would take the message of the Gospel to those whom He places in your paths where you live, work and play.

In case you missed the service, here are the EAC, Facebook, and YouTube links:

<http://edgewateralliance.org/media/sermon-videos>

<https://www.facebook.com/edgewateralliance/>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWvQWUv1FD_qsUJUZn93kw