

While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest, And cold
and heat, And summer and
winter, And day and night Shall
not cease. **Genesis 8:22**

Store In My Heart Romans 8:37

*But in all these things we
overwhelmingly conquer
through Him who loved us.*

The Apostle Paul was certainly one who understood hardship and difficulty firsthand. Often during his journeys he was attacked, beaten or run off. Several times brethren hid him until he could get away so that he would not be killed. He is the one who penned this inspired passage.

What a comfort we can have in knowing that no matter what we face we can be victorious through Christ, our Lord. Our burdens need not weigh us down. We can walk with confidence in our ultimate victory if we belong to God. The world may fail us in time of need, but God is always present.

Yet let us not forget that our greatest victory in Christ is over the sin that continually besets us in our walk through life. Let us follow Him faithfully.



Paul's Faithful Leadership

Max Dawson

Last Thursday we saw how Luke faithfully recorded Paul's interaction with the leaders of the Lord's people in Ephesus. Luke records three terms that described those men who led the congregation in that city. They were called "*elders*" in **Acts 20:17**. In **Acts 20:28**, they were referred to as "*overseers*" whose responsibility was to "*shepherd*" God's flock. We learned that these three designations did not refer to three different offices in the church, but to only one office. Three terms were used to describe different aspects of that one office. It is important that churches today recognize and follow the leadership pattern established by the Holy Spirit in the first-century church.

What we did not do last week was explore Paul's interaction with those men who led God's people at Ephesus. There are multiple leadership lessons to be gleaned from this section of Scripture. Here are some powerful points to take home from **Acts 20:17-38**.

1. Humble service (vv. 17-19). Paul did not seek status or power among the Ephesians but served with "humility and tears." He was an example of servant leadership. He led not only by teaching, but by the way he lived, and the Ephesian elders were well aware of that (**v. 18**).

2. Faithful teaching (vv. 20-27). Paul preached what people needed. He proclaimed "*the whole counsel of God*." The apostle held nothing back. He used every opportunity to teach as he instructed them "publicly and from house to house." He was a diligent worker for Jesus. Paul was no slacker, doing only what he had to do to get by!

3. Sacrificial courage (vv. 22-24). If need be, Paul was willing to die for the Lord Jesus. For Paul, preaching the gospel was not merely a job or a means of making a living. It was his whole life. And, if it meant giving up his very life, then so be it! His life was not about making excuses, but about making sacrifices.

4. Pointed warnings (vv. 28-31). There were multiple dangers facing the church. Paul warned the elders of those dangers as well as how to address them. He warned of false teachers--from within the church and from without. He described those teachers as "*savage wolves*" who would not spare the flock. False teachers would receive no comfort from Paul!

5. A sound solution (v. 32). Paul always brought people back to God and to His word. Note that Paul said, "*I commend you to God and to the word of His grace.*" There are two things here that go hand in hand. The elders at Ephesus must trust in God, leaning on Him and seeking His favor in all they do. They must also continue to follow the word of God which had been delivered to them.

It is important to note that some leaders claim to trust God but neglect what His word teaches. And, in contrast, some are meticulous in seeking His word, but fail to trust in the One who has given that word! A proper understanding of God's word will always drive us closer to the God who gave that word!

In Paul's work as a kingdom leader, God and His word fit together like a hand in a glove! There was no exaltation of God but neglect of His word! Neither was there an exaltation of the word of God but neglect of the One who gave it!

Paul's example of faithful leadership is one that is to be modeled by church leaders today!

(This article fits well with our lesson on preachers in the local congregation. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Ruben Keisler is recovering nicely after elbow surgery

Physical therapy is helping **Brenda Keisler** with her pain.

JoBeth Henderson has another surgeon appointment Tuesday.

She also has immunotherapy infusions and radiation treatment starting in the next few weeks.

Paula Laubach has an appointment with her knee surgeon about her allergic reaction to the cement

Jody Schimdt (Paula's sister) is improving at home.

Tommy Robinson has appointments with his doctors this week

Sunday @ 5 - **Jeremiah** Wednesday @ 7 - **Singing**