



How to Finish Well

2/16/20

Acts 20:17 ...from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.

¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them,

1. Live an open life

"You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time,

2. Serve focused on Jesus

¹⁹ serving the Lord

3. Practice humility and fortitude

with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;

4. Share God's truth uncompromisingly

²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable,

5. Minister publicly and in homes

and teaching you publicly and from house to house,

6. Witness enthusiastically

²¹ solemnly testifying

7. Avoid prejudice

to both Jews and Greeks

8. Emphasize the basics

of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

9. Relentlessly pursue Jesus' will

²² "And now, behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there,

²³ except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.

10. Die to self

²⁴ "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

11. be willing to experience I _____

²⁵ "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will see my face no more.

(#4. Share God's truth uncompromisingly)

²⁶ "Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

²⁷ "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

12. help the elders protect, oversee and shepherd G_____ flock

²⁸ "Be on guard for yourselves and for 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 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

³¹ "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

13. point one another to God and His w_____

³² "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

14. work h_____ and help the weak

³³ "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes.

³⁴ "You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my *own* needs and to the men who were with me.

³⁵ "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

15. p_____

³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

³⁷ And they *began* to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him,

³⁸ grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they should see his face no more. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

For the Name of the Lord Jesus

1. Live ready to d_____

Acts 21:1 And when it came about that we had parted from them and had set sail, we ran a straight course to Cos and the next day to Rhodes and from there to Patara;

² and having found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail.

³ And when we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left, we kept sailing to Syria and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload its cargo.

⁴ And after looking up the disciples, we stayed there seven days; and they kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem.

⁵ And when it came about that our days there were ended, we departed and started on our journey, while they all, with wives and children, escorted us until *we were* out of the city. And after kneeling down on the beach and praying, we said farewell to one another.

⁶ Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home again.

⁷ And when we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais; and after greeting the brethren, we stayed with them for a day.

⁸ And on the next day we departed and came to Caesarea; and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him.

⁹ Now this man had four virgin daughters who were prophetesses.

¹⁰ And as we were staying there for some days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

¹¹ And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

¹² And when we had heard this, we as well as the local residents *began* begging him not to go up to Jerusalem.

¹³ Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

¹⁴ And since he would not be persuaded, we fell silent, remarking, "The will of the Lord be done!"

¹⁵ And after these days we got ready and started on our way up to Jerusalem.

¹⁶ And *some* of the disciples from Caesarea also came with us, taking us to Mnason of Cyprus, a disciple of long standing with whom we were to lodge.

2. Witness with w_____

¹⁷ And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.

¹⁸ And now the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.

¹⁹ And after he had greeted them, he *began* to relate one by one the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

²⁰ And when they heard it they *began* glorifying God; and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law;

²¹ and they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.

²² "What, then, is *to be done*? They will certainly hear that you have come.

²³ "Therefore do this that we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow;

²⁴ take them and purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses in order that they may shave their heads; and all will know that there is nothing to the things which they have been told about you, but that you yourself also walk orderly, keeping the Law.

²⁵ "But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote, having decided that they should abstain from meat sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication."

²⁶ Then Paul took the men, and the next day, purifying himself along with them, went into the temple, giving notice of the completion of the days of purification, until the sacrifice was offered for each one of them.