

# WHEN GOD LEADS

Acts 20:16-38

Paul felt compelled by the Holy Spirit to go to Jerusalem. Have you ever felt led of the Lord to do something? If you have, then you know exactly what Paul was feeling! In these verses, the great Apostle teaches us what a solid believer does when he is bound in the Spirit. In looking at Paul's activities here, we see a powerful lesson in dedication, determination and steadfastness.

## 1. v. 17-23 PAUL'S RESOLVE TO FOLLOW GOD'S LEADING

A. v. 18-21 **Paul's Conduct In The Past** – He had given everything he had! (Ill. God's people should hold nothing back, but they should put it all on the line for God. (Ill. David and Goliath)

**Act 20:19** I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews.

**Act 20:20** 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.

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

B. v. 22 **Paul's Call In The Present** – Paul had no choice in his assignments. They were all made by God.

**Act 20:22** "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.

**Act 20:23** I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

## 2. v. 24 PAUL'S REASON TO FOLLOW GOD'S LEADING

**Act 20:24** However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

A. **A surrendered life – (Accountant)** – Paul simply wanted to finish his course. He knew that God had already planned his steps

**I consider my life worth nothing to me,**

B. **A focused life – (Athlete)** – God had used Paul in a wonderful way. Paul merely wanted to finish his assignment. Paul simply wanted to run his race well and to receive the victor's crown,

*Heb. 12:1. Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. v2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

(Note: There is just one Person we need to run to please: Jesus Christ!)

**I may finish the race**

**C. A Meaningful life – (Activist)** – Paul wanted to continue to preach the life changing message of the Gospel of grace. He knew he was preaching a perfect message –

**Rom. 1:16** - I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

### **3. v. 24-38 PAUL'S REST IN FOLLOW GOD'S LEADING**

A. v. 27 **The Rest Of A Surrendered Life** – Paul was not moved by what he faced in Jerusalem. Everything he was had already been placed on the altar and was sacrificed to the glory of God, Paul had already added up all that he had going for him in life and had determined that Jesus was worth more than anything,

**Phil. 3:4-11.** *“though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: v5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; v6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. v7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. v8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ v9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. v10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, v11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

**Act 20:25** "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again.

**Act 20:26** Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

**Act 20:27** For **I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.**

B. v. 25-35 **The Rest Of A Sanctified Legacy** – Paul could leave Ephesus knowing that he had done his job well and that he had all the people trained and in place who could continue the work.

**Act 20:28** 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.

**Act 20:29** I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.

**Act 20:30** Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.

**Act 20:31** So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

**Act 20:32** "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."

**Act 20:33** I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing.

**Act 20:34** You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.

**Act 20:35** 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.' "

**C. v. 36-38 The Rest Of A Sovereign Lord** – Everything was laid in the hands of God. When all is in His hands, than all is well! May we never forget that our God is a sovereign Lord. He is in absolute control of every situation of life Therefore, we can have confidence placing our all in His hands!

**Act 20:36** When he had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed.

**Act 20:37** They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him.

**Act 20:38** What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

### **Conclusion:**

Are you bound in the spirit to do something? If so, commit it to the hand of the Lord and get to it! He will see to whatever needs you may have along the way, He will see you through until the race is run and your course is finished!